I'll drink your health this Hogmanay in soor dook if I can get only!!

Kingston
Jamaica B.W.I.
16th December 1915.

My Dear Popenoe,

Glad to again hear from you in your letter of Nov. 19th. It reached me when I was away up in St Mary and reading it passed away a little time waiting on a St Mary shower passing off!! If you consult the Handbook of Jamaica you will find this parish lies quite within the 100 + over rainfall. This year some parts will touch nearer 200 before the year is over: Pt Antonio way I refer. The weather there has been awful. Trains have scarcely been running steadily since August hurricane: continual wash outs and land slides. With all the blow which laid bananas low they are again up and looking well but cocoa trees have had a bit of a smashing with bananas blowing down over them. You see bananas + cocoa form a sort of combined crop — banana affording shade for cocoa till it becomes established + can supply sufficient shade itself. I appreciate Cellons catalogue and the other enclosures. Thanks muchly! Now as for your mango queries. Mangoes fruit most consistently along the seaboard while inland generally it is not so. I expect the sea breeze is the factor here drying up moisture fairly quickly after precipitation and there would, one should expect, be good natural drainage to carry away excessive moisture and the more sandy seaboard one would not expect to produce a succulent growth incapable of thorough ripening. Even with seabreeze however the Colletotrichum is mighty bad and for market purposes we would have to spray. Besides the number of good mangoes distributed in the island is as I told you small and the whole matter requires attention. I seem to think your theory about wood maturation fits in quite well with our findings in Jamaica. As for Castleton I have not been there myself but intend going at an early date to personally see for myself what I have been told. Mr Cradwick the Agricultural Instructor of St. Mary who is an old Kew Gardens man used to be at Castleton was right with me when your letter arrived.

He informed me they got a luxuriant thick watery growth but no fruit. The soil could not be considered a badly drained one as soils go for natural drainage was fairly good — the atmosphere is at all times very humid as Castelon lies within a sort of natural basin and even altho so far from the coast is only 450 feet above sea level. As I said of St Mary rainfall is high. Indeed what you have to say on the other tropical fruit problems but I'm afraid I'm up against too unscientific a set to get much done. The white man who comes to the British Colonies — the tropical ones I mean are of the "Get-rich-quick Wallingford" type and out to see a fortune grow for them just as quickly as a banana and that's a bit rapid! As for interesting themselves in any problem for the mere sake of advancing a horticultural problem — dis out of the question. Of course they'd be quite pleased after an experiment is carried out and they see there's money in it to come in and do the plundering part of the business. Our big men are either in Sugar, Cocoa, bananas, or coconuts and to this they stick — the small settlers aint got one brass farthing to rub against another to do anything. The elevation and enlightenment of the masses is what is needed and if we undertake this to too great an extent we seal our own doom for the white man is in certain quarters already looked upon as a d — d thief & robber!! The coloured man has a hold in this island which to the American would be quite unbelievable. At the present time a banana boss is giving us trouble & I cant get men to take action. However they will when their pockets get touched.

Are you going out to the Columbus meeting this year? Yes, procure the bud wood from anywhere you please of the marsh seedless grapefruit. I found quite a deal of it planted in the western areas of Florida: Manatee River & Hosneeville way. Nothing else occurs to me meantime and so I'll close with the compliments of the season & all best wishes for a good time & success in 1916

By sincerely
your old Scotch friend
A. H. G.