

I think not.

I have no doubt the Scots Verse
would find a public if they
appeared from time to time serially,
but when you come to book form
it is a different matter.

Beyond the two I have named
and the Scots lyrics I don't
find much that I can usefully
say. Most of them ^{still} want re-consideration
before they could be shaped for
magazines. They are not up
to the level of the first.

Forgive a long and blunt-edged
letter. You asked (I hope you take
compliment of believing) honestly for
an opinion, and I have given
it honestly. ^{be brief}
M. W. Lawson

53, COLVILLE GARDENS, W.

21/7/1928

Dear Mr Lawson,

I have just returned,
and take care to send you your
brother's verses, for which I am
much obliged. They have interested me, as
all verse does when it is sincere,
but (since you have set me up
for a critic) I should be wrong
if my own convictions of I
advised publication.

I think your brother's facility is
very great: but verse (if it is to
be poetry) wants more than that.

It wants Passion; another
Passion must & then it keeps
either directly in the thought or
indirectly in the technique. I
wonder if in your mother's work
- except in two cases. There is
passion in "Above this Affair"
but whether this is a piece which
could be published, she must
be the judge. I could not say.

The same sort of thing is in "In
fair Canadie". These two
seem to me good. Of the
others the Scots poems are
the best - though here, I think,
there is more sentiment than
feeling; and when one faces

Publication one has to ask oneself
- Is this feeling new? or - Is
this feeling new? put? I
have published Verse in my
time the reception, which
has convinced me of the answer
in my own case. The pity was
that I could not answer
before publication.

Of course you should not
take me as a judge - and
I hope you will not take
amiss what I have thought
I ought to say. Perhaps my
respect for poetry has outweighed
my respect for a lady: but I