

WOLMER WOOD,

MARLOW, COMMON,

MARLOW, BUCKS.

Dec. 28th 1934

My dear Philip

I was very glad to get your two letters — of the 19th and the 23rd — and to hear that you are none the worse for all your strenuous activities during the last few weeks. Certainly you have every reason to be pleased with the result of your exhibition and the hospital owes you a debt of gratitude for so substantial a contribution to its funds. The £500 bid, too, for the blank canvas is a piece of evidence of your popularity that I hope was taken to heart by the Royal Spectators — they ought, at least, to see that they are rather behind the times in not having

consider the opinions of other people. No matter how independent an artist may be in mind and temperament he must, when he is painting a portrait, be sub-consciously influenced by his sitter and be troubled by the idea that he must satisfy the sitter, and this must inevitably cramp to some extent his freedom of expression. It will be a sort of tonic to you to be able to think only about pleasing yourself in charging out a picture and it will do you much good.

You must have had a festive Xmas day with a gathering of the family — quite a large party. We spent our Xmas quietly but pleasantly; we had the Kendricks with us and Peter came for a couple of days. The weather was not particularly good but it might have been much worse. I am very sorry to hear that you have a cold but I hope it is better and that Lucy is well. I hope, too, that if you

themselves painted. In your letter you say that you wonder why you were the only one asked to give a canvas — clearly the reason was that the promoters of the performance thought that one by you would fetch a great deal more than one by anyone else and I should say that they were undoubtedly right. I hope the purchaser of the canvas is a paintable person, one that you will enjoy painting, so that you will get some pleasure out of the picture.

I wonder whether you really mean to reduce the number of your portraits in the coming year; I do hope that you will, as I am sure that it will be good for you to do some work for yourself, without having to

can manage a trip as far as this
— if you cold is not too bad and
if the weather is reasonable —
you will carry out the intention
you express in your letter and come
and have a look at us. We shall,
of course, be delighted to see you and
I shall look forward to having soon
a phone call from you to say you
are coming.

Our revoir till then and our
most affectionate wishes to you
all for the new year

always yours

A.L.B.

While I am writing this my
wireless set is giving me a lively
concert from Budapest.