**Casement to Alice Stopford Green on knighthood**

**NLI 10,464 (see also possible typescript in NLI 39,120)**

The Savoy ‑ &c,

21 June 1911

My dear Woman of the Good words.

Your congratulations have been the best – for you alone have seen that there was the Irish side to it all. What you say is true ‑ altho' few will believe it. Very few can possibly believe that I have not worked for this – for a "distinction" "an honour" – or whatever they call it – instead of, in reality, deeply desiring not to get it. In this case it was like the C.M.G.

I couldn't help it at all – & could not possibly fling back something offered like that. Yes it was Sir E. Grey – I had a charming letter from him telling me it was he did it. But there are many in Ireland will think of me as a traitor – and when I think of that country and of them I feel I am. At least I feel always that until Ireland is safe and her outlook happy no Irishman has any right to be accepting honours or having a good time of it anywhere.

Sir George White showed that spirit in the wartime rather ??fr??ly– and altho' otherwise he is hateful to me of one of the Unionist anti-Irish throng, still I thought that act was the outbreaking of our shining Irish feeling in him. The city of Aberdeen presented him with a sword of honour during the Boer War – altho’ he had returned from Ladysmith & was Governor of Gibraltar.

He declined it until peace came. He said that he could accept no honour no distinction while this war lasted but that when peace came he would. It was the right note – and if only every Irishman thus situated ?? do the same it would be a fine thing indeed.

How I should have rejoiced if I could have done this, and said to the King what is really in my heart instead of the perfunctory words of thanks (cold & formal enough) I have said. I want you please to keep always writing to me as just "Roger Casement" – will you? That will be a distinction now. If Irish hearts that know my real feeling will keep on addressing my letters in the old way it will be a little consolation – for oh! you don't know how I hate the thing. I know and appreciate all the good feeling that has prompted it on Sir E. Grey's part ‑ but I cannot be happy with this thing ‑ and I shall expect and hope that all who really care for me will omit the words.

I am so glad you are going to Ireland - I hope to go there too, next week, please god, if I can manage it.

I find R. Harvey of Waterford is the man who has often done by stealth there. He circulated at his own cost years ago "England's Colonial Robbery of Ireland" – I have to go up to London today to meet my sister and spend the day with her. I may be able to run in to see you for a minute. I wish I were free for Ireland – I can't tell you how I long to get over there again and be at peace. Also so much to do there.

I hear from Alec Wilson often now – He is editing an Irish Edition of "The Boy Scout" for Irish use – for the B.P. Irish Imperialist boy Scouts. It is a ticklish job – and so far he has done it very well – for he has almost succeeded in making it a page?? of Irish history – which is all for the good.

Adios – Yours always

My dear Woman of the kind words – Roger Casement

P.S. There is a poem of W. B. Yeats you will like – best of all perhaps as I do – It is called "The Lover tells of the Rose in his Heart." The final verse is delightful:

*The wrong of unshapely things is a wrong too great to be told*

*I hunger to build them anew and sit on the green knoll apart,*

*With the Earth and the Sky and the Water remade, like a casket of gold,*

*For my dreams of your Image that blossoms a rose in the deeps of my heart*.