

Transcript of a letter from E.B. Michell, a falconer
To George Blackall-Simonds
Owned by Peter B. Devers

August 1923
Wyke, Bruton, Somerset

Dear Simonds,

I am greatly to blame for not writing you. I had planned to come driving early this month all along by Wilts & Hants to South Moreton, and perhaps onwards to Bradfield & the upper Thames, etc, etc. And then – July 23 – all knocked on the head! Fall of about 1 foot off a runaway omnibus in London caused fracture of thigh bone and shoulder and bad sprain of elbow. Treated by x-rays and otherwise at Hospital in London. Mending home at Bath and got back here Saturday last. Still on back, but just able to write – feebly. Hope to get on crutches out in garden today or tomorrow. Have already missed the best summer we have had for many years! By a fall which a few years ago would have done us no harm at all!!

As to hawks – Captain Knight and Palmer have gone, with Best, to Caithness; and doubtless Blaine is there too. Allen has a lot of eyass peregrines – for partridge in Wilts and Kent. Hugh Knight & wife & son have merlins for Easthaven. Hill was to have merlins for Wiltshire. But whether he has any – no one seems to know! Sprigg has 2 “sor” sp. Hawks for his (Melton Mowbray) district. Awdry not on the war path. Eldest son busy learning farming. 2nd son hors de combat after dangerous operation for appendicitis. Portal, I think, busy with air-craft education in London.

Very sorry Mrs. Newell’s health is affected. I should have driven to call on her in June, but it was Race day. I had, however, have a long talk with Robert & his wife at Fisherton.

I hope to recover to some small extent the use of my limbs. But there doesn’t seem much to live for now! Our government & army are pigheadedly determined not to back up the French & Belgians in bringing the Hun to Book as cowardly in feeling with our own Bolsheviks & traitors & rebels.

Kindest regards, yours, EBM