

First and Last Contd.

March 10th, 1917.

Letter from H. C. WOOD
To W. O.

Letter Typewritten (Dictated).

4107 Chester Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa.

March 10th. 1917.

Dear Osler:

I am still alive, for which I do not thank God, but the Devil. I am much pleased that your boy has escaped injury. Right opposite to me lives an old man, now 87, who fought in the ranks and later as a non-commissioned officer, in 122 engagements during the four years of the Civil War; had his clothes many times cut with bullets, but never had the skin broken. Fate seems to be fate. I wish to God I had died young instead of living to be old and suffering.

My secretary Miss Paul, says I have two copies of George B. Wood's poem, so I will send you one, with a statement regarding it on the fly leaf. If you want rare books, this book is a rara avis. Though rarity is liked by many in beef, I would rather be the author of a book like the last edition of the U. S. Dispensatory, of which twenty thousand copies were sold before it was out.

If we had but a President who was a MAN! - Roosevelt would have settled this thing months ago, but it does look this morning as if the country was going to settle it. For 103 years the rules of the U. S. Senate have been that one man could prevent the taking of a vote on a subject simply by talking. It is on record that Senator La Folette some years since talked eighteen hours on a stretch; then a friend took up the talk; and so it went on until no vote could be taken; but this rule was yesterday altered so that the bills to arm American merchantmen will certainly pass into laws.

With affectionate regards to your wife.

H. C. Wood.

NOTES FROM BOOKSMarch 10, 1917.First and Last. A Poem. G. B. Wood.

(Typewritten)

Letter from H. C. Wood (Dr.)

To

Sir William Osler:

This poem was written by Dr. George Bacon Wood, secretly printed in London whilst he was there on a visit, and put on the American market by his American publisher to see if it would sell, but the public would have none of it. So the edition was destroyed except a few copies; as Dr. Wood's pride would not allow his successful career to be smirched by a taint of failure.

I do not think there are six copies extant.

(Dr.) H. C. Wood.

W. O.'s Note on opposite page (Script)

Received March 31st. from my dear old friend Horatio Wood, G. B. Wood's nephew, and see his letter at the back.

I think he must be mistaken about the place of printing — the typography looks American.

This is the second copy I have had. H. C. W. gave me one about 1890, I happened to mention it to Weir Mitchell who curiously enough had never heard that Geo. B. Wood wrote poetry. He immediately claimed the volume for the library of the College of Physicians. I very gladly gave it to him. It is not in the S. G. library.

Geo. B. Wood () was professor of medicine in the Univ. of Penna., the author of a successful textbook and of the United States Dispensary.

Wm. Osler.