

4519 West Fifteenth Ave.,

Vancouver, 8 B.C.

August 26

[1955]

Dear ECF :

"The Woman Within" is being returned after far too long an interval and with sincere gratitude. They say it is a good deed to bring a worthy book to a mind capable of profiting by it so you see you are right up the Boy Scout alley. To say that I was fascinated is to put it mildly. I could not put it down when I first read it and have returned more than once for a more analytic study. The closing paragraphs I have copied out and kept. They reflect my own life experience to such an extraordinary degree that I might have written them myself if I'd had the capacity to do it, which I haven't. All through the book there are the most astonishing flashes of insight and above all the <sup>n</sup>courage to face disillusionment.

As you will remember, this characteristic comes out strongly in the chapter called Fata Morgana. As I read it I suddenly realized that Harold, the Red Cross Colonel, had once been pointed out to me in the Dunapalota, in Budapest. His palmy days in Roumania were over by that time but he was still a striking figure. Ellen Glasgow's merciless dissection of the man was almost as remarkable as her relentless analysis of the influence they exercised over one another and from which neither ever completely escaped.

This book is by far the best portrait that I have yet seen of the women of my own generation -- that is to say, the intellectuals among them. It seems strange that she should have wanted to delay the publication of the book at all for its reticence is just as characteristic of the epoch as the frankness. And yet most of us would have done likewise. I must <sup>turn</sup> ~~turn~~ to her books now that I have the key. At the time, I was probably not ready for them.

To come down to personal affairs -- Gertrude Hall spent a day with me this week and we had a grand palaver over the Winnipeg General source material. She took quite an active part in some of the doings that shook the School to its foundations in the early forties. She looked well and is happy in the Calgary job. They all seem to think the world of her in that roaring cattle town.

Well, once more, bless you

E.T.