

Alexander F. Roberts, Esq.,
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My Dear Mr Roberts

I was very glad to get your exceedingly kind letter this morning. As you say, it is a long time since we have had news of each other and I am very glad to hear that you and Mrs. Roberts are well. I envy you your quiet winter at Fairnilee for life has been anything but quiet for me. I realise why people in the Middle Ages wanted to go into monasteries!

I suppose that I will probably be adopted for the new constituency made up of Peebles and South Midlothian. I will have no time to work it, and if there is an Election in the autumn will get a good beating; but I suppose I must stand for the sake of appearances. All our political creeds are in the melting pot, and I do not suppose that it will be a fight between parties so much as between personalities. In that case no man can foretell any result, either in detail or in the aggregate.

I need not tell you how very great my regret is to be dissociated from Selkirk, though my chief connections are with Peeblesshire. Indeed, my happiest experiences were in your county and you are by far my kindest and most loyal supporter. But if we cannot work together in electioneering I hope we will see a great deal of each other in the future. I am looking forward to the end of the war to renew my connections with old friends like you

Things are grave just now; but nothing can alter the main position. We shall not be able to win until America is ready in the field with her full strength; but our victory should be all the more final.

The new volume of my History should be out in about a month. I find it very difficult to keep this work going, but the

thing is so important for propaganda that I feel it my duty to try.

I am now Chairman of the Ministry of Information, with Lord Northcliffe among my Directors, and ^{I am} also head of the Political Intelligence. You may imagine that it is pretty heavy work; but it is extraordinarily interesting, and ever since my operation I have been very well.

With every good wish to you and Mrs. Roberts.

Yours sincerely
John Bull
