

BRITISH LEGATION,
BUCHAREST.

3rd May 1921.

Dear Mr. Laszlo,

We have been here now for a fortnight and have made some charming acquaintances among the Roumanians. We like the place very much, in spite of certain inconveniences of life! Contrary to Kipling's postulate in his famous poem, *East and West* do meet here, and the dove-tailing in places is distinctly defective!

We had a private Audience with the Queen last week, and you will be interested to hear that à propos of a portrait of hers she said "Of course the person I want to do my portrait is Laszlo"! We of course told her of your having done my wife's portrait, and she was much interested. I am sure you would have a delightful time if you came here to do her portrait. The Palace just outside the town was formerly an old Monastery and is a fine spacious building in the Roman-Byzantine style. The throne room where she received us is an arched room decorated very tastefully in gold tout à fait dans la note and quite suggested the throne room of a Byzantine Empress!

Another day we visited a certain Mrs. Martineau in her apartments at the Palace, where she has been staying for a

month or so arranging the gardens. Perhaps you know her in London, her sister is Lady Maitland. I can assure you that the apartments reserved for visitors are delightful.

In July and August the Queen will be at the Palace at the famous mountain resort Sinaia. I have not seen it yet, but they say it is a fine one, and the scenery magnificent. I have no doubt we shall see the Queen from time to time, and if there is anything you would like me to say to her, you have but to write and let me know.

I expect you are now busy with the second portrait of Lord Inchcape, and I shall be most interested to see it when we are back in London. My wife says she is very anxious to have a photograph of the first portrait which we saw, has this been done yet? We expect to come on leave at the end of September and go to Scotland for a bit and we should be in London the last ten days of October.

With kind remembrances from us both,

Yours very sincerely
S. M. Maitland

Maitland - Drake