my dear Caine

Your gift gave me very great pleasure, enhanced not a little by the ingeniously graceful manner of the giving.

My wife and I have read the book with keen interest that never flagged. The story has moved us strongly, and will long remain vivid in our memories.

You say this will probably be the last of your novels. It shows no decline of power, and I do not gather that you are conscious of any. If you do decide to close your career as a novelist while still capable of further work in this field, I have no doubt you will find other ways of speaking to the world. It is commonly supposed that a man's power of imaginative creation feels the chill of years sooner than his other mental endowments. Perhaps you may be well advised in turning betimes from fiction to other work which promises a longer
period I continued efficiency. Probably you have many things you won't say for which the novel may not be the best medium.

The amazing figures (surely unprecedented) of the circulation of your works imply a great influence, and it has been wholly directed to inspire love of man, reverence for the right, and compassion and hope for the fallen. This is good to look back upon.

I am a good seven years older than you, but I am still able to keep on at my work, which, even though I may sometimes find it exhausting, has by no means lost its relish for me.

My wife is still an invalid, and has suffered greatly in recent years. But when not absolutely prostrated by pain, she is wonderfully cheerful and full of energy. All our children have been spared to us. Three are married: Albert, who is the eldest, and is in the Bank of England at Leeds, has one girl, 18 years old; his second daughter, whose husband went through the war as a "language man," and came out unhurt, lives near London, and has two jolly children, a girl of nine and a boy of six. The

Our youngest daughter is married to a professor in Canada, and has no children. She and her husband have twice come over to stay with us, and I had three months with them in Canada. The two unmarried girls are living with us; the eldest helps me in the work of the Dictionary, and
the other, Margaret, is in charge of the preparatory school at Bear's Hill belonging to the Oxford High School for Girls—it is some six miles away, and a pretty stiff uphill bicycle ride, but she does not seem to suffer from the journey, and she is thoroughly happy in her work.

I must not forget to tell you that I have not been knighted. You are not the first to make the mistake—a good while ago some paper referred to me as "Sir Henry," and for a while a good many of my correspondents had to be informed that the title was not mine.

Send our kindest regards to Lady Caroline, whom we all remember well. With every good wish for your happiness and success,

Ever yours sincerely,

Henry Bradley
OXFORD
12. 30 PM
18 MAY 21

Important
Sir Hall Caine
Greetta Castle
Savoy Hotel
Isle of Man

OXFORD
12. 30 PM
18 MAY 21

Dr. Hay Brady
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