The Imperial Library,
Calcutta. May 19, 1927.

Dear Dr. Casey Wood,

I hope you are all well. With me there has been lots of trouble. Do you remember my asking you to come from the hotel, and help me to explain to a Simla Secretariat official why he must not compare the Imperial Library and his Secretariat library, saying that, as in his library there are so many books, kept by so many men, so in the Imperial Library, where there are so many books,, there must be only so many men? To explain that to that man, who was to come back after his tiffin, but never came? By and by he packed a small committee, and that committee met at the Library, and drew up a report (this behind doors closed to me) in which not a single word was said of any good work done by any of us here; not a single word of that, but many words of what they found wrong, or imagined was wrong. Their conclusion of the whole matter was that I must be turned out into the street, and they fully meant to turn me out. I had to appeal to the Viceroy. Their hands are stayed; their mouths are shut; but at one time it was touch and go. I told the Bishop of Calcutta the story one evening, ending with, "India is a terrible country!"

"It is indeed, Mr. Chapman," he replied; "all round us are men intriguing."

That makes the second time that the Government of India have tried to turn me out. The first time was in 1924. They nearly did it that time. I was ill: that was their opportunity. This last time they had to make an opportunity.

My good news is that I have been included in Benns' "Augustan Books of Modern Poetry" (a very good review in the "Observer"), and have published another volume of verse, "Lyrical Poems," a red book of 168 pages; a book I hope the world will by and by hear something of. If my work is valuable (there is nothing to be said for it, if it is not), then there is this to be said, that seldom was work done with so only the worker's own faith in its value to keep him at it. It is part of what I have had to pay for wandering so far from my home.

I did at last get a letter from Dr. Lomer. He has since very kindly made us a present of valuable books.

Please write, if you have time to, and no great disinclination.

Yours very sincerely,

J. R. Chapman.