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R. Howden's.
22 Forrest Road.
Edinburgh. Nov. 1/77.

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My dear Mr. Slavikoff

I am exceedingly sorry that I have been hitherto unable to answer your kind letter of nearly three months date past. It has not been want of will but want of opportunity however that has kept me quiet and in spite of other things pressing heavily upon me. You have been much in my thoughts.

I was much pleased to learn that the reports as to the untimely death of your relatives were quite unfounded and that your friends are still in the land of the living. It is a matter for great thankfulness in the midst of such terrible massacre as has been going on in Bulgaria of late. I too have had my troubles and anxieties in the same sort of way, for, as you know,