

Scutari - Albania

via Italy

AL/3319

May 26. 13

Dear Mr. Christy,

My movements are uncertain. I shall probably be in London in the autumn but for how long I do not know. Having been over 3 years out of England I do not know if I could put up with a whole London winter.

As for lectures - If I am in London up to Xmas I could give some. But I should not care now to

lecture on Montenegro. All my travels & interest in Montenegro were done 6 or 7 years ago when I first lectured on it & it is a subject which from

my own (folk-lore & customs etc) point of view I had enough of. And politically & morally they are

hearts. Albania, as a more primitive & less over-trusted & exploited land is more interesting. I could do a lecture on the

Albanians - I have done a good many.

As to the war - of course actually I saw nothing of it - & haven't even had time or curiosity to visit any of the trenches since. My experience

is confined solely to the first three weeks when I went to the front as correspondent. Then I was

disappointed with the methods of half penny journalism &

threw it up & the whole of the rest of the time I spent at Podgoritzja doing hospital work &

giving out flour & clothing. Then the Montenegrins began intriguing against me - because I gave relief to Catholics & to Moslems. So for the last month of the war I waited at Cetinje in order to be ready to enter Scutari as soon as possible & to hope directly it would never fall into Montenegrin hands.

The points I can lecture on mainly are the political complications & intrigues that led up to the war - the point of view of the Albanians, and the Red Cross hospital experiences.

I have no war photos: that is I snapped a couple of dozen films of a camp & activities but I never had opportunity of getting them developed & I don't know they are in good shape now. I'll give them to the local photographer to develop on the off chance. Views of country & people I have heaps - from former years. The actual war did not interest me & snaps of soldiers &c I did not bother to take.

At beginning of war I had scarcely any films & did not think it worth while sending for them.

The war was a long drawn out boredom - with very hard work of a dirty description on top. Few exciting incidents took place. The troops squatted for months doing nothing. I told them in October they would not take Scutari by assault & they did not do it. As for the wonderful tales telegraphed by Reuters agent - he obtained them from the King - who is

a poet!

Yours faithfully

Ph. E. Newman.

Relief work now takes all day & every day. Most exhausting. Got up at 6 AM to write this & have been interrupted 7 times.

When I had a mass of brand new quite original stuff about unexplored country - you could not get me any lectures now when all that country has been devastated & there is nothing to tell but a sordid tale of intrigue & slaughter you want lectures. Whole tribes have been massacred in cold blood by both Serbs & Montenegrins & the latter have mutilated both living & dead.

In any case do not advertise me as a "war correspondent" or any rubbish of that sort. I should not have undertaken to work for the Chronicle had I known my name would appear & then it over when I found I was being used as an advertisement & that my photos had been published without my consent or knowledge. It was really an infringement of copyright.

But posted till May 30. Mass of work visiting villages burnt & plundered by the Serbs makes letter writing impossible. Would rather lecture on July & July of war if lecture I must. But I'm rather sick of lecturing & tired to death