

WOLMER WOOD,

MARLOW COMMON,

MARLOW, BUCKS.

July 18th 1935.

My dear Philip

I was very glad to get your letter and to hear that you and Lucy are really having a pleasant time and enjoying yourselves. The weather, I suppose, is fine, as you are able to play golf, so I expect you are more lucky than we are at the moment — for the last few days we have been having gales and showers, with only occasional bright intervals, and I hardly think you would have been able to play golf here. However, it keeps mild, so I hope we shall get through this month without having a spell of really cold weather.

break away from the portrait convention — no matter how independent an artist may be there is in portrait painting a convention from which he cannot escape — and to launch out into an expression of yourself. You are by now so complete a master of your craft that you would be able to attack even the most exacting of technical problems without any fear of failure.

all the same, I shall be delighted if that portrait of the Prince of Wales does come off; it would be a real score for you and it would be a real snub for those many kind friends of yours who would do their utmost to prevent you painting it. Cope, certainly, would not be pleased. Have you heard yet whether the two Kent portraits are to go to Canada? I should think that they would be much appreciated there, so I hope they will go.

I do hope that both of you are really finding that the rest and the change of scene are doing you good but you seem to be intending to wind up with a fairly busy rush round - Cannes, Florence, Buda-Pest and, I expect, Paris to wind up with make up a fairly full programme. Still if you must be so energetic, I hope you will do your rushing from place to place as discreetly as possible. I wonder whether you will be able to avoid the temptation to overwork again when you come home; as you know well, I should greatly like to see you doing just what you want to do to please yourself without having on your mind any idea of pleasing a nitter. I am sure that it would be a joy to you to

I have no news to send you, I am
afraid, as I have not been
doing anything special and I
have not heard of any particular
happenings since I saw you last.
We are all well, I am glad to say.
And I am doing my best, by
keeping quiet and taking things
easily, to avoid catching cold
and getting laid up. I suppose
it is wiser to keep quiet but I
am not sure that I like being
quite so inactive. However, at the
age I have now reached it is a
good thing to pretend that I am
still young and lively.

With our love to you both
always yours

A-L-B.