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Angus Macleod
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Dear Angus

I enclose a final typescript of The Claim of Crofting. I am very appreciative of all your kind comments on earlier drafts. There is no-one else, to be honest, whose judgments on these matters I value more than your own. And I hope the book will, among other purposes, serve as some permanent record of your own efforts on behalf of crofters.

You will see that I have - once again! - acted on your advice by amending the end of Chapter 7 to take account of your comments on community ownership. I have also returned to this issue very positively at the end of Chapter 8 - which you have not seen before as I have just finished it.

As you say, what we have always lacked in the Highlands and Islands is self-confidence. There were good reasons for that. But there is, I firmly believe, less cause for despondency now than once there was. That's the theme I've ended on anyway.

I have also striven to emphasise throughout the book the continuity of past and present - explicitly linking Murdoch and the Land League to the SCU and to the overall contemporary situation. Perhaps you and others will be able to draw on that analysis in connection with your plans to commemorate the people of former days. If we had a tough job to do, their's was a lot tougher.

Thanks again for everything.

Regards to Annie

Jim