

The Grey Lodge,
Gladstone Road,
Mount Albert, Auckland.
March 19th, 1936.

Dear Mr. Reed

"~~The~~ ^A Poor Scholar" came to hand yesterday, and I spent nearly half last night reading it. So far (and midway through the book,) I am delighted with young "Ponto's" adventures between the "Bally" and "Hurler" - Mr. Allen's combination of humour and sympathetic imagination has certainly made Dunedin come alive, and it's a city I've always wanted to know, and now - have but for a bun and a glass of milk on the way to Melbourne. I've read all his other books except "Brown Smock," and honestly, considered as a novel, like "A Poor Scholar" best. Perhaps the New Zealand settings make for a certain partiality with N.Z. readers - but it's such a relief that some human and credible novels of New Zealand are getting themselves written (and printed!) at last, and I trust that Mr. Allen and your own firm meet with a thorough success over the book. I'll be reviewing "A Poor Scholar" for the

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N. L. Observer very shortly, and will send you a copy of the issue in which the review appears.

I enclose a postal order for 7/6 for my copy of the book - and if the credit of a moderately honest but irregularly-financial journalist is really all right with you, will you send another copy to his address?

Mrs. G. I. Wilkinson,
92 Northland Road,
Northland, Wellington.

The lady is my mother, and I know she'd like the book. I'll send the payment with in 2 or 3 weeks at the outside.

Sincerely yours,
Doris Wilkinson