**15 letters from Amelia Robinson, mother of George ‘Bertie’ Robinson, to the 5th Countess of Harewood, dated between 1893 and 1908 -** found in a box of correspondence belonging to the 5th Countess, Rose Dressing Room cupboard.

Letters transcribed in date order by RB (May 2020).

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**1**

Kingstown, St Vincent, Dec. 1st [18]93,

To the Countess of Harewood

Dear Mistress,

Yours to hand bearing date of the 6 [?], I received quite safe and was exceedingly glad for same(?) I am glad to know he attend his church regularly, he has only written me three time. I shall be pleased to you if you would see him do it oftener. I hope he will get through the cold well, so far as his happiness is concerned I trust that to your ladyship. I shall be much pleased if your ladyship will see him have his photo taken and send me one. I have left him up to your ladyship’s kindness(?) accord; to you promised his sisters Papa and myself I join in love for him and long life and happiness to your ladyship. I hope you will not give him up to himself but be strict(?) on him, the last letter that I wrote him I told him that the 8th November last was his birthday at which time he was 14 years old and I always tell him when I write him to show your ladyship the letter which I do not think he ever do, and with due respects.

I am your ladyship’s obt. servant

Amelia Agnes(?) Robinson

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**NOTE:**  HHT has two photographic portraits of Bertie, the earlier of which could well have been taken by the 5th Countess herself, who was a keen amateur photographer - *check of physical photograph needed to confirm this*. It shows Bertie in a white footman’s uniform on the terrace at Harewood. A (possibly slightly later) cabinet portrait was taken by the Jubilee Photo Company of Buckingham Palace Road in a studio setting.

Leeds Museums and Galleries also have a different head and shoulders photograph of Bertie sent as a Christmas card in 1905.

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**2**

June 1st 1894

My Lady,

I thank you very much for your great kindness of writing to tell me about my little son. And hope you received my answer [?] [?]. I feel truly grateful for your goodness to Bertie knowing the [?] have [?] [?] from you and his master. Bertie’s father is very ill and unable to work at present. May I beg you to be so good as to give me a little help. I have a large family and find it hard to maintain them. Bertie wrote to tell me he had out grown his clothes. May I beg you to send them for me please, if it is [?] [?] for you to do so. They will be a help to his younger brothers. He [?] me his photo, I will be glad to get it. I trust he is a good obedient and dutiful boy to you and his master. Say to him I received his letter and will action it. I am pleased he got the box I sent. Next mail I will write to him. Thanking you once more for all your goodness to my son and the master also.

I am

My lady

your obedient servant

Ameila Robinson.

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**3**

Back Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent

6 Aug 1897

The Countess of Harewood, Leeds, London, England

My Lady,

You will no doubt be surprised to learn of the death of my youngest son Ormonds(?) who breathed his last on Sunday 25th July just past. He was suffering for some time but failed to obtain relief to succumb to an illness which most(?) children suffer from and ends fatally. He was not mentally confined to his bed. He suffered from an attack of jaundice(?) and which he bore with Christian(?) fortitude(?) and for forbearance(?). His ailings were not beyond human expectations; he rallied up to the Saturday evening previously and gaining(?) the early hours of Sunday the 5th morning, his symptoms became to our mind’s eye very alarming. We had [photograph illegible] of the fact that his last hours of suffering humanity were approaching an end. We were not cognisant of the fact of his earthly remnants would(?) had assumed a heavenly aspect. With and upon the reasonable request of our master’s will, he died at 6.55 am on Sunday 25th. He must have remembered that in the midst of the joys of a well ordered(?) Home, earth is not our [?]. He wok’d for a city which hands could not [......] for a country by some(?) undefiled . We did not realise the fact ourselves that he is such an unthinking and thoughtless manner he would have been so [?] enacted from the bosom of his dear family and friends and others. Our home stands with a strict and universal mass of grief(?); a loss never to be forgotten never to have an end: our loss in this instance is the unspeakable pain, and we cannot matter(?) to His Divine will and timely keeping and preservation and Ormond has chosen a befitting place where we are daily preparing to follow him hence. You will understand fellow feeling and make allowances for me with difficult fact, as now we are [?] with grief.

I have to ask you to let me know what has become of Bertie, we have not heard from him for some time, we would like to know if he has forgotten us; fears are entertained as to whether illness has been the sole [?] of the absence of his pen. In this respect please look it up for me.

I would beg of you to kindly send for me a bit of our(?) pecuniary and the present depression(?) of Saint Vincent being so very hard, is the sole [?] of this worthy appeal and again my husband ceases to find employment, and sometimes it is hopelessly impossible for us to make household matters course to all end and you help in this present instance would be found exceedingly grateful; and as such it will be considered a lasting obligation and one which I shall remember with appreciative kindness. Enclosed you will find a Letter for Bertie, which I beg you could hand for me.

The family generally in their bereavement(?) request that you will accept their hearty good wishes. And accept all that is good from Yours very obdly,

Amelia Robinson

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**4**

bertie

Back Street, Kingstown, St Vincent

1st Oct 1897

Yours dated 9th(?) Aug 1897 has been received together with its enclosure in the first instance. I must thank you for your generous gift. Indeed I must say it was most acceptable, coming, as it did, at such an [?] Of [?] Times; at a moment when we were almost driven to the lowest ebb of domestic puzzles. I must on behalf of my husband, my children and myself thank you in a manner most becoming. In the executions of such our extensive favour you could not have done more, not was it in your personable feeling this shewn to have done absolutely less and which characterises the very ablest of yourself. Permit me to offer and ask you to accept our appreciative gratitude for your help with the act of you pecuniary assistance. We all shall ever remember your extreme kindness with profound worth and that your [?] will ever be engraven on our memories in the annals of Christian duty - a feeling which we shall always cherish in a lasting remembrance in the broad road that leads to [?] our esteemed honour. The favour, as such, regardless of class or colour, bespeaks a world(?) of humour, kindness, which must ever be found with pail of good society, in a Lay filling so admired a position(?) Coupled with no [?] degree of extensive worth and the high esteem in which you are so highly exalted; indeed we gainsay(?) a fact so well known to us and to our mind’s eye that a Lady befitting your station of life cannot be too over estimated that being as temperate in your ideas, so kindly in your judgements and so well disposed to view every minute circumstance in its best light, that to pass under your [?] [?] to feel that one must indeed have sinned(?); and in that direction surely cannot have played(?) me false/

Very kind and best wishes for you and yours are asked to be conveyed to your by every section of the family. By the same mail which brought us your letter to us, Bertie wrote us and by this mail we have replied to his letter. The mass of grief by which we were surrounded and the difficulties we had to surmount are beginning to take off a little. [?] I say more as a Lady of your sensibility know the propriety of what I have here so briefly called your attention.

Believe me, my dear lady, very faithfully yours,

Amelia Robinson

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**5**

Back Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, BWI

8 July 1898

My lady,

You will no doubt excuse the possibility of writing this letter and at the sametime beg most respectfully that you will pardon my intrusion thus far.

This letter as I will write contains all the information proper and absolutely necessary for your much thoughtful identification together with instructions in dealing with the subject matter to the best of your abilities: -

It is now six clear months since I have not received a single line from my son, and so [?] the following - c.e(?) -

1. I am inclined to think that illness of some causes unknown may have [?] upon him, and which may have caused the disappearance of his letters;
2. I am willing to say that very likely a change from his abode to some other, remote places may have caused him to forget his parents on Saint Vincent.
3. The absence of his pen and thoughts which were quite fine(?) appear to each and every of his family insignificant and which had got the better of us.

If any of the above be correct as we have anticipated, or rather what we gather, if constitute a powerful array of the pangs of which so mysteriously affect us and to which there briefly call your attention; the plain facts of which you may without regards, favour or affection, definitely acquaint me with the fullest information touching nature(?) Of the cause of the absence of his pen for so long a period.

In the beginning of the 6 months as far as I have remembered I wrote him a letter, and from which his(?) Reply has never reached us.

Dealing with such a most important matter you can easily imagine the extra amount of anxiety it has occasioned us all from day to day; no human heart can or could express the [?] feelings we entertained in gaining a fact that he must have severely(?) Contracted(?) Forgetfulness or otherwise not feeling disposed to acknowledge the members of his family connection in Saint Vincent.

It would be supremely ridiculous for us to write him, where we are [?] unacquainted with the proof(?) Of his [?] or [?...] the fact may be so named or described.

My Lady, In anticipation of which I only hope your generous heart will be opened to relieve me of the existing difficulties to which I am [?] an exceedingly [?] period of existence(?) surrounded.

Consequent on such a dreary interval(?) It is enough to sap me or at least all of us, of all strength, mentally and physically.

I shall leave the matter [?] with your hands and you will, I am perfectly certain given it the attention it so well deserves.

You will be pleased to convey our very best regards to the master and for self My Lady accept with the best [?] the best and [?] of all from

Your Most obt. Servant

Amelia Robinson

PS Be pleased to convert our best regards to George for us.

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**6**

Kingstown, Saint Vincent, South River Road, BWI

2 Sept 1898

Dear Lady,

I must acknowledge with sincere gratitude your dear letter and must at the same time thank you most warmly for the very kind and grateful expressions which your letter contained.

In the first degree I must appeal in asking you to accept the lateness of my reply which owes it origin in my having missed the last mail; not from any source of neglect being on that mail day out a little from Town and having got back late.

Not more welcome is the appearance of our(?) line to a weary traveller these your kind and endearing letter I was [?].

I beg to say to you that a mail before your letter reached me I had a letter from my son, and which had awaked up our anticipations.

The tone and spirit of your letter dealing with the behaviour of George speaks in measured terms of the family generally and only hope that he may(?) Continue as long as he may be able to be with his dear Master and Mistress. - God being his helper and keeper. His indeed(?) Gratifying(?) Pen, his family at Saint Vincent to know that his conduct with you is “second to none” behaving so justly and wound himself round your hearts; hence from what we have gathered of the expressions of your well meant letter betray the fact to our mind’s eye to say that our Bertie will perhaps never be found wanting in all respects imaginable; and that such a princely(?) Love has been so lavished upon him. Indeed we all, as a family, cannot find words enough to thank you and the master for the many amiable acts of kindness and admonitions you have bestowed upon him since leaving St Vincent.

I verily believe and am henceforth justified in saying that the master as well as yourself [....] pluck(?) Must be affected the all important point of view that the care and strict attention paid to George, and which has been assigned to you, and which you so gallantly undertook although it must have been (at times) considerably tiresome, was always to the best of our information, knowledge, and believe, moved, instigated(?) And tempered by Charity and goodwill, as remain faithful to this end; and through duties of George’s statin faithfully discharged to his dear master and mistress working honestly and steadfastly with 2 safe? Guards, {c.e?] love of principle(??) And love for his beloved master and mistress.

On behalf of the other members of his family, I beg of the master and yourself to accept our very kind and heartfelt wishes, then(?) May the Supreme Disposer of Events have you both in His continual care and safe keeping, shielding you from all dangers and guiding and guarding your footsteps in pleasant places. May he so bless and guard you both and prosper and sustain you in your movements until you reach that shore where there is more parting and where the weary are at rest.

You will be pleased to convey your best remembrances to George.

And all that is kind and indulgent(?) From my husband, children and

Yrs very faithfully

Amelia Robinson

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**7**

South River Road, Kingstown, St Vincent, BWI

Friday 25th Nov. 1898

My dear and beloved mistress,

It is some considerable time since I have not had the goodness to obtain a line from you; I anticipate that you may have forgotten me, or, otherwise illness may have necessarily caused the shoke of your pen; however he occasion which now demand the presence of this letter is absolutely compulsory and a manner(?) becoming at such a moment like this:

As far as the subject matter commences, is in(?) this wise; I had for a considerable time past written my son George a letter and in that letter I appealed to him for some(?) little help and asked as far back as sometime previous the storm of Sept. 11th as in his reply to me which came by last mail steamer, he informs me that owing to his made having to subscribe $100 towards the Parish Vincent(?) Hurricane(?) Fund(?), he could not hardly assist me, and that he did not like to ask his mistress for any money: this being quite true as it goes.

The various other W Island(?) subscribed and send subscriptions to the St Vincent Hurricane but I have not benefited one single farthing from any of the funds so subscribed.

Some time ago I received a message from the Administrator making enquiries as to whether I had received any damage, to which I replied “that I am not the owner of any dwelling, but on account of the Hurricane I had lost all my furniture and effects as also clothing, occasioned by the severe damage done to the House wherein I have lived at the time of the Hurricane”

Up to the present time I have had no manner of help as the several amount collected and sent to St Vincent were surely for supplying food and providing shelter for the homeless and destitute people pouring in from the windward and leeward districts of the Island. The people number about 30,000.

I appeal to your honourable sense of justice in asking you to be generous [?] to [?] me what manner of help you can conveniently supply me with, as I am in great need as yet. I am left bare of clothing as also my family connection and owing as to how the Hurricane has left St Vincent, we can scarcely able to manage to get food as we did sometime previous to the Hurricane this was bad enough before, but now is practically worse. St Vincent is almost one mass of ruins, pitiable to behold.

I am fully comprehensive and fully aware of the established fact of your extreme and ready willingness to rescue(?) Those persons labouring under difficulties and it is reasonable to suppose that such will never be lost sight of by yourself and most worthy master. If at this moment you can muster(?) Any help I shall be glad to obtain it by mail following this letter in the way of garment(?) That would suffice for family of myself, a husband, a daughter and 2 boys, ages respectively 18, 13 and 12 years of age.

I shall only be too glad to be at your services. If you could only pakl, whatever they may be, in a box and then addressed it to the addresses named in the bill of paper herewith enclosed, I shall have no trouble in getting it.

I shall look forward for your esteemed commands(?) And trust that nothing will be wanting to render? my letter meeting with your prompt assistance.

You will be pleased to convey our best wishes and very Kind remembrances to the worthy master.

I have enclosed a letter to George and whatever he may have to send for us he will direct it under your care.

The family members beg to convey their best wishes to you.

My husband begs to remember most kindly and accept all that is good, kind and most indulgent(?) From you most [?] servant Amelia Robinson

Box Address thus: Mrs Ameia Robinson, C/O Mr Ben E Gaskin(?) Lot 74 Back Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, BWI - please hand this address to George for me and all letters thus addressed will sure to get easy to me in the future

(separate note)

“Note this please”

My dear Lady

In(?) consequence of the being a number of persona by the name of Robinson please to sign in future as following:

Mrs William Robinson, South River Road, Kingstown, St Vincent, BWI

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**8**

South River Road, Kingstown, St Vincent, BWI,

20.1.1899

My dear Mistress,

I must acknowledge with sincere gratitude your letter together with its enclosure.

Indeed I must thank you most warmly for the individual present you were good enough to parcel up and send for me. I cannot find words valued enough for them. They have come just with nick of time.

I beg to inform you the Kingston Relief Committee who has been appointed as commissioners have only now begun to execute their task of relieving those persons whose houses have been either partially or totally destroyed by the late Hurricane. Circulars have been just commenced to be issued calling there in by 30. Tuesdays Thursday and Saturdays are the days appointed to hear and determine their cases of damage.

The household family beg most warmly to convey their appreciation of the present and also present their hearty thanks for them.

They also say a fond remembrance to George for them.

We really thought we would have heard from him; as we have not done so for a few mails past, and trust we long may have the good pleasure of hearing from him.

St Vincent appears to be a little brighter since the Hurricane; but it still lacks something or other somewhere.

The health of the [?] Generally is pretty fair, no prevailing sickness of any nature has met us or favoured us.

You must accept our hearty cooperation in the extension of favour towards us; and we long hope to have the favour of your reply. Be pleased to convey our best wishes to the master and trust your health is [?] to the front.

We are waiting to hear from George before we can write to him.

And with all kind wishes, and best remembrances for yourself and master from,

Your most obedient servant

Amelia Robinson

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**9**

South River Road, Kingstown, St Vincent, West Indies

30 March 1900

Dear Lady and Mistress,

Some time has elapsed since the strokes of my pen have not had practice(?)

Permit me most humbly and respectfully to approach you with this letter on an occasion as the present one which I have reasons to believe will give you invaluable opinion and that the request herein contained will merit your approval most promptly.

My next and youngest daughter Mabel is very shortly to be married and which will D.V(?) Take place in June next.

In a letter forwarded this mail to George, we have appealed to him for a little assistance bearing on the point of his sisters coming marriage. He, I am perfectly sure in saying is somewhat ashamed to make or ask an appeal from his dear master or mistress; as far as I have, times out of number, gathered from the expressions contained in his letters to us; or, may be he is reluctant in doing so; and under the present existing state of difficulties to which we are at present surrounded. I trust your good heart will be opened to grant him such a favour as is included with the matter referred to herein.

In writing this letter, and as the opportunity presents itself, allow me to stoop in asking your very kind indulgence with your pecuniary assistance; however small the gift or present may be rest assured that nothing would render the absolutely grateful than to receive a token of your appreciative kindness. There is no quality more conspicuous or more powerful than the genuine sympathy shown to those [?] have been brought with contact with you either in joy or sorrow; and your daily life is as far as I am able to understand, filled with the spirit of love and kindness, thereby winning all hearts by your simple [?] and unaffected feelings. I must hardly point out to you my dear lady and mistress that yours is crowded to the full extent of human capacity with ceaseless sacrificing efforts to the encouragement and support of every good work and such good work to say the least of it, was and is still always moved, instigated and tempered by acts of charity and good will and faithful to the end. Hence you have always proven yourself together with the master, most kind noble and genial, carrying sunshine wherever you both went.

I do not, here, include idle or wain words but beneath the names of the master and mistress Earl and Lady, are to be found the attributes of a true man and woman.

I need hardly attach any more as your sensibility know that the full propriety of what I have here briefly touched upon.

I shall leave my case in its appellato(?) Question into your hands, and you, I have no hesitation in saying, will give it the attention it is so well deserves.

You will be pleased to accept the best and very kind regards from the family section for you and yours, and a share for little George. And accept the [?] from yours most obediently, Amelia Robinson

PTO - Note - there are at present living in Kingstown so many names of Robinson, be kind enough to address your reply to the following address: or if in cases of a postal order thus

Plain letter thus - Mrs Amelia Robinson, C/O Mr Benjamin E. Gaskin, Lot 74 Kingstown, Saint Vincent, B.W.I.

If P.O.O be made payable to Benjamin E. Gaskin, Lot 74, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, B.W.I.

Sure either of the above will reach me unless [?] no time? Please let George be acquainted with this.

A. R

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**10**

Middle Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, West Indies

24. 5. 1901

My dear Lady,

It is with an intensity of profound pleasure I write to you this short letter: the object of which is that I really do not for a number of months past hear from George, and am therefore under a doubt as to the validity of his movements; whatever else has happened, which prevents him from corresponding with his parents at Saint Vincent; i do not understand this matter, lest illness may have been the cause that has eventually brought about the action of this present complaint. If none of the foregoing, I am loth(?) Of to entertain an idea that he must have really been [?] himself with new friends: [?] his forgetting the duty he owes to his family and country. I cannot for one moment conjecture(?) His irregularity.

I would respectfully ask you look him up, and do me the deserved justice. You will easily imagine that on such a basis, i am reluctantly compelled to make the necessary enquiries in touch with the absence of his pen for and during such a very long and protracted absence you will no doubt [?] to weigh that is at present having on [?] on which relief may be easily poised.

You will be pleased at the same time to honour the worthy master with the best regards of each member of our family as well as to George whilst asking you to accept our warmest and our best remembrances.

You will not hesitate to reply the outcome of which will positively touch on the main subject of the contents of this note; till then you will hear from me in due course.

I am dear mistress, Yours very gratefully,

Amelia Robinson

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**11**

Middle Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, West Indies

9 October 1903

My dear Lady and Mistress,

It is for sometime past I have not had the most profound and exquisite pleasure of writing to you.

This letter as I now write to you contains all the information proper and necessary for your much thoughtful identification and that you will make new of it in whatever way you may think fit and expedient.

As I and my husband are getting [?] in age and dare not say as to whether we both may easily succumb to any illness that may eventually usher itself in upon us, we venture to make application to yourself and waster as to allow George the favour of paying us a visit if even for a month in order to see us, as we have not as you know, seen him for years. By granting us this single request we anticipate the conferring of a most [?] obligation and one which we shall ever hold dear and appreciate. You could not [?] a far more and better kindness and we are at a loss to know how soon we [?] be called to fulfill our earthly mission, an , under such [?] circumstances, we appeal to your sense of justice in granting us the outcome of this special appeal, hoping that your hearts will(?) be equally opened to the best of our wishes in this direction. It is a fact that we cherished and one in fact that you are a [?] [?] [?] to [?] honour to the [?] you bear and we hope in asking this favour at your hands, we are not asking too much. We unhesitatingly(?) Leave this request in your hands and you will readily give it the attention it well deserves.

In conclusion we cherish a hope that your health together with that of the master are wound up that God in his all wise and bountiful good [?] may continue to preserve it to the end of his final calling.

My husband, the children and myself beg to kindly accept the best wishes for your future good health and master. And kindly convey your best remembrances to George, and hope his conduct has remained up to date.

We [?] to hear soon from you and in seeing our dear George also.

In good time(?)

Believe me, dear lady, your most [?] Amelia Robinson

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**12**

Middle Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent

6 Oct 1904

Dear Master,

I much regret in the fact of my having to write such a letter as this you.

It is indeed very painful for me to say that it is for a considerable length of time I have not heard from my son George, not as often as I had at first anticipated; if, as a matter of fact, he has any ulterior motive for such actions I am at a loss to now understand. Be that as it may, I shall be more than glad to have your ideas touching(?) This point. My son should consider a family duty in at least fulfilling it. At time I am so much driven to [?] destitution and want that I do not know in what way to act or what plan I can(?) Possibly adopt. My husband (his father is getting away down the hill of old age, and it is extremely difficult to act judging the lamentable crisis of St Vincent and to what extent the Island is driven. My son has perhaps very unwisely forgotten me or probably he wishes not to send me a line; which betrays the fact to my mind to say that on account of his disposed to send me a little help which prevents his duty being [?] performed.

Since last December he sent me a little and; and why he has been as neglectful? I do not say he should send me monthly, but I should? Require some help at times; my other sons are in no? Way helpful to me; and George is all the help I can look for.

I shall be most glad if you will stir him up for me and assure me of his opinion in the matter of his neglect and as to what cause it has arisen and in doing as you will be conferring a lacking obligation which I shall [?] appreciate.

I shall be glad to hear from you and also from him, and in the meantime hope to obtain some help from him; and also assuring me of his neglect.

I must here say to you to be good enough to convey my best regards to the mistress from the family generally and for you as well; whilst I beg you to accept the best of all for you hoping your health is as good as can be expected of us.

In anticipation of which I beg to say, I subscribe? Myself yr. Most obd. Servant

Amelia Robinson

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**13**

Egremont? Street , Kingstown, St Vincent, British West Indies

8 November 1905

My Dear Lady,

Pardon my intrusions in sending this letter to you and hope the reply may bring some good news.

It is some considerable time since I have not heard anything from or of George. I am under the impression that he (1) must have some ulterior motive in not writing to me (2) must be away from home; or (3) illness must have been his [?] prevent a line(?); it must eventually one of the above cases(?)

Another point and which is most important is that his father has been conferred to his quarters undergoing close medical attendance. Before then he had been at home comparatively(?) Unemployed. I of myself being able to get employment, I am willing and able to cook but no business open anywhere [?]. I do not in any case depend on George for help; yet still if at times he is able to do me some assistance; surely he can do it. Many are the days I am utterly bare of funds. The other section of the family which include an infant son and 2 girls are incapable of assisting my wants and George is almost the only (so to speak) reliable [?] of friend in whom I may with full confidence actually rely on, and when occasion requires I do not require a fortune yet still, however small, it will be found acceptable, and more especially at this critical junction of the present time.

I have so much confidence in your personal abilities that such as this letter will after reading it though will afford me relief.

A Lady filling so admired a position; so [?] in your ideas so kindly in your judgement, and so well disposed to [?] circumstances in as best light that to pass under your condemnation is to feel that one must indeed have gone the [?]

The family circle go(?) With me in conveying their best and kindest regards to the Master George, and yourself particularly.

Trusting you are all well, hoping soon to be favoured with a reply.

In(?) Anticipation,

I am, My Dear Lady, Yrs very respectfully,

Amelia Robinson.

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**NOTE:** The Lascelles family visited various islands in the West Indies in 1906 using their yacht ‘The Dolores’, as documented by photographs taken by the 5th Countess.

There is a picture captioned ‘St Vincent, Bertie landing’ showing a small boat approaching the island.

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**14**

Black edged paper

Middle Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, West Indies

27 July 1908

My dear mistress,

Permit me. I very much regret the fact in putting you in possession of the death of my husband William Robinson. The facts are these that my husband was for some considerable time confined to his house during which he suffered very much; and sustained so until sometime before his death. Dr Braunch was called in and at once ordered him to the hospital where he was treated for Senile Gangrene(?) And he breathed his last on Monday the 20th at 3:30am. I then upon the report of his death removed him to my house and the funeral took place at 4pm the same day. The family are now undergoing grief from the fact of what he was during the earlier part of his life. We have nothing else now to do but to rest(?) In silence on this will. His remains was undressed in the Kingston Cemetery followed by a large and respectable gathering of relatives and friends. When Bertie last visited St Vincent he left his father suffering much and the [?] of my writing this report to you so what for sometime gone. Bertie has entirely upset my nerves and I do not hear a word of or from you. Although he for several months past made promises of help in aiding me chiefly on account of the state of his father, and my not doing any manner of work; his brother in New York even does not write me as he should still he does more than Bertie at times.

By having so much expenses to [?] on account of my husband’s illness and death I have therefore to ask you as a Lady of tender heart to extend your sympathy in order to accept me in more ways than one in paying off the items of expenses in my present condition; for during the time of my husband’s illness say about 40 days ago I fell suddenly ill and had to be treated by Dr Braunch and up to this time I am indoors(?) And deprived from doing any manner of work. Therefore you will clearly see where the difficulties are

I shall be glad if you will kindly interview Bertie as to the nature and meaning of the long absence of his pen.

You will be pleased to convey our best wishes to the entire household and accept all that is dear from your most obdt. Servant

[?] Amelia Robinson

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**15**

Black edged paper

Middle Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent, West Indies

21 September 1908

My Dear Mistress,

I must acknowledge with sincere gratitude your letter by last mail steamer, together with your donation of £1.

I cannot find words enough to thank you for your generous gift , and also the very kind words of sympathy you were good enough to give expressions.

The grief which had for some time overwhelmed me, since the death of my husband, has very much lessened knowing as a fact that it must cast all my care [?] And [?] on Him who never fails us.

I have to thank you so much that I hope and trust that He who lives whilst good friends die will have you and yours in His continual safe care and keeping shielding you from all [?] daughters and guiding and guarding your footsteps in pleasant [?] May He so bless and Keep you. My prayers to your safety and good preservation. I trust will at all times be found acceptable to that God who is of purer eyes than to behold the unjust and that sympathetic feeling of heart you entertain for those suffering under the most strenuous difficulties will always be with you, and follow you continually to the end of your days.

The other section of my family join with me in thanking for your extreme kindness and bespeak your continued good health and prosperity.

Be pleased to convey our best wishes to the master and for self accept the usual on the double lives(?).

Again, thanking you for your generous gift.

I am Dear Mistress, Yours very faithfully

Amelia Robinson