

My dear George,
I am such an
A. M. B. it so
cuped my memory
I will send it
next mail
Yours very sincerely
Philip S. Johnston

Windygates P.O.
Manitoba

April 11. 1900

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Thank you for
"A Testament"
which arrived yesterday -
I liked it very much -
I wrote to William the other
day & I have since heard that
the envelope got wet & the
address much effaced. I
hope he received it not with-
standing. for I was very dilatory
in my reply to his kind letter
My sins of omission in the
way of correspondence are
really a reproach to me - it

was. literally touching with
the burdens with one of my
fingers -

Dear me! I am writing rather
a blue letter but really the
people who mostly enter into my
life are enough to make any chap
blue & when I consider the
gross profanity, the filthy speech, the
selfish indifference, the overbearing
arrogance, the scathing passion, the
black unbelief, the canting hypocrisy
of the Human animals I have to study
I turn away to the other side of nature
& wonder whether the average human
or the average brute is the better -
What a really funny thing it would
be if we could see souls as we see
a butterfly's wing under a microscope.
I was asked to forward you a
prospectus of a certain Penian

is little wonder I am a lonely fellow in a
lonely place - of course here I literally have
not one single congenial associate - but I
might at least keep myself a little in touch
with civilization by answering the letters of
those at a distance who are congenial -

I promised to write to Lady Dawson & I am
ashamed to say I have not yet done so -

She was always so very kind to me as a boy
The thought of her always brings pleasant
memories - I really don't know what makes
me stick so doggedly to this rough life for
which I am scarcely physically adapted, but
there is some strange fascination for me in it
& when I get away among the placid cattle
with the waving yellow grass under my feet
the gorgeous azure overhead & no sound except
the sighing of the bracing breeze about my ears
I hardly envy other chaps of my acquaintance
cooped up in Banks & offices although they
are probably of a great deal more use in the world
I was accosted yesterday with the remark -
'Well but your life is one long holiday!' & it rather
made me consider how very useless I really