My dear Will

Your last letter was interesting, but some further details should be still more so. I should like to know for, instance, who was in your place before, & why he left. Also how many men in the Office are under you, whether they are articled pupils or engineers &c. Also how the Manager introduced you, & did he tell each man in the Engineering department that he was to take orders from you. If so I cannot understand any one to complain of you unless you did something very outrageous, which of course you did not. What was it, he complained of? Do give us a little narrative of all that occurred in the Office up to that incident, as I am sure it will be very interesting & perhaps amusing, while it will certainly enable us to form a more correct idea of your exact position, its difficulties & responsibilities, then we are yet able to do.

This morning I had a note from J. W. Marshall asking if we can give him the Christian name of H. F. Ruttlidge, and old Carthusian which they want for a register! Only fancy not having a boys full name in any of their books. Ma & Violet remember that he was at Jaby Marshalls with you. Perhaps you can remember his name. They also want his address & profession, so I suppose his parents are dead.
Yesterday I was refreshing myself with reading the Bounder 's inimitable papers in the last "Clarion". & then took down *The Bounder's Book*, & found in an obituary article that I had put in it, the statement that he was buried at *Withington, Manchester*, in the Cemetery I suppose, as he was a Rom.[an] Catholic (or his family).

I have had a bricklayer & labourer 2 days doing a good job - making drains all round the cellar to take away whatever water soaks in ; and am opening under the middle of my bedroom window in the West *verandah*, with a grating 2 ft. & 1 ’ 3 " to let light and air into the cellar, which was badly wanted.

I have also put up framework 18 feet square at top of garden for wire netting to enclose a currant & gooseberry garden.

Your affectionate Pa | Alfred R. Wallace [signature]

7 To day is one of the hottest of the year!

ENDNOTES

1. Wallace, William, 1871-1951, Wallace 's son

2. The incomplete sentence beginning with "cycle" to "immediately" is written vertically up the left margin of page 1.

3. An ex-pupil of Charterhouse School, Surrey, United Kingdom

4. Wallace, Annie Mitten, 1846-1914, Wallace 's wife

5. Wallace, Violet, 1869-1945, Wallace 's daughter

6. The Clarion was a socialist, weekly newspaper founded in 1891 and closed in 1931.

7. From "to" to "year" is written vertically up the left margin of page 4

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