

THE RIDEAU CLUB,
OTTAWA.

Dec. 13. 1899.

Dear Rankine,

Many thanks for your
letter received yesterday & for
various newspapers etc sent by
you. I was in Montreal on Sunday,
& stayed over till the evening train on
Monday helping workers to answer
letters of condolence & resolutions
received from various societies &
public bodies. I have had a number
of letters of the kind myself, most
of which I have answered now.
I am sorry that you could not be with

Falkner's death

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us in Montreal when Father died - his life ebbed away very peacefully, but what struck me most was the strong determined look of youth that came back to his face after all was over, an expression I have scarcely noticed since I was a child.

I do not know yet what will be done about his biography. It is a question which I have scarcely been time to consider, but I have lightly saws kind offer of help. It would not be very difficult to edit what he has himself written, but it would be quite another thing to undertake to write an interesting

biography, using what he has written as material & adding much from other sources. I have just dipped into the volume on the life of Lord Playfair, recently issued. It adopts a middle course, accepting autobiographic material & filling in with general & explanatory matter. It is very well done.

Blackadder's certificate stated that death was due primarily to arterial Sclerosis & actually to cerebral suffusion. He told me that the seat of trouble in the brain was so localized (Jacksonian) that in a younger man it might have been a subject of consideration whether an operation would not be justifiable, as the heart, stomach & kidneys were all healthy & normal.

Probably, however, you have had
 the opportunity of forming your
 own opinion upon these matters.
 Let us know what you think about
 the biography.

With very kind wishes to Geo.
 & to Rita

Yours very truly
 George.

