Letters from T.S. Eliot to Emily Hale

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1 folder

Contact Information

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1907?

Miss Emily Hale,

Stamford House,

CAMPDEN,

Gloucestershire,

ENGLAND.

TYGLYN AERON, CILIAU AERON, LAMPETER, CARDIGANSHIRE.

AERON 25.

My Dear,

1 September.

I shall send a wire this afternoon, to give you time to order me a car (preferably the young man who fetched me from Stratford before you came, as he knows me by sight). Minor reasons which I need not go into now, dictate that I shall go from Carmarthen, catch a train from Newport at 3.50 and get to Cheltenham, MALVERN ROAD STATION, at 5.4. If enquiries at the station show any correction in the times, I will put them into my wire; otherwise, could you tell the chauffeur to meet me at Cheltenham at 5.4. I put the station in capitals because I understand there are one or two other Cheltenham stations. so you see it is important.

5.4 p.m. Saturday

I am impatient to see you again. Very cold here, but this morning is bright and still, and I believe we may get a little sunbathing. Too cold so far for any sea bathing. Tomorrow, if fine, means an excursion to St.David's , which I have never seen.

The elkhound is I believe a very nice dog, and certainly goodlooking. The only out I know of is that he is by no means a rarity in America. If there was also a good big black poodle available I should incline to the poodle, but the elkhound is I think a very nice dog.

Your Tom

By C.W.S. QUEEN MARY.

SOUTH KENSINGTON
11 AM
13 SEP
1938
S.W.7.

Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Billy M'Gaw sent.
Dinner jacket received.

THE
CRITERION
A QUARTERLY REVIEW
EDITED BY T. S. ELIOT

TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9543
TELEGRAMS: FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

13 September 1938.

My Dearest.

As the Queen Mary opportunely sails tomorrow, I am writing this brief loving note in the hope that it will reach you very soon after your arrival, thanking you for your wire from the boat, and telling you that the last few days have seemed very empty, and the world suddenly very queer and twisted without you. But I am, even now, full of thankfulness for this summer, and for its bringing us always nearer together.

I am happy to think of Boerre with you (I might say that that seems to me a name that is likely to stick to a dog, and as it is the name under which I have known him, I am reluctant to have it changed) and like to think of him gradually becoming more and more attached to you, each day. I only warn you against letting him run on the roads for a long time to come, because you know that English dogs naturally expect traffic to take the left side. And I like to think of him keeping watch over you at night, and on your walks.

I have read your letter: I shall write quite separately in reply to it. All I want to say at the moment is that I was very much touched by it, and that I want to assure you that I realise that it cost you more to write, than it will cost me to answer. I am ever so glad that you wrote it, because of what the writing meant, and because it indicates a further stage of frankness between us, and opens the way to clearing up certain difficulties. It is a letter that I shall always treasure. Later in the week, I shall write about it, and about other things in general: at the moment I want to express nothing but my love and the vacancy that you leave, and my wonder over all that we mean to each other.

Your ever more
closely devoted
Tom.

By French Packet NORMANDIE

Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9543
TELEGRAMS: FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

18 September 1938.

My Dearest,

I have jotted down on separate sheets a few remarks provoked by your last letter - separately, because it emphasises the impersonality of such a discussion - and remarks only, because I have found it impossible to treat what you said as a continuous piece of argument. But I would like to say emphatically that such a discussion does not cause me any difficulty or distress of mind, and that for you to fear to hurt my feelings would be to approach the matter altogether wrong. And for my part I do not want to be embarrassed by the feeling that anything I said might hurt your feelings - even if I should say that you strike me as just a little bigoted! This should be as impersonal a search for truth as if we were discussing a problem in astronomy - even though some of the subject matter may be our own prejudices and emotions.

I have been working this week on the end of the play, and tomorrow I have a new typewriter coming to take the place of this, which has served me for about ten years, I think, of hard work.

Of course the political situation has been oppressive to everyone this last week. I think that we shall probably succeed in postponing any crisis for some time, by the means of some territorial sacrifice of Czechoslovakia: it is a situation in which I like none of the alternatives. But I am very dissatisfied with Britain. One can only pray for peace, and meanwhile get on with one's work.

I am happy to have all the evidences of your passage here - in the bathroom fittings, on my mantelpiece; and the diary has come, but I shall not unwrap it till Christmas. The time in London was as much pain as happiness, but in retrospect the element of happiness, as with the whole summer, becomes the stronger, since it is the promise of still closer understanding in the future. I wait impatiently for your first letter.

Ever your lover and bondsman

Tom

I hope and pray indeed that I may receive gradually "an education in lines of new breadth, new vision, new understanding"; though I cannot conceive of such new education as disturbing the fundamental dogmas of the Catholic Church, but rather as helping me to understand them better. It may be that you consider me to be narrow and intolerant. I would wish to distinguish between Charity and Tolerance. One must aim at Charity in spirit, and at Tolerance in action: charity belongs to the world of spirit, and tolerance to the world of practical affairs. If I am intolerant, merely to hold that certain vews are right and others wrong or imperfect, then that is an intolerance without which it is impossible to believe anything.

Second, let us admit not merely that I may be wrong, but what is quite another matter, that the Catholic Church may be wrong. The whole tradition of the Church, that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that he founded the Church through his Apostles, and that the identity and continuity of the Church as a divine institution has been maintained through the Apostolic Succession of the Consacration of Bishops (as maintained by the Roman, the English, the Greek Orthodox and Swedish Churches) may be wrong, but it is definite. It is not denied that there are Christians outside of the Church, or that such Christians may not be saved by individual merit and God's Grace. But there is a point of inclusiveness beyond which the term "Christian" simply ceases to have any meaning. I hope that it is no defect of charity or tolerance on our part to decline to recognise many excellent people as "Christians": I think it is rather a recognition of the fact that words must have meanings.

I would like you to keep separate in your mind such ideas and opinions as you believe to be mine individually, and the dogmas of the Church, which are no invention of mine.

It is held by Catholics, and by many who would not call themselves that, that the divisions of Christianity constitute a grievous scandal, even as the living wounds of Christ. We are called upon to pray and work for re-union, as we can. But that cannot mean a re-union which would stretch the term "Christian" to cover all who have sentimental associations with it, but by common acceptance of dogma which cannot be surrendered.

I do not wish Unitarians to give up the term "Christian", because it represents for them a traditional connexion and a descent, however tenuous, from Christianity. I believe that many people receive from Unitarian worship all the Grace of God that their environment and background allows the possibility of; and I hope that they will retain all the forms and words of Christian devotion that they use, because in this way some of them may be brought back to realise the need for true Christianity. Notwithstanding that there are very few contexts in which I should have occasion to use the term Christian so broadly as you do. You would be bound to assert that Unitarians possess all the essentials of Christian belief, and that Trinitarians retain many beliefs which seem to you merely superstitions.

You interpret the passage from Corinthians in a way which I do not think any scholar would accept as what Paul meant; but perhaps you only claim that this is what the words should mean, whatever Paul meant. As for "diversities of forms of worship" there is already considerable latitude. Whether one makes the sign of the Cross first from top to bottom, as in Western Europe, or first from left to right, as in the Russian Church, is obviously a form that does not matter; and it is not a matter of doctrine that one should make the sign at all, but only of decorum. But there are other forms which exist because of representing or symbolising particular belief, and some forms are of the utmost importance. There is a point beyond which difference of form means difference of belief.

I would like you to read such books as D'Arcy's (for theological doctrine) and Chapman's, which I will send you later (for devotional method) not in the attitude of asking yourself "how much of this can I believe", but primarily as a means of getting inside the minds of people very different from yourself. Read them as you would read texts of some quite alien religion, or as you would books about foreign peoples, merely to inform yourself as to what other people do believe. And remember that these people are not trying to express their own originality, but first of all to maintain the faith which has been handed down by the Saints.

What the Communion means for you is a very good thing indeed, so far as it goes, and is a part, though not the central part, of what the Christian communicant should be aware of. But there are obvious reasons why I do not wish to enter upon the signification of the Eucharist at the present time.

That you should hold different beliefs from mine is a matter of trifling importance: it does matter that you hold beliefs denying those of the greatest Christians of all time. It is intelligible that you should think that they have been wrong, and that the progress of enlightenment has shown this: what I cannot understand is that you should think these differences to be indifferent, or anything but of the most vital importance.

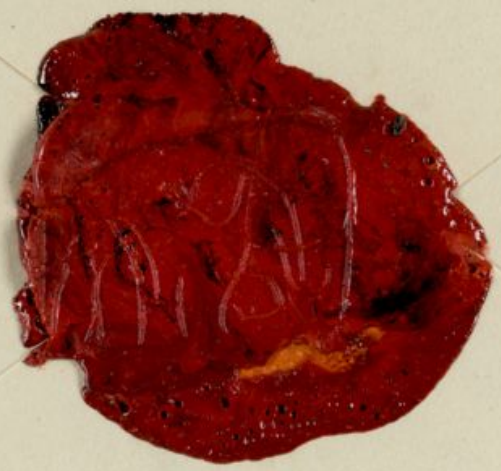
Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Bull Gores Man Who Tended It Nine Months

A THREE-YEAR-OLD bull on a farm at West Bilney, Norfolk, to-day attacked a man who had tended it for the past nine months.

The man, 48-year-old Charles Gilding, ran away, but the bull caught him as he was climbing the gate to the pen and gored him badly.

Gilding was taken to King's Lynn Hospital with serious injuries.

Mrs. Gilding stated later that the bull had attacked her husband before, but previously he had managed to hold it off with a pitchfork.

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TELEGRAMS: FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

REMEM
ABYSS
The renewed pressu
British and French Go
applying to induce Prag
Sudetenland to Germany
able effect.

22 September 1938.

My Dearest,

I am writing this on Thursday morning, although there does not appear to be any good packet in prospect, because I do not seem likely to have any better time until Monday night. On Friday evening I have to go to Westfield College to stay until Monday (that is only in Hampstead - it is a girls's college which is available until the term begins) for the meeting of the religious group of which you have seen some of the agenda. I have been having a quiet time, with my evenings at home; but yesterday old Jan Culpin turned up on a visit from Paris to see about some private affairs, and of course I had to say I would take her out this evening to supper and the pictures. Another of my old ladies.

I shall not see the papers until noon, but to judge from las t night's news we are to be kept out of war for some time to come, by the dismemberment of Czechoslovakia. My own feelings, and those I should think of most people who can feel at all, were very well represented by M.Leon Blum writing in his Paris paper, and spoke of feeling a mixture of "cowardly relief and shame". I fear that this kind of concession to force can only lead to greater trouble later; and this "principle of self-determination" is going to be exploited to the full in the interests of an artificial nationalism. Meanwhile the Sudetens, with the exception of those with axes to grind, will no doubt be worse off under Germany than they were with the Czechs. I h ave felt almost physically nauseated over the whole business. So far as the outsider can judge, it would have been a better policy in the long run, as well as a more self-respecting and more decent one, to hav e taken a firm line against Germany from the beginning of this affair. Whether the Britis h and French people would regain their morale if they were actually cornered and forced to fight I do not know: but at present there is a terrible blight of intellectual mediocrity, political timidity, laziness and social disintegration over both countries: a decay which I see nothing to arrest.

Forgive me for writing a sort of informal newspaper instead of a letter; but I have seldom been so depressed by politics for

a very long time. This is a new typewriter which the shop has lent me while they are preparing one with French accents, and the ribbon is rather dry. My old Corona had done ten years hard work, had composed all my American lectures and all that I have written since; and it was high time that I turned it in for a new model: I am not yet quite used to the action of this. I thank you for your cable from Northampton, and I hope that you found mine waiting for you; and I am anxious to hear that Boerre arrived in good health without biting anybody or doing any harm, and that he is happily installed with you. I know that you will be over ears in the most trying work during the first weeks, and do not expect to hear from you at any length: I only hope that you will be able to take plenty of rest, some exercise, and eat and sleep well. I have not told you how invaluable has been, not only your criticisms and suggestions, but your encouragement over the play at the stage at which its satisfactory improvement seemed almost beyond my powers; and now I am particularly anxious to make a success of it (in the best sense) because if it is a success, we can say that you have had far more to do with it than with anything I have written before.

Yours very loving

Tom

COLNE VALLEY

PARCHMENT

MADE AT CROXLEY

By C.W.S. QUEEN MARY

SOUTH KENSINGTON
1 5 PM
27 SEP
1938
S.W.7.

Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE
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TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9543
TELEGRAMS: FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

27 September 1938.

My Dearest,

First of all, my dear, I must thank you for your dear cable. That proved also a reassurance, as I have this morning a note from Mrs. Perkins expressing anxiety about you on account of the New England hurricane. I have followed the account of this in The Times, but it had not occurred to me that it had struck your part of Massachusetts, nor did I suppose that Smith College might ever be in danger from river flood. I read that the New York Boston line had been damaged and traffic interfered with. It will reassure Mrs.P. to learn that I have had a cable from you.

I received the large parcel several days ago, and the little one arrived on my birthday. I am delighted with both the charming cows and the lovely rosary., The first I am inclined also to bring back to Emperor's Gate, as there is no place on my scanty walls at Russell Square where I can well display it, unless I remove Whibley; and I would rather keep him in my office because of his association with the Criterion, and because there he is seen by more people and that in a way keeps his memory greener. On the other hand, I think that this piece of colour will help further to brighten up my room. As for the rosary, it is not only very beautiful in itself, (it looks very costly) and very original (the knots of silver wire are very good) but I was particularly touched by your choosing this kind of gift; and I shall think of it as a symbol of spiritual union between us in spite of doctrinal differences.

I had a cable from Henry, and one from Leon Little; and at the Faber committee meeting in the afternoon there was a large birthday cake with 50 candles.

I think this letter ought to be a practical one. It still seems to me possible that war will be averted. But even so, you will like to know what I should have done. And as it concerns the future of the firm and the Criterion as well, I must ask you to regard it as strictly private and confidential!

In the

In the first place, the outbreak of war would mean that the publishing business would have to be severely restricted, and an attempt made to carry on with a skeleton staff and skeleton board of directors. I should begin by winding up the Criterion (I should announce it only as a suspension during the war). Then I should consider finding some government work to do which might be of national use and which would bring me in a salary; and should withdraw temporarily from the board, or at least from the payroll, of Faber & Faber. I think the likeliest place for me to be of use would be under the Foreign Office: I dare say that Gaselee and Vansittart would help me to get in, and also the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, R.A.B.Butler, is a cousin of Enid Faber's. It is quite possible, and I want you to keep it in mind, that such a post might take me out of England - to Portugal again perhaps, or even to America. It is likely also that the Government Offices would be removed from Whitehall to somewhere, perhaps an unknown place, in the country; so that I might not be in London at all.

I say this because I know that it would be very hard for you to carry on your job at Smith with a war going on. But it is positively the thing for you to do; and the reasons are both personal and general. As for the latter, you would be doing no good by coming here. If this sounds at first unkind, please reflect that another war is just as likely to be a long war as the last. Air raids will settle nothing: Spain has proved that. They will probably be used at first with a view to frightening the civilian population; later, both sides will probably find it necessary to conserve their resources for more practical purposes. The chief use of aeroplanes will be against merchant shipping. This war, like the last, would be a war of attrition: and chiefly attrition by starvation. We might need every morsel of food that we have. There is already too large a proportion of women in England; there are more than enough for everything that women can do: and we shall need food far more than volunteers. If you were in England, you would have to eat, and the fewer people there were to share the crusts the better. So to come here would be a disservice to England; and you would never get a war work job so long as there was a single eligible Englishwoman. As for the personal reasons, it is obvious that although we might be in the same country, we might see very little of each other, and there is no reason to suppose that we should happen to be together at any particular moment of danger. It would be an incessant strain upon me, and a hampering one, worrying about you. And if, as is quite possible, I was sent somewhere abroad - and being sent abroad would probably mean being sent somewhere safer than England, & Indeed, if I found that there was nothing useful that I could do here, I should probably leave London anyway, and perhaps leave England. I am certainly not going to run any sentimental risk, and I am quite useless for active warfare; and I want to write plays, and poems. And a man who was rejected for defective physique in 1917 is no more capable in 1938.

& then it wd be still harder for me than with you in America and me here.

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24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

There is much to say that has been in my mind about the spiritual and moral aspects of war in general, and about this possible war in particular: but I do not want to treat any further subject in this one letter. I shall write again in a few days: this is only to tell you what I am convinced - so far as it goes - You and I should do. Of course, if America came in to a war there would be a new situation to consider.

And meanwhile, my dear, I only send you my perpetual love and gratitude and admiration, which nothing will ever change; and my dependence upon you as much at a distance and in absence as when we are together.

Your Tom

By French Packet NORMANDIE

Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

4 October 1938.

Dearest Fine.

I am writing briefly this morning to catch the Normandie, the first boat for several days and perhaps the only swift one in the immediate future; as the services had been disorganised by the prospect of war. (Frank Morley is taking the same boat in order to visit his mother, who is dying slowly). Tonight I have to dine with Faber to discuss some business matters of which I will tell you more when I next write. I am anxious that the firm should be put permanently on something more like a war footing: we should have been caught out rather badly if war had come just now; and as you know, I do not regard this settlement as more than a postponement. I was very much interested in Duff Cooper's resignation, and he has risen in my opinion: he is indeed ending his career unless there comes a revolution inside the Conservative Party. I enclose the report of his speech and also a summary of what appears to have been a very frank speech by Harold Nicholson. There are also rumours that the B.B.C. have terminated his engagement with them.

I was relieved to hear that you did not suffer any direct hardships from the hurricane; but am distressed to think that the beautiful elms of Northampton, and perhaps Williamsburgh and other lovely New England towns, have been laid low. I hope that Boerre has proved himself fairly well-behaved, that he does not want too much to eat, and that he does not pull you off your legs when you have him on a lead: also that he is coming to understand the right-hand traffic.

I have not yet seen the Perkins's. I called at their Aban Court, the morning after they arrived, and they were out. I ordered some flowers, and called again at the end of the afternoon, to be told that they had left suddenly for the country, with no address. Two days later I had letters from the Cotswold House. Evidently they thought it best to be out of London at that moment, and quite rightly. The place was somewhat disorganised, with some of the tube stations closed for work converting them into bomb shelters, and men working day and night digging up trenches in the parks and public squares; and I don't know whether any provision had been made for issuing gas masks to non-residents: all the citizens of Kensington had

them served out, and I do not know whether we shall be required to return them now or preserve them for the next emergency. Better that they should all be collected, because by the time they are wanted again many people will have mislaid or damaged theirs.

The two towel rails are now up on the wall, and look very handsome: you will have received a letter from the Vicar to thank you for your ~~munifence~~ munificence to the household.

I have not yet got the Bulls up, but I am enjoying them, and also the beauty of the rosary which I keep on the table beside my bed. I almost wish that you were not so generous, however.

One piece of news is that I am going to see Gielgud with Martin, tomorrow night after the theatre. He has read the first version (being made to understand that it was being drastically altered) and Martin says that he is very keenly interested indeed, and would like to put it on first for a series of charity matinées, with a run directly afterwards. If I do agree to let him do it, the production may be delayed until spring, so that with any luck it might still be running in June. I have not made any contract yet, and do not mean to until the last moment, and wish to keep American control in my own hands. I would consult you before agreeing to anything for New York.

Well, my dear, I have missed you very much these last days. The autumn is now here, the the clocks back, and two days of most violent rain and wind raging; and when Christmas is over and the year turned I shall begin to be able to look forward to another summer. You have not told me how you have felt in physical strength in beginning your term: I feared that the summer, for several reasons, had not restored you as it should, though you actually <u>looked</u> better at the end than you did a year ago.

With all my love & devotion

Tom

By C.W.S. QUEEN MARY.

SOUTH KENSINGTON
1.15PM
12 OCT
1938
S.W.7.

Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

5/10/38.

LESSONS OF THE CRISIS

WESTERN CIVILIZATION AT STAKE

THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

In view of the exceptionally heavy volume of correspondence that has reached "The Times" on various aspects of the recent crisis the Editor regrets that it is impossible to send an acknowledgment in every case. He begs also that correspondents will be as concise as they can.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The lessons which are being drawn from the unforgettable experiences through which we have lived during the past few days do not for the most part go deep enough. The removal of an immediate danger does not mean that effective steps have yet been taken to stem forces that threaten the disintegration of modern society. The respite that has been given us may be no more than a postponement of the day of reckoning unless we are determined to root out the cancerous growths which have brought Western civilization to the verge of complete collapse. Whether truth and justice or caprice and violence are to prevail in human affairs is a question on which the fate of mankind depends. But to equate the conflict between these opposing forces with the contrast between democracies and dictatorships, real and profound as is this difference, is a dangerous simplification of the problem. To focus on evil in others is a way of escape from the painful struggle of eradicating it from our own hearts and lives and an evasion of our real responsibilities.

The basal truth is that the spiritual foundations of Western civilization have been undermined. The systems which are in the ascendant on the Continent may be regarded from one point of view as convulsive attempts to arrest the process of disintegration. What clear alternative have we in this country? The mind of England is confused and uncertain. Is it possible that in these circumstances a simple question, which some would answer in the affirmative as a matter of course, and many more regard as wholly beside the mark, might unexpectedly become a serious and live issue? May our salvation lie in an attempt to recover out Christian heritage, not in the sense of going back to the past but of discovering in the central affirmations and insights of the Christian faith new spiritual energies to regenerate and vitalize our sick society? Does not the public repudiation of the whole Christian scheme of life in a large part of what was once known as Christendom force to the front the question whether the path of wisdom is not rather to attempt to work out a Christian doctrine of modern society and to order our national life in accordance with it?

Those who would give a quick, easy, or confident answer to this question have failed to understand it. It cannot even be seriously considered without a profound awareness of the extent to which Christian ideas have lost their hold over, or faded from the consciousness of, large sections of the population; of the far-reaching changes that would be called for in the structure, institutions, and activities of existing society, which is in many of its features a complete denial of the Christian understanding of the meaning and end of man's existence; and of the stupendous and costly spiritual, moral, and intellectual effort that any genuine attempt to order the national life in accordance with the Christian understanding of life would demand. Realistically viewed the task is so far beyond the present capacity of our British Christianity that I write as a fool. But if the will were there, I believe that the first steps to be taken are fairly clear. The presupposition of all else, however, is the recognition that nothing short of a really heroic effort will avail to save mankind from its present evils and the destruction which must follow in their train.

Yours, &c.,
J. H. OLDHAM.

SHOOTING IN PALESTINE

MANY AFFRAYS

VISH CLAIM FOR MORE ARMS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4

ring the 10 shooting affairs reported y two Jews were killed and two were ded and there were nine Arab casual- Of these last three were inflicted Royal Air Force patrol near Hattin, Tiberias, two by the military near t Tabor, and two more in Galilee, ed by police in defending the Ain ettlement.

order to avoid exposing Judges to anger of holding Courts in places security is poor, an Order is gazetted ling that the District Court at Haifa have jurisdiction throughout the sub- ts of Haifa, Acre, Nablus, Jenin, rm, Beisan, Nazareth, Tiberias, and The Chief Justice has also directed he Magistrate's Courts at Nablus, Tulkarm, Nazareth, and Beisan are at Haifa; that cases triable in the trate's Courts at Hebron and Beer- may be taken in Jerusalem; and from Acre at Haifa, and those from h and Gaza at Mejdal. This con- tion marks another recession of the ervices.

E TIBERIAS MASSACRE

Jews had two hours of mourning day for those massacred at Tiberias nday night, and closed their shops the funerals in the afternoon.

Shertok, head of the Political Depart- of the Jewish Agency, in commenting massacre at Tiberias, said that three s ago he made proposals for arming nal Jews which had then been rejected gerated, but later partly admitted. He ed that they wanted additional mobile such as that which successfully en- one party of the Arabs at Tiberias on night, and counter-ambush parties. might have frustrated the attack on s. The murders were a terrible price for arousing the authorities to take measures, and if this lesson were to heeded the perils would only increase.

MAGE AT TELL DUWEIR

ording to news received in London uildings usually occupied by the ers of the Wellcome-Marston eological Expedition at Tell Duweir, e of the Biblical Lachish, have been sly damaged by armed Arabs since olice were withdrawn from Beit in order to concentrate them else- as a precautionary measure. It will membered that the director of this ition, Mr. J. L. Starkey, was mur- by Arabs near Beit Jibrin on ry 10 of this year.

uter reports that Private Bartle Hare, attalion, The Worcestershire Regi- who was wounded on September 28 Bethlehem, died on Monday.

GREAT WHEAT CROP

ORD FIGURES FOR 1938

ROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

ROME, Oct. 4

crop estimates received by the ational Institute of Agriculture g September indicate that the 1938 production of the Northern sphere amounts to 105,600,000 tons, compared with 91,700,000 n 1937. Europe, excluding the Soviet

AN END LA

MR. ROO

FROM OU

In a messa of the Ameri the occasion convention r Mr. Roosev an end to t and the Co ization. M that the con possible doo gress in the in the Unite

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Mr. Roose of recent rep Great Britai says, show t cooperation, peace seem t exception.

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"SURRENDER" AT MUNICH

MR. HAROLD NICOLSON'S CRITICISM

Mr. Harold Nicolson, M.P., speaking at a luncheon at Manchester on Saturday, criticized Mr. Chamberlain's "surrender" at Munich, and said we had not achieved peace for a generation; we had achieved it only for six months.

"He was offered one of the greatest opportunities that ever fell to the lot of any British statesman," said Mr. NICOLSON. "He missed that opportunity. Had he taken a firm line at Munich he would have established perhaps for ever the superiority of democratic faith over Fascist conceptions."

He did not question Mr. Chamberlain's sincerity and courage. Mr. Chamberlain had, however, been "ill-advised" by the Inner Cabinet. He had also been constantly advised in the negotiations by Sir Horace Wilson, who was the industrial adviser to the Government, instead of by Sir Robert Vansittart, the diplomatic adviser, who had been "consistently right in all that he has said."

"It was only that Sir Robert's advice was inconvenient. Sir Horace Wilson's advice has never been inconvenient," Mr. Nicolson said.

"I recognize," he continued, "that the danger of war was such that we were all filled with justified emotions. When these anxieties were removed the whole country felt an immediate emotion of relief; and I regret to state that this emotion manifested itself in the House on Wednesday in one of the most lamentable exhibitions of mass hysteria that that great institution has ever witnessed."

Mr. Nicolson said that it was the mobilization of the British Fleet which at the eleventh hour threatened to break the Berlin-Rome axis. It was at that moment, had the Prime Minister realized it, that we held all the cards in our hands. Had the Prime Minister exploited his advantage he would have obtained peace with honour. He did not, however, understand the psychology of Germany and Italy, and surrendered to them at the very moment when surrender was least necessary.

He managed to short-circuit the House of Commons on an emotional appeal, and he (Mr. Nicolson) was still unaware that Mr. Chamberlain's final surrender had the approval of his own Cabinet. It was too late now to repair the damage that had been done. We had betrayed a valiant little country and a great democratic idea. There were many people who felt that in so doing we had achieved peace for a generation. They were wholly mistaken.

tween those intended for tests whose scores are based on market value and those where numerical scores prevail. The birds selected for tests where scoring is on monetary value are more forward, and in many cases have been laying for some weeks, so that they are now producing first or special grade eggs that will score highly at the current seasonal value. On the other hand, many of the pullets intended for tests where the monetary value system is not in force are more backward and may be expected to begin laying during the first month. In this case breeders rely on staying power to put up a good egg score, in contrast to the good yield during the autumn and winter which is so essential where scores are based on monetary value.

Before the 1937-38 laying test season is forgotten it should be recorded that the Millers' Mutual Association's gold cup, awarded to the county trial with the lowest death rate, has been won by the Holland (Lincs) C.C. trial, where the death rate was 10.6 per cent. The trophy has been held by the Cornwall C.C. trial. There is little difference in the general death rate compared with last year, though in the majority of cases average egg production has been higher, and both pen and individual scores have reached higher levels.

LIVESTOCK SALES

DAIRY SHORTHORN CATTLE

At the collective sale of Dairy Shorthorn cattle held at Banbury on Wednesday by John Thornton, Hobson and Co. 64 guineas was paid by Mr. E. Jackson, of Penrith, for the white four-year-old cow Thornby Foggathorpe 54th, entered by Captain A. S. Wills. A number of purchases by Mr. F. G. Partridge included Mr. John Charnley's Clarksons Barrington 16th at 50 guineas. Mr. A. H. Stock bought for 43 guineas Mr. P. R. L. Savill's Kirklington Wild Eyes 35th and Mr. Joseph Charnley's Thurnham Barrington 29th for 44 guineas. On three occasions 40 guineas was received for bulls. The average for the sale of 77 head was £30 7s. 7d.

THE ELMSCOTT HERD

The entire Elmscott herd of British Friesian cattle belonging to Mr. J. Gillard Stapleton was sold by John Thornton, Hobson and Co. at Cattlegate, near Enfield, on Thursday and an average price of £27 15s. 1d. was obtained for the 130 head. Bidding for cows in full milk or due to calve was keen, and 64 guineas was paid by Mr. O. Burgess for Elmscott Pearly 2nd. Mr. J. W. Price, of Monmouth, bought several lots at prices to 62 guineas and Mr. G. Cooper, of Derbyshire, paid 60 guineas for each of two cows. A number of other cows changed hands at prices between 50 and 60 guineas. The batch of in-

Mr. Duff Cooper: "Perhaps I Have Ruined My Career, But My Head Is Erect"

MR. DUFF COOPER told the House of Commons this evening why he resigned the office of First Lord of the Admiralty.

Mr. Duff Cooper began by saying that his difficulties were increased by the fact that he was aware that the majority of the House were most anxious to hear the Prime Minister and he was standing between them and him.

"I shall have to ask the patience of the House for the statement which is important to me to make," he said.

"At the last Cabinet meeting I attended, on Friday last week, before I succeeded in finding my way to 10, Downing-street I had to pass through a large crowd who were demonstrating their enthusiasm They were shouting, laughing and singing

"There is no greater feeling of loneliness than to be in a crowd happy and cheerful and feel that in oneself there is no reason for cheering."

"Felt Lonely"

That there was a cause for relief he was fully aware, but whether it was a cause for satisfaction he was uncertain.

Later, when he was in the hall at Downing-street, he was among enthusiastic colleagues who were all cheerful and happy and glad, and he heard the Prime Minister from the window say that he had returned, like Lord Beaconsfield, with peace with honour. The Prime Minister added that it was peace in our time.

"When I heard that I felt lonely," said Mr. Duff Cooper. "The whole Cabinet were presenting him with bouquets. It was a very painful and bitter moment for me."

Mr. Duff Cooper continued: "Before taking such a step as I have taken on a question of international policy, a Minister must ask himself many questions. Not the least important is this: could my resignation at the present time do any material harm to H.M. Government? Could it weaken our position? Could it suggest to our critics that there is not a united front in Great Britain?

"I could not flatter myself that my resignation was of great importance, and I did feel confident that so small a blow could easily be borne at the present time when I think, the Prime Minister is more popular than he has ever been at any period in the history of his career. But had I had any doubts with regard to that facet of the problem, they would have been set at rest by the way in which my resignation was accepted, not with reluctance but really with relief.

Foreign Policy

"I have always been a student of foreign policy. I served ten years in the Foreign Office and I have studied the history of this and other countries, and I have always believed that one of the most important principles in foreign policy and the conduct of foreign policy should be to make your policy plain to other countries and let them know where you stand and what in certain circumstances you are prepared to do."

Mr. Duff Cooper recalled that immediately after the declaration of war in 1914 he saw a friend who had come back from the British Embassy in Berlin and asked him with regard to the statements that the Berlin population had behaved badly and smashed all the windows in the Embassy. His friend told him that in his opinion and that of the majority of the staff the Berlin crowd were not to blame and they had great sympathy with the members of the Embassy staff.

He believed that in any international crisis our duty was to make it plain exactly where we stood and what we would do.

"I believe," he said, "that the great defect in our foreign policy in recent months and recent weeks is that we have failed to do so.

"During the last four weeks we have been drifting day by day nearer to war with Germany and never said until the last moment, and then in most uncertain tones, that we were prepared to fight.

"Brutal Force"

"We knew that information to the opposite effect was being poured into the ears of the head of the German Government, who had been assured and fortified in the opinion that in no case would Britain fight."

Mr. Duff Cooper said that on the return from the holidays, when Ministers met, there was an enormous accumulation of information from various sources pointing to the fact that Germany was preparing for war at the end of September.

Mr. Duff Cooper at the Admiralty

Mr. A. Duff Cooper, with Lady Diana Cooper, at the Admiralty to-day before going to the House of Commons to explain the reasons for his resignation.

All recommendations agreed that there was only one way in which to prevent it, and that was for Britain to make a firm stand by stating that she would be in that war, and would be on the other side.

Mr. Duff Cooper said it was true that the people of this country were not prepared to fight for Czechoslovakia. But it would not have been for Czechoslovakia that we should have fought. We should have fought in order that one great Power should not be allowed, in disregard of treaty obligations and the laws of nations, to dominate by brutal force the Continent of Europe (Cheers.)

For that principle we must ever be prepared to fight, for on the day we were not we should forfeit our Empire, our liberty, and our independence.

After the assault on Austria the Prime Minister made a guarded statement that it would be unwise for anyone to count our keeping out of a war. That was not the language dictators understood. They talked in a new language, and such guarded utterances as were made by the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer meant nothing to the mentality of Herr Hitler and Signor Mussolini.

He had hoped it might be possible to make a statement to Herr Hitler before his Nuremberg speech, "but we were always told that we must not on any account irritate him."

Fleet Mobilisation

Referring to the last appeal of the Prime Minister on Wednesday morning, Mr. Duff Cooper said that it was now, for the first time in the four weeks of negotiations, that Hitler was prepared to yield in some measure to the representations of Great Britain.

"But I must remind the House," he said, "that the message from the Prime Minister was not the first news which he had received that morning. At dawn he had learned of the mobilisation of the British Fleet."

They would probably never be satisfied as to which of these two experiences moved Hitler the most.

"I have been urging the mobilisation of the Fleet for many days," he added. "I thought it was the kind of language which it would be easier for Herr Hitler to understand.

"I urged that something might be done at the end of August. I urged it before the Prime Minister went to Germany. I suggested it should accompany the mission of Sir Horace Wilson, and I remember that the Prime Minister thought it would be the one thing that would ruin that mission.

"I said I thought it was the one thing that would lead it to success.

"These are the differences between the Prime Minister and myself. He has believed in approaching Herr Hitler with the language of sweet reasonableness I have believed he was more open to the language of the mailed fist.

An Ultimatum

"I am glad so many people think that sweet reasonableness has prevailed, but what actually has it accomplished? (Socialist cheers.)

"The Prime Minister went to Berchtesgaden with an excellent and reasonable proposal, and was prepared to argue and negotiate as anyone would at such a meeting. But he was met with an ultimatum, and, so far as I am aware, no suggestion of an alternative was ever put forward.

"Once the Prime Minister found himself in the atmosphere of Berchtesgaden and face to face with the personality of Hitler he knew perfectly well, being a good judge of men, that it would be a waste of time to put forward any alternative suggestion. Therefore, he returned to us with these proposals wrapped up in a cloak called self-determination, and laid them before the Cabinet.

"They meant the partition of a country, the cession of territory, and they meant what, when it was suggested by a newspaper, was indignantly repudiated throughout the country.

"After a long deliberation, the Cabinet decided to accept that ultimatum.

"I was one of those who agreed in that view, but I felt all the difficulty of it and I foresaw also the danger of refusal. I saw that if we were obliged to go to war, it would be hard if it was said against us that we were fighting against the principle of self-determination, and I hoped that if a postponement could be reached by this compromise, there was a possibility that the final disaster might be averted.

"It was not a pleasant task to impose upon the government of Czechoslovakia, so grievous a hurt to their country. It was no easy or pleasant task for those upon whose support the government of Czechoslovakia had relied to have to go to them and say: 'You have to give up all for which you were prepared to fight.' But still the government of Czechoslovakia, with deep misgiving and great regret, accepted the harsh terms that were proposed. That was all that we had got by sweet reasonableness at Berchtesgaden."

Long Discussion

Mr. Duff Cooper spoke of German terms which he compared with those which a cruel and revengeful enemy would have dictated to a beaten foe after a long war. Crueller terms could hardly have been devised than the Godesberg ultimatum, he said.

"From the moment I saw them I said to myself, 'If these are accepted it will be the end of decency in the conduct of public affairs in the world.'

"We had a long and anxious discussion in the Cabinet with regard to the acceptance or rejection of those terms, and it was decided to reject them, and that information also was conveyed to the German Government.

"Then we were face to face with an impossible position. At the last moment—not, in fact, the last moment but what seemed the last moment—another effort was made by the despatch of an emissary to Herr Hitler with a suggestion, with a last appeal. That emissary's effort was in vain. It was only on that fateful Wednesday morning that the final change of policy was adopted.

Prepared to Fight

"I believe that that change of policy was due not to any argument that had been addressed to Herr Hitler—it had never been suggested that it was—but that it was due to the fact that for the first moment Herr Hitler realised that the British Fleet was mobilised and that what his advisers had been saying to him for weeks and months was untrue and that the British people were prepared to fight in a great cause."

Referring to great and important differences between the terms finally secured by the Prime Minister and those of the Godesberg ultimatum, Mr. Duff Cooper said:

"I spent the greater part of Friday trying to persuade myself that those terms were good enough for me. I tried to swallow them, but they stuck in my throat (Opposition cheers). It seemed to me that, although the modifications were of great value, there still remained the fact that Czechoslovakia was to be invaded.

"After all, when Naboth has agreed to give up his vineyard, he should be allowed to pack up his goods. The German Government, having got their man down, were not to be deprived of the pleasure of kicking him."

Turning to the joint declaration signed by Mr. Chamberlain and the Fuehrer, Mr. Duff Cooper said: "I see no obvious harm in its terms, but I would suggest that for the Prime Minister of England to sign it, without consultation with his colleagues, with, so far as I am aware, no reference to his allies, obviously without communication with the Dominions, and without any assistance from expert diplomatic advisers, is not the way in which the foreign affairs of the British Empire should be conducted."

Loss of Prestige

Mr. Duff Cooper said another aspect of the joint declaration was that Great Britain and Germany would in future settle matters by negotiations. Was it ever our intention not to settle matters by joint communication and council?

"We have been left with the loss of prestige," he said (Socialist cheers). "We are left also with a tremendous commitment. For the first time in our history we have put ourselves in the position of having to defend a frontier in Central Europe.

"We have taken away the defences of Czechoslovakia in the same breath as we have guaranteed them. It is like giving a man a mortal blow at the same time as you insure his life."

Mr. Duff Cooper said he had had a difference of opinion before with Mr. Chamberlain.

"When I was at the War Office and the Treasury," he said, "I was always in favour of an army that could take its part in a Continental war. It was my opinion that we should maintain an army on something like a Continental basis."

He said that the pace of our rearmaments would have to be accelerated now, but why should it be if the Prime Minister was telling the people of Britain that there is no fear of war and that we should have peace in our time?

Bluff, Bluster

"The Prime Minister believed he could rely upon the good faith of Hitler. He believed that Hitler was only interested in Germans, and so he was assured. But there are Germans in other countries—in Switzerland, Denmark, Alsace (Socialist cries of "Spain")—well, the only country in Europe in which there are no Germans is Spain (Opposition laughter and cheers).

"The Prime Minister believed—and he has the advantage over us that he has met the man—that he could come to a reasonable settlement on all outstanding questions between us.

"Herr Hitler says that he has got to have some settlement about Colonies, and this would never be a question of war. The Prime Minister attaches considerable importance to that declaration of no war.

"What does it mean? Does it mean that Hitler will take No for an answer—he has never taken it yet—or does he believe that he will get away with this as he has got away with everything else without fighting by well-timed bluff, bluster and blackmail? (Opposition cheers.)

"Otherwise it means very little. The Prime Minister may be right—(Ministerial cheers)—but I assure you that with the deepest sincerity, I hope and pray that he is right. But I cannot believe what he believes—I wish I could—and, therefore, I can be of no assistance to him in his Government. I should only be a hindrance It is much better, therefore, that I should go

"I remember once when we were discussing the Godesberg ultimatum, I said that if I were a party to persuading or even suggesting to the Czechoslovak Government that they should accept that ultimatum I should never be able to hold up my head again.

Deep Admiration

"I have given up an office I greatly love, and work in which I was deeply interested, aided by a staff of which any man might be proud. I have given up associations and work with my colleagues with whom I have maintained for many years the most harmonious relations, not only as colleagues but as friends. I have given up the privilege of serving as lieutenant to a leader whom I still regard with the deepest admiration and affection. I have ruined perhaps a political career. But I have retained something which is to me of great value, and I can still walk about the world with my head erect."

With these words Mr. Duff Cooper sat down amid loud cheers from many sections of the Opposition.

Army 'Crisis Recruits' Given Chance to Quit

THE War Office have decided that men who enlisted in the Regular Army in view of the international situation on September 26, 27, 28, and 29 will be given an opportunity of completing their engagement or resigning.

Men who have joined Regular Forces on these dates and who do not wish to take up their engagement are being given until October 15 to decide.

No decision has yet been made about men joining the Territorial Army during the crisis.

The majority of men in anti-aircraft and coast defence units have been given leave and will not return.

Men who joined these units on Friday were instructed that they would be called up only in event of emergency.

* * * *

THE task of bringing back to London the 4500 children from the L.C.C.'s special schools who were sent into the country as a precaution last week, will begin to-morrow.

"There is, of course, not the same urgency in bringing them back as there was in getting them away, and they will consequently return in smaller units," said an L.C.C. official.

"As a precaution, we are advising all the parents to make sure that they are ready to receive them, because in some cases the grown-ups went away temporarily, too. We hope to get all the children back by Thursday or Friday."

* * * *

FOOD hoarders, after buying large stocks last week, are asking their grocers to take them back.

Some retailers have done so; others have refused.

Mr. Herman Kent, of the National Federation of Grocers and Provision Dealers' Associations, stated to-day that people in the London suburbs and in towns near the Metropolis bought many times their usual amounts.

"The majority of people behaved very well," he said, "but there were others who, instead of a few pounds of sugar, laid in 20lb., 30lb. or 56lb. or a hundredweight.

"There were people who usually gave orders for a few tins of canned goods and now laid in a case."

The National Federation of Grocers have proposed to the Government that food hoarding should be made a punishable offence.

"We feel," Mr. Kent said, "that this should be done in the interests of the poorer classes, who, if richer people went in for hoarding on a large scale, might find it difficult to buy enough."

* * * *

MR. HERBERT MORRISON, chairman of the L.C.C. Air Raid Precautions Sub-Committee, which is responsible for the London Auxiliary Fire Service and the Volunteer Ambulance Service, has appealed for 35,000 more volunteers.

The Auxiliary Fire Service, which would supplement the London Fire Brigade in time of war, needs 30,000. Men are wanted as fire-fighters, youths from 14 to 18 as motor-bicycle and bicycle despatch riders, and women to help at telephone switchboards and to drive motorcars and light vans.

ITALY CALLED UP 800,000

ROME, Monday.

DURING the crisis period Italy called up an additional 800,000 men.

This was revealed by the Italian newspapers to-day.

At the time there was much comment on the fact that Mussolini alone had not taken any steps towards mobilisation.

The men called up were the 1910, 1911 and 1912 classes and divisions of Alpine troops. They will be sent home beginning on October 10 "in view of the fact that there is no more danger of war."

The newspapers emphasise the smooth working of the Italian mobilisation system, which enabled the Government secretly to call up an additional 800,000 men without alarming the civilian population.

1,400,000 READY

This meant that during the crisis Italy had under arms 1,400,000 men, including 80,000 belonging to the air services and 110,000 to the navy services, exclusive of the Fascist Militia.

When the demobilisation of the classes called up is completed Italy will have a standing army of about 450,000, exclusive of Fascist Militia, whose fighting strength is set at about 350,000.—Exchange.

Essex Education Chief Going to India

Mr. John Sargent, Director of Essex Education, is to retire on October 16. He has accepted an appointment as Commissioner of Education for India. A set of travelling cases and a cheque were presented to him by his colleagues during the week-end.

Mr. B. E. Lawrence, of the Essex Education Committee, has been appointed Acting Chief Education Adviser to the County until the vacancy caused by Mr. Sargent's resignation is filled.

BRIDGE TO BE WIDENED

Bedford town bridge is to be widened at a cost of nearly £33,000.

Cabinet Minister's Daughter to Wed

Miss Diana Burgin, second daughter of Mr. Leslie Burgin, Minister of Transport, photographed with her pet chow, Chinks, at her Harpenden, Herts, home to-day. Her engagement is announced to Mr. John Alderson. Miss Burgin, who is 21, is at Bedford College. Her fiancé is a year older and is with a firm of Lloyd's underwriters.

GIRLS WALK OUT FROM FIRE

A number of men and girls working in a three-storey building in Banner-street, E.C., left the premises to-day when fire broke out in the basement of the building occupied by a firm of printers. The fire was put out in half an hour.

Medical Students Took Car, Fined

Two members of the Cambridge University team which visited Ipswich Swimming Club's festival, were fined at Ipswich Police Court to-day for taking a motorcar without lawful consent and for using it while uninsured against third party risks.

Edward Holden and A. W. O. Young, both medical students at St. Thomas's Hospital, were fined £5 each on the first charge and £1 on the second. Holden, the driver of the car, was suspended from driving for one year.

Mr. H. Gotelee, defending, said that Holden and Young had been working hard at the hospital during the crisis. They were at an hotel when news of the Munich agreement was received. They assisted to push a car from the hotel yard. Young started the car and Holden drove it away.

Various things had combined to send them "on the spree," but they had no intention of breaking the law.

Holden said that when he was stopped by a police constable he was returning to the hotel.

GANGER KILLED ON LINE

Samuel Turner, aged 60, married, of Widford-road, Chelmsford, a ganger employed by the L.N.E.R., at Chelmsford, was knocked down and killed on the main line near Chelmsford while going to work to-day.

THE
CRITERION
A QUARTERLY REVIEW
EDITED BY T. S. ELIOT

TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9543
TELEGRAMS: FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

12 October 1938.

Dearest,

Your very satisfying letter of the 5th arrived last night by the Queen Mary, and you shall have a reply by the same ship. I am glad incidentally to have news of Boerre, and further details about the great hurricane. I had a good deal of information from Henry about the damage on the South Shore. We have many relatives with summer places down that way, chiefly at Nonquit - Edith Rotch's house was moved some yards etc. and the whole contour of the shore seems to have been altered. I hope you are now feeling better again: you know this is the first time you have given me any news of your own health.

One is still in a state of upheaval over the government and its critics. Most of the people I know seem to sympathise strongly with the latter. For the first time in my life I wrote to a public man to congratulate him on his speech: Duff Cooper, whom I know only slightly, but whom I felt I had always underrated. I am sorry his speech did not make such a favourable impression on you; to me it seemed dignified and restrained. He chose the right moment at which to resign, and by so doing he has dished his political future - unless there is a violent upheaval in the Conservative Party, which I think is unlikely. At least, the rank and file of the Commons are well-disciplined "yes-men"; and the "cave", though able (such men as Lord Lloyd and Harold Macmillan are very able) is small. I also wrote to Robert Vansittart to express sympathy, in delicate terms, over the way he had been ignored when his official position entitled him to have been taken to Germany instead of Horace Wilson (whom nobody had heard of before). But Vansittart is not acceptable to Hitler. Our All Souls' Club dinner, last night - I was the host this time - got off its agenda (I had elected to start a discussion on the lines of Joe Oldham's excellent letter to The Times, which I enclose) and resolved itself into a discussion on public policy. Duncan Jones was one of the most animated in attack on the government (his history of the last 5 years' of religious persecution, which was published recently, is a useful book, and he knows Germany well); and the presence of Lord Wolmer, who was one of the Conservatives who abstained from voting in the division, helped to direct the discussion in this way.

I won't go into details of my weekend visit to Mirfield - a sim-

ilar institution to Kelham, of which I have often spoken. I had never been to Mirfield before - it is a long journey, being up on the moors not far from Huddersfield - and had promised my younger friend there, Geoffrey Curtis, a visit. I think it gave pleasure, but was also fatiguing, because of the students, who, as at Kelham, fasten like famished wolves on any visitor like myself.

I had an interview with Gielgud last week; meeting Martin Browne at Gielgud's dressing romm after his play, and going on with them to a restaurant, where Gielgud refreshed himself with a kippered herring. There was also present a sharp looking youth (of the type that might be called "Baby Face") named Binkie Beaumont, who turned out to be Gielgud's business manager. I am very much inclined to accept their proposal, provided the terms of the contract can be satisfactory. (1) It would mean definitely a very conspicuous production in February, and I am anxious to get the play well produced before the next international crisis (2) produced in this way, as a charity matinée for a month, or if successful two or three months, it would attract the right audiences and probably be more tolerantly handled by the critics than if it were a commercial competitor with the ordinary drama of doodle plays etc. (3) such a production would be taken much note of in New York and would prepare the ground for Gielgud to take it over there in repertoire in the autumn. On this last point particularly I want your opinion. Also, I feel that it is important for the future, not only of my own work but of verse drama in general, that this should not be a flop. A briefer triumph now would I think pay better in the long run than a quiet longer run with a company of unknown people at the Mercury. The advantage of Gielgud is that he could - at least more likely than anyone else - get anybody he wanted to act with him. Possibly May Whitty, or else Edith Evans, for Amy; possibly Sibyl Thorndike for Agatha (I am going with Martin tonight to see her in her present play, in order to judge), Emlyn Williams for Downing etc.

This is a part of his scheme.

I have been through this last revision of the play with Martin. He has made a number of points which I accept: but they are all small ones; and I think I can get the text into final shape within the next few days.

This has had to be a long letter of information, and not a very personal one! But I wanted you to know about the play at once, and there have been so few good boats lately. I shall write again later in the week.

Your loving

Tom

By German packet BREMEN.

SOUTH KENSINGTON
1 15PM
21 OCT
1938
S.W.7.

Miss Emily Hale,

22, Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE
CRITERION
A QUARTERLY REVIEW
EDITED BY T. S. ELIOT

TELEPHONE: MUSEUM 9543
TELEGRAMS: FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

Secret.

21 October 1938.

I must write a rather brief letter, I fear, to thank you for yours of the 4th and catch the Bremen on the way back. This is the first good boat this week. The business over the play - to me the tedious side, but necessary - takes toll of evenings now: I had to see Gielgud and Browne again on Wednesday, have to see Browne and Dukes this evening for a preliminary discussion about terms of possible contract; and having been to see Sibyl Thorndike last week, Martin wants me to come on Tuesday night to see Gielgud himself and a young woman in the play who might do for Mary. Martin and I both formed the opinion that Gielgud might want to get too many stars; andfor a play of this sort you do not get, I am sure, a perfect company simply by adding stars together. I rather DONT wants stars for the choral aunts and uncles. I dont think people like Gielgud have much understanding of choral work.

Anyway, the text has now gone to the printers, so that is one stage. I have the first draft for you! but I dont mean to let you have it until I can send you a proof of the final version, so that you can observe all the changes. I think that I will give my brother the text in which you made your comments - the most interesting stage: as he is already clamouring for a manuscript for Eliot House!

Your account of Boerre is extremely amusing, and I shall read that bit of the letter to the Perkins's when I dine with them on Monday. I wish I could agree with Dr. Perkins in his optimistic view of the international situation, but I can't. The exhumation of the state of British defences which is now going on (and I should trust Liddell Hart on that) seems to show that the real reason for yielding to Germany was our weakness. If that is true, Chamberlain deserves credit for having made the best of a bad job, but he cannot at the same time deserve the credit for magnanimous peace-making. If our military preparation was wholly inadequate, you may be sure the Germans knew all about that, and have taken the measure of the Government's reasons for mildness.

Other distractions of the moment: Janes in hospital in Fulham,

I suspect very grave stomach trouble. I dashed down to see him yesterday afternoon, having secured a special permission from the hospital; but found him sound asleep, so came away again. Ezra Pound is here for the next three weeks, as Dorothy was ill in Rapallo and somebody had to come over to clear up the effects of her mother, Mrs.Shakespear. I did not hear of her death till Sunday when I met Daphne Johnson, and on Tuesday Ez arrived. So he will have to be seen as often as possible . And one of my responsibilities is to take Christina Morley to the theatre once or twice while Frank is in America: the "White Guard" is said to be beautifully produced by Michel St.Denis.

It was nice to hear of your new relations with Mrs.Nelson. I am sure that you will be of help to Margaret!

Did I never refer to your steamer letters? It may have been that they arrived simultaneously, or only just before, your first letter on arrival - but I am sorry (they are locked up in my box at Russell Square) because they were very good letters. Somehow, last summer was so especially good, and seemed to mark such an advance, that letter writing has been a less satisfactory form of expression ever since: it is hard to remember that I shall not see you for some months - even if I come over in the spring - because it still seems that you have just left, and consequently that I shall be seeing you again in a few weeks.

Lovingly
Your Tom

By C.W.S. QUEEN MARY.

SOUTH KENSINGTON
1 45 PM
28 OCT
1938
S.W.7.

Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE
CRITERION
A QUARTERLY REVIEW
EDITED BY T. S. ELIOT

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24 RUSSELL SQUARE,
LONDON, W.C.1

Dearest Love,

28 October 1938.

I have had a very busy week. I dined with the Perkins's on Monday, read them your very amusing account of the Education of Boerre and Gregory, which they very much enjoyed, and looked at a good many lantern slides. I hope that the lecture at Rochester will be very successful. I had a letter this morning from "Cousin Mary Day" (sic) asking me down for lunch on Sunday. I was able to say that I had another engagement (with the Vicar, to meet the Rural Dean). It struck me as odd (not owning a car) to be asked to Rochester just for lunch! I am to dine with Mrs. Seaverns and the Perkins's on the 9th.

I hope you received my cable and also some flowers, at the right time. Your birthday has been very much in my thoughts.

News: the Gielgud business is off, as he wanted to produce it himself, and I didn't feel that I wanted him as producer, though I would have put up with him as Harry. We are now negotiating, apparently, with Robert Donat; and I lunched today with Michel St. Denis, who is interested. Also, I have received from Martin an outline of the projected Tewkesbury pageant: I have kept it in front of me for two or three days, but I mean to answer it as you advised. I don't know whether it is that you foresaw how I should feel when the time came to decide, or whether it is simply that I have been directed by your advice - perhaps it is both! - but it doesn't matter, I am going to decline, as you advised.

I should like to comment at length on "Troilus and Cressida" in modern dress, and on "Hamlet" in modern dress (a very ugly young man named Alec Guinness, who acted the part brilliantly) but I can only say that to judge from these two productions I prefer Shakespeare in modern dress: I enjoyed them both immensely.

I shall have a busy weekend, with the Criterion: after this week I expect to have a little more leisure.

Your devoted

Tom