

PC/1/1312/99

St. Paul's Vicarage,
Wilton Place, S.W.1.

17th December, 1970.



Dear Mr. Paton,

Canon Cecil Wood was in England last May and I saw something of him. He told me he thought that you were pressing on with Geoffrey's biography. I was delighted to have your letter of the 3rd December confirming this fact.

I shall be ^{so glad} ~~happy~~ to read any material you like to send me. I have checked up on Violet Markham's "Return Passage". She makes no mention at all, as far as I can see, of Geoffrey Clayton or of the work of the Church at that time, in Chesterfield.

In one way, I am surprised at this as I saw quite clearly, during those three brief years of my first curacy there (1927 - 30) that Violet and Geoffrey had a very real respect for one another, - a kind of respect of two brilliant minds, - somewhat

On the other hand, the absence of all mention of him and of any mention of the Church in the index of her book, suggests the great gap that lay, in those days between Anglo-Catholicism and the humanitarianism as represented by Violet; -- she does mention Christianity three times in her book and clearly felt an immense debt to Hensley Henson, then Bishop of Durham.

A significant sentence reads thus: "The liberalism of his views was repugnant to many Churchmen in high places, especially the growing Anglo-Catholic section, who found their ecclesiastical claims roundly attacked."

Clearly Violet and Geoffrey were, in their different spheres, too busy to meet often enough to appreciate each other as they should have.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely
James Harris

P.S. I do hope, before we are both dead, we shall manage to meet.