

**Letters of Rev. Richard Cowie to his wife Annie Watson Cowie  
(1927 -- 1936)**

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133 Victoria Road  
Headingley  
Leeds

Friay 18/2/27

My dearest Love,

We have been very pleased to have your letters. Kathleen & John have been delighted to have a letter. With being monitor John seems a little busier than usual -- at least he thinks he is. He is being a very good boy & Ruth is certainly doing very well. She is getting on with her work nicely & is much more amiable. To-day she has made some scones & a rice cake. She is really trying to do better. Kathleen is doing nicely. Mary came in for last night as the Crossley's went to the Little Theatre for their College Choir affair. Kathleen's Medical Exam. is next Thursday. I have filled in the form & asked Kathleen to say that you would not be able to be present. She goes to the Dentists (Ramsden's) on Tuesday. Her half term is next Friday noon & she goes back on the Wednesday morning. How would you like her to come across to you for the weekend? I have not said anything to her, I had thought I had better not until I knew your mind. Of course, I don't know how long you would like to stay at Kate's but so far as we are concerned here there is no need for you to return specially for us. We are carrying on quite alright. If you are making headway there is no need to hurry back. However, whatever else happens, would you like (& Kate of course) Kathleen to come for the weekend?

The piano-tuner has come at last & is now busy monotonously. A parcel arrived this morning from Misses Strange for your Bazaar Parcel. It is a very good one & the things look well. One frock is white & the other salmon. I am enclosing the letter & thought you would like to send a word of acknowledgement as well. I am writing to day to thank them. Miss Bennett called to see you yesterday & found that the bird had flown! She brought two more books -- "People & Books" by W Robertson Nicholl & "Rose Marys Letter Book" by W. L. Courtney. They look interesting books. She sends her love & best wishes to you. She has been in bed a week -- that is why she has been so long in coming to see you.

You have been busy sewing! I hope you won't over-work yourself. Please do it in moderation! I am sorry Kate is having a bad time with her cold. Hope it will soon be easier. Wilson is still doing well I hope. Mr Whitaker gave me 2 tickets for the last night of the Operetta. We had 20 at the C.E. last night & the Choir was having a rehearsal. They seemed to enjoy my talk on "Ian McLaren". I go to the P.M. Conucil tonight. Mr H.

Walmesley is improving only slowly. Now Mrs Stritton is very ill & is not likely to recover. She took ill a week ago. It is congestion of the lungs.

Now I must get out to do a bit of visiting. I am well. John thinks he is top boy again this week. He assures me that he has tried very hard. He is having many "V.G.s" [Very Good - school mark/grade]. I miss you, dearest. I would be pleased to see you again, but I forego that so you can get quite strong. Love to you from fondest lover Dick.

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135 Addycombe Terr.  
Heaton  
Newcastle-on-Tyne

Sunday  
?1934 [in another hand]

My dearest,

I was most delighted to have your letter and its news. Very glad you are feeling a little better. The good nursing is beginning to tell. Are you sleeping better? Very kind of Mrs Hitchcock to come to see you so soon. Edna, I hope, has settled down and is feeling happy.

My movements during the week have been varied. It's been so pleasant to see so many old friends, each one of whom seems to provide a line of contact with the past and revived happy memories. To spend a few hours with the Crouch's took me back most vividly to the Malmesbury days. They have a very pleasant and comfortable home. Their son Gilbert (27) is in Liverpool; Kathleen (24) is an Art Mistress. A young doctor is interested in her. He has a practice in N/C. Crouch's church or Kirk is a very place & he is comfortably placed.

I had a few hours at Whitley Bay on Thursday. The weather was only fair and rather cool. But it was a delight to behold the open sea. At night I took Tom [Short] & Ethel [Richard's sister, wife of Tom] to the pictures. It was a fairly good show. On Friday, I went to Hetton [Hetton-le-Hole] and spent 4 hours with Sally, and got back to N/C at 4 o/c, then went into the Conference for an hour and then joined Mr and Mrs Adkinson for tea and afterwards we all went to the Pictures. Yesterday (Sat.) after spending a little time with father I attended the Conference. I secured a ticket for the Garden Party at Jesmond Dene. There were thousands present but the weather was showery. There I met Rev. G. Standing and we were together for the rest of the day. He has promised to come to Railway Terrace [Richard's home in Rugby] next February.

I had a talk with Sally about my mother's family. Grandmother Surtees' family lived in North Shields. Her father was an Anchor Smith. He removed to Bedlington (nr Morpeth). Afterwards her father and mother and a large family went to America except my Grandmother who was too nervous. Her maiden name was Todd. So, all Grannies' relations are in the States.

Father added just a little more about the Cowie branch of the family tree. They were fishermen at Leith, then they crossed to Solway Firth; from there to Fatfield in Durham leaving their fishing and became miners. One of the family, Obadiah Cowie, was a Colliery Manager, and was a Prim[itive] Meth[odist]. Family scattered in Durham County ever since. Father said our family originally came from the Highlands, evidently farmers having to do with Cows - hence the origin of our name.

Well now I must bring my scribble to an end. I have been to Heaton Rd Church this morning and heard Rev. B. A. Barber. I don't know where I shall go tonight.

I am having a very happy time with Ethel. She is making me very comfortable.

Now, my dearest, I hope you continue faithfully to do as the doctor wishes. Excuse more. Mildred [Ethel's daughter, born 1917] is waiting for the letter to post.

Yours ever lovingly

Dick

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[type-written]

22, Regent Place  
Rugby.

16th Aug. 1936

My dear Love,

Your letter with others were very welcome when we returned at 4.15 to-day. Glad you are able to get out a great deal. I am sure that is what you are needing. I hope there is a lot of sunny weather to come. We have enjoyed good weather since Saturday noon.

We left Nevin on Saturday morning & had drizzle until we reached Barmouth. Then when we ran inland to Bala we found the sunshine for which we pined. We then ran on to a place just off the main road between Oswestry & Welshpool in a delightful spot. We secured a Bell-tent, already up; but I had it moved to a new spot in the paddock & then we were comfortably placed in a dry tent, with plenty of room for both of us to sleep in & with standing room. John thoroughly enjoyed the larger tent. We were both very tired with the journey, it was long but glorious through the mountains. Fuller particulars of this when we meet.

Yesterday we went to a C. of E. service. John said he enjoyed it. In the afternoon we went for a view of Lake Vyrnwy, some 22 miles away into the mountains. It was all that imagination can conceive. To both of us it was most picturesque & grand. We motored round the lake, which is xi [sic -- eleven] miles round. The weather was just perfect. It will remain with me as a glorious memory. So back to our camp. To-day we left at 10.a.m. Our journey was through Welshpool, Craven Arms, Tenbury, Worcester, Ludlow, Alcester, Stratford & then home. It is comfortable to be back. We have had tea, John has washed up, I have got the fire going once again. the car is garaged & we have had no trouble with it & so I am very grateful for a good holiday. I am feeling better & I am sure it has done me a great deal of good.

I wonder if you have heard from Miss Jones. If you have Kathleen had better write to her. I am afraid we should find it rather heavy at 15/- We had better wait a little longer; someone more reasonable in their charge will come along.

Now I am closing my scrappy letter for I am feeling rather tired. I will come for you on Thursday morning. Edna is remaining next door until Thursday night. I am hurrying to catch the post.

Love to Kathleen, also to all the rest. My fondest love to you, my dearest. Shall be glad to see you again. John joins in love.

Yours ever  
[signed] Dick

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