

1st December, 1933.

My dear Fred,

I am only able today to find time to reply to your letter, for which I thank you.

I sent you some fruit the other day, and hope you have received it safely.

As regards Holmes's suggestion, I quite agree with you that I should not tell stories in this book, it would take away the character of it absolutely. I will see him before I leave, I think on Tuesday, and will tell him so.

As to lengthening the article, I think your suggestion a good one to write of my struggle sometimes when I am not content with a portrait. As you say, I never go on trying to put it right, but start an entirely new picture. I am never happy if when once I have made my first drawing I cannot start right away and finish, as soon as I hesitate I lose pleasure and try another one; and I have never regretted it, I only wish I could have done it more often.

As regards what you say about a touch of caricature, I would not say it is permissible, but if a sitter has very marked features and they have been painted from the most characteristic point of view, as a resume and without too much detail, it is apt to touch on caricature, but one must now allow oneself to dwell upon it. Sometimes these exaggerated features in the head, or even in the body, are such in nature that they should not be materialised, and often not at all characteristic of the inner man; then it is the duty of the portrait painter to show only that which is certainly characteristic, and at the same time the pleasanter side of the sitter.

I am sending you now the final notes, I hope you are content with them. Form them if you like, I leave it to your own taste.

As regards the questions and answers, I leave this to you as time is so short. You know me so well.

You can well imagine how busy I am, but I will try to be with you on Sunday afternoon. The difficulty is that I have no car, but even if I have to hire one I will do my best to come down and see you and say "au revoir". By that time I hope you will be able to read to me something of this last suggestion, which would be a very interesting and certainly important addition to the book regarding my ways of work.