



Sunday

May 25th -

My dear Father,

Your note of
May 11th reached me two
days ago: also letters from
Mother and William.

I was and am terribly
grieved to hear of Edith's
sad and sudden death.

She will I know be very
much missed by all,
especially perhaps be the
other children, - her brothers
& sisters.

2) From another point
of view, - that of her
own advantage, per-
haps there is hardly reason
for the same unqualified
sorrow & regret. My
own knowledge & experience
of the world leads me to
believe that those who
are removed from it in
early life, are often the
favoured & fortunate ones.
In a hard & difficult world,
whatever our motives,
we can rarely know whether
we are doing harm or
good by our actions -


3/ Certainly the mere
preserving of life is
no essentially good
thing in itself. Too often
instead of proving a boon
it ~~is~~ only a curse to the
individual & to those brought
into contact with the in-
dividual -

Say not much I shall be
unable to be present at Ev's
wedding. I am not
sailing again in the P. & O.
at present, I had hoped
to be out in time for
it, but am detained
here by a number of
little things requiring to

be settled & arranged.
I shall perhaps be out in
time to see them on their
return, if that is the
plan, two weeks later?

The Queen's birthday yes-
terday reminds me, that
you were born in the same
year, & must now be of
the same age. Whatever one
may think of life, one
cannot be too thankful for
70 years of almost uninter-
rupted good health, a privilege &
blessing which very few
men enjoy -

In speaking of Gibb's
advantages, I referred to
the fact of his having some

Small  come to
count on fall back
upon - not to any
phenomenal mental
or physical or social
advantages.

It is a singular thing,
but I cannot remember
the time when I have
not been haunted by the
dread of beggary &
consequent disgrace,
I have been influenced
in most of my actions
since childhood by
this. I have often amused
myself as a mere matter

of speculation in
wondering whether, had
I been relieved from
this unduly ⁱⁿ apprehension,
whether I might have
made any thing worth
while of my life -
I sometimes think I
might, but of course
I don't know - In any
case it is pure matter
of speculation now, &
doesn't much matter,
as it has long been
too late -

Give my love to
Mother -

I shall write to
Eva offering congrat-
ulations & good wishes,
& shall be glad to learn
plans as to time
of their sailing for
Liverpool -

All kind remem-
brances & good wishes -

Affectionately

Your Son,

Rankin -

Rankine
June 29