

LETTER--To Sir Walter Scott, Bart.

In the letter to Sir Walter Scott, dated September 8, 1885, at Rodono, St. Mary's Loch, the author vividly praises Scott for his unique charm and influence that transcends time, likening his presence to a reassuring friend from the past. Scott is celebrated for his unparalleled manliness, lack of jealousy, and his contentment with his life, whether it would have been marked by wealth and honor or mere simplicity as a Border sportsman and antiquary. The letter reflects on Scott's genial nature, which the author suggests is rare and noble, making Scott a solitary figure in his endearing qualities.

Scott's works are seen as immortal, deeply intertwined with the spirit of the Scottish landscape, history, and legends. Despite the passing of nearly sixty years since Scott's death, the landscape and the essence of Scotland, though changed by the march of time and industry, still evoke the memories of his narratives. The letter touches on contemporary changes and problems, such as political shifts and environmental degradation, while celebrating the endurance of Scott's legacy in the midst of transformation.

The author then transitions to address historical and military losses that have marred British history since Scott's time, imagining Scott's potential literary tributes to fallen heroes. Meanwhile, the juxtaposition of modern developments against the timeless nature of Scott's Scotland serves as a reminder of the enduring heritage and the changes that have swept through, both enhancing and challenging the preservation of Scott's memory and the Scottish identity.

The letter concludes with a personal reflection on the unchanged beauty of the Scottish landscape, despite modern challenges, and expresses a deep gratitude towards Scott for his enduring influence on the author's understanding of poetry and life. The letter is an affectionate homage, blending admiration for Scott's literary genius with a poignant reflection on the passage of time and the lasting impact of his work on Scottish identity and heritage.