Letters from T.S. Eliot to Emily Hale

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Letters from T.S. Eliot to Emily Hale

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FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

My Becover. 5 cotober 1946. advoiting

I returned from Oxford yesterday, and found your welcome letter of the 29th awaiting me. First I must say that I have written twice every week, though not always on the same days; so that if there has been a gap some letter must have been delayed. But I have always written by airmail. enjoyed my visit to Oxford, staying at Christ Church, with a group of theologians who impressed me very much: of the whole group engaged on this report, only Demant, who is in America, and Smyth, who is engaged in moving house on just necoming a Canon of Westminster, were absent, and a third man whom I do not know. It was profitable, both in that considerable progress was made with the report, and in that I gained some ideas for my own book. And some of my suggestions will be elaborated in the report. I shall see my doctor again on Tuesday, after a month's absence, and shall probably make an appointment with him soon to see a hernia specialist. I have a number of questions to ask about the details of convalescence. Of course it is just possible that the specialist will not want to operate at all, as the hernia is slight. I shall let you know everything as it is arranged. There is no danger in the operation, which is regarded as a minor one; only the convalescence, with remedial exercises for the muscles etc. may be tedious. But I should not think it would be more than three weeks during which I should be unable to write - I have just typed three, but I mean two weeks.

As for confiding in friends, I explained the essential fact to Cheetham long ago. As for John, there is no reason why I should not tell him, when a suitable occasion arises: I have noticed that confidences forced upon people a propos of nothing are apt to cause embarrassment - the embarrassment simply of thinking of just the right thing to say; whereas, if they are called forth by the occasion, the propoer response comes naturally. But I do not think I know anyone else: with the Brownes, again, it would not be that I wished to share anything with them, but rather, that if a situation made it natural to speak, I should not avoid it. I have rather as-

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I starmed from exterd yesters, and found your welcome Latter of the 29th awaiting me. First I must say that I have written swice every week, though not always on the same .framile vd nooting always stud T Jus S.bevsieb meed enjoyed my visit to exform, staying at Christ Council, with ens to though you em tosseroms only ansimploses to quota a whole strough engaged on all a condit, only comment, who is in America, and Caron of Westminster, were absent, an attant nam whom I do not know. It was profitable, both in beat constderect of the Joven and fifty orbur and approved closus stand some ideas for my over some of mo some of my some boats -ook ym ees Tiena I . fromer eds it bassrodsle se litw snois tor again on Tuesday, after a contile absence, and shall pro--egs singer a sea of noos at with trenth ages as estancy tose cialist. I have a number of questions to ask about the datalls of convalencence. Of course it is justificating the the termination will not want to oberate at all, as the nerots da slight. I shall het you know everything as it la ar-Interest hity , some sections only time tempo tonts a sa botasa exercises for the questies etc. by be redicue. Campet I should not think it would be more than times weeks during which i thould be used to still a still and the transfer out I . elecw out naun

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sumed that they saw for themselves how things were. I have very few intimate friends, and with most of them there are indefinite limits to the intimacy: I have an immense and miscellaneous collection of acquaintances. -There would be the Roberts's, again, if the occasion brought it forth naturally.

I am delighted to have your letter to your aunt and uncle, of June 9, 1905. I am impressed by the exact details given (your fair was extraordinarily successful!) and most of all, of course, by the ruling passion, the vocation for the theatre showing itself so fully at the age of thirteen. At that moment, I was being graduated from Smith Academy, St.Louis, and preparing for my Harvard examinations and for Milton. I often wonder what your life would have been, had you had the physique for a theatrical life. I am sure you would have made a success of it, but what would your private life have been, and what you would be like now? And what would I be like, if I had stuck to trying to become a profess sor of philosophy? These thoughts are too poignant to dwell upon for long.

I am glad of every morsel of account of your new establishment, and description of the way your abode is furnished. Would you like any Faber cookery books? I hope you will be able to give me a dinner at Hubbard Street next year. I am interested to know that your blood pressure, like mine, is always low: at least, it is less dangerous than a high blood pressure. You seem to have a very large number of pupils at Gibbs': what are they going to be? how young are they? No reply yet from Kinchin Smith. I dont understand about my Hat: at least, by the time I came to Dorset, I was wearing a new felt that I had bought in New York. I shall take my town hats to be cleaned.

My favorite bed-room picture of you is really an enlargement I had made of a snapshot I took at Campden: in the garden, kneeling (after breakfast) over a can of flowers you had been

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sumed that they new for themselves now things were. It have very few intimate friends, and with most of them there are indefinite limits to the intimacy: I have en incense and miscellameous collection of sequaintances. - There would be the Roberts's, arain, if the operator brought is forth naturally.

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ricking, and with an expression on your face that I like to see. Besides, it has the special interest for me that you were looking at the photographer, myself, at the moment.

you must know that my need to write to you, is as great as your need to hear from me. But it is such a delight to me to know that you wish to get a letter from me twice a week.

your own

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G.C. Faber, Charman C.W. Stewart R. H.L. de le Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerley (11.5.1) T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley

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FABER AND FABER LTD PUBLISHERS

MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1 12 October 1946.00

Belovea,

Your letter of the 6th came in very good time. It is very pleasant to think that you cam now have a friend to stay with you: to have a spare room for this purpose makes the house much more like a home. Here also the weather has be been mild, with the same moon that you have observed - only to-day has been overcast and more chilly, and more typically of London October. I have just been listening to a broadcast and explanation of "Gerontion", quite well done - the commentator's reading of the verse more to my liking than the full reading by Cecil Trouncer at the end. Trouncer, like most actors, over-dramatised. I have beenworking on my essay - a nap and a walk between lunch and tea, and no one to have to talk to; tomorrow will be the same, acept for church inthe morning, and I shall have to go round to see Miss Dakin after tea to try to get from her Mrs. Webster's certificate of burial plot and insurance book, which she left behind in the excitement of going off to the institution for old people in Wandsworth (I visited her there last Sunday: a pathetic sight, all the old women sitting about in dresses of the same pattern). I have very little news to tell you: I have heard from Willard Thorp and President Havens, and must answer them tomorrow. I have also an enquiry from Miss Manwaring! I ought not to have too much difficulty in assuring about a thousand dollars: I gather that one can make more money by talking to women's clubs; and certainly the universities and colleges have not increased their fees in relation to the increased cost of living - they seem to pay the same that they did fifteen years ago - but I prefer talking to colleges to talking to women's clubs. But remember that I want to concentrate my talking into the month of May (but it must run into the beginning of June) and have a clear month after the work, for personal affairs. I miss you very much, and have particularly wanted you with me this week.

Your our

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Dearst Emily.

16 October 1946.

Your letter of the 11th arrived very promptly last night. Although the tone of your previous letters had prepared me for it, the letter gave me a shock. Forgive me if I seemed peremptory: it was because I was deeply distressed and hurt, and now of course I am more so.

I had tried very carefully to avoid making any appeal on personal grounds, or on any grounds which would be a priori unacceptable to you. I took my main stand on what I thought would appeal to you: the question of good taste. I also asked the minimum possible: simply that you should assure yourself, on each occasion, that the vicar or celebrant has full knowledge of your beliefs and associations, and that he is willing to give you communion. Naturally, you would not have to consult the same man twice: all that is involved is that you should do'so on any occasion where you have not previously made yourself known to the clergyman. This you decline, on what I must suppose to be religious principle. But I ought to point out, that this principle also asserts that your beliefs and religious affiliations are no business of the clergyman, and that you have the right to communicate wherever you choose, whether the clergyman in charge likes it or not. And this I cannot accept.

We both, I must now say, have much to be tolerant of. In you, my dear, I have long thought I noticed an inflexible determination of will, a certain self-righteousness also, which can lead to your riding rough-shod over other people's convictions and sensibilities. My own faults may be much more serious, but the question of how much greater a sinner I may be is not one which admits of any exact estimate, and is not immediately relevant. I only think that there is some call for tolerance on your part also.

I am still wholly unable to see your point of view. I was myself brought up as a Unitarian, as you know. I amsure

that/my mother and father, would have regarded the suggestion of their attending an Episcopalian place of worship for the purpose of making their communion there, would have been astonishing and abhorrent: I cannot believe that it would appeal to my sister Marion, who is the most, indeed the only devout Unitarian in my generation. It is difficult for me to believe that you were brought up otherwise; I must assume that you have come to your present position under different influences. I have never tried to influence you towards a change of faith: I believe, after Von Huegel, that people should first be encouraged to practise with all their heart and soul the religion in which they have been brought up. Shus, I cannot understand you from the Unitarian point of view any better than from the Episcopalian point of view: and if you are a Socinian, be a Socinian with all your might and main.

Now, my very dear, it is no use avoiding the fact that this refusal is going to make a serious difference to our relations. I shall no longer be able to feel the same confidence and trustfulness, the same ease, the same readiness to expand in your presence and in correspondence. Only a few weeks ago, I was happier than I have ever been: the new situation seems grotesque. I am not defying you: I am simply telling you something which I cannot help. I shall always love you - that is something which I cannot help either. On everything which was solely a personal difference, I think I should be prepared to give way to you. But here we are up against something which is much bigger than I, and much more important.

Perhaps I had better say no more now.

How Form

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Beloves

19 October 1946.

I have received your letter of October 13, which I appreciate: I have kept a copy of my last letter to you - the first time that I have ever done this - and I notice one phras in it which is not happily put. The phrase "can lead to your riding rough-shod over other people's convictions and sensibilities" might give the impression that thought I had previous ground for complaint. I do not want to suggest that there has been any occasion in the past on which I could have made this complaint: I do not want at all to suggest, my dear, that I have had (real or imaginary) grievances which I have stored up, and which have come to a head now! Not at all. I might better have written: "can lead to a kind of contumaciousness"!

Mindful of your comments on my shabbiness, I have been making efforts to get a Hat and some shirts. I have found a shirt-maker who will make me three shirts (not more): they ought to be ready in two or three months, certainly well before next summer. As for a hat, that is more difficult. My hatshop tells me that the only thing is for me to ring up every Monday morning, and sooner or latter they will be able to tell me that they have got in some black hombourg hats, and I had better come round at once. I am intending also to get a new suit; and as that will probably take several months also, it will have to be a new suit. I don't think I can venture on a new overcoat as well, the only trouble with my old ones is that the buttonholes are so worn that they don't always keep buttoned. You will see that there are difficulties in the way of beingreally smartly dressed. I do not like the cut of American shirts, either, though Henry is going to send me a few when he can get them.

You will also be pleased to hear that "Books Across the Sea" have at last agreed to look for a new President, and I hope that one will be inducted at a meeting in November. I was so pleased by this that I agreed to judge a competition of "scrap-books" from American schools, and spent a couple

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of hours with a strangely assorted jury, including a young lady from the British Council and the President of the National Union of Teachers, a burly man from the North, and we did a thorough job. We managed to distribute the three prizes as widely as Connecticut, New Jersey and Seattle; I was only sorry not to give a prize (but only honourable mention) to a little mountain school in Kentucky, in which the pupils ranged from 9 to 19.

It is true that I have had to become a vice-president of the Friends of Little Gidding - a society formed to see that the chapel there is kept up properly: but that does not involve doing any work, and the meetings are always in Cambridge, apparently. I have also become a member of the British League for European Freedom - that's a result of Poland: but there again, it merely involves receipt of still more circular literature. And meanwhile I am now onthe last chapter of my book, and hope soon to get on to the Johnson book - and go back to literary criticism for a few months. I have written to Willard to ask whether two lectures on Johnson (extracted from the book) would be acceptable to Princeton. The question is, how many lectures altogether: I don't want to do any more than are necessary, but I want to be able to leave some more money behind with Henry. T want to keep June clear.

The difficulty about Kinchin Smith and his Trojan Women is that he is now offered it for publication, and my board don't want it - we have too many books as it is. So how he will receive a polite refusal, combined with a repeated request to send a copy to you for consideration for production, remains to be discovered. I ought to know within a week or so, however.

I await your next letter with the greatest curiosity.

pour own Tone.

G.C. Faber Chairman C.W. Stewart R. H.L. de la Marie & Morley Konnerle vtu xxx T. S. Eliot W. J. Crawley

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Beloves,

24 October 1946.

I have just receivedyour letter of the 20th, and yesterday a cable - upon which I shall not comment until I get the letter which you say follows, as I am far from sure that I understand what you mean. I was particularly pleased that you should have had the conversation with Theresa, since I was so struck, on this last visit, by her isolation and the extent to which she has been shut up within herself. She is of a much more nervous and diffident temperament than her placid and affable social manner indicates, but I think you may find, if you can see her from time to time, that she will expand a little, and I am sure she needs someone to talk over her troubles with. It is trying that my communication with her has to be rather clandestine: for in the present circumstances, the things one has to say are not what one wants Henry to read. I am indeed very worried about him; and all the more because I know that he worries over Theresa's financial position in the event of his death. How seriously he regards his own state of health I cannot tell. And with the exchange restrictions - and there is no reason for hoping that they will ever be much relaxed -I am prevented from being of any financial use to anybody outside of this island. I can only make some provision for her (or them) in the event of my death; but as I am sound and tough, and several years younger than Theresa, that, barring accidents, is unlikely to behefit her.

It seems, however, that I ought to try to advance my visit as much as possible, and come in April instead of May. I should prefer the later time, so as to have some time in the country: much the most satisfactory of seeing them and of seeing you. And one never can tell what will be the best time; it might be, after I had come and gone, that I should regret not having made my visit a little later. However, I shall now try for some time in April.

I amrather tired this week. On Tuesday I made my first recording of "Four Quartets" for the Gramophone Company. Re-

No over ui cost ದು ವ coupon Will that many shirts: great n 8 five pounds and have enough ordered I have of fifteen hope to

cording is much more of a strain than broadcasting: for, being permanent, it needs to satisfy such a high standard of execution. I have done "Burnt Norton", but I must hear it played back before I know whether it is satisfac-"Burnt Norton" is the most difficult to do, as you may imagine (and for technical reasons also); and I am to do one quartet each week for four weeks. Then I rushed back to see an American publisher who didn't turn up, because he had suddently returned to New York; and in the evening I had to entertain two French Protestant pastors (one of them, Pasteur Maury, is very distinguished): I found them charming and intelligent and educated men - it came rather expensive, with sherry, claret and brandy, which I imagine they had had little of at home. And when I end this letter I shall have to jot down a few notes for this evening, when I take the chair at a lecture by a sorbonne professor on "l'influence anglo-saxonne sur la littérature française contemporaine". Then I must try to attend one or two rehearsals of "The Family Reunion", which Martin is mounting at the Mercury - the first night is the 31st. And I have to go to Shamley over Sunday, as the old lady has been clamouring for me to come. Now that I am settled in London I find weekends merely a rather vexatious interruption. (I have nearly finished the "Notes towards the definition of Culture", and am about to start reading for the revision of my Johnson: I should like to clear that off, as well as the British Academy lecture, before my visit to New England; and then be free for beginning a play on my return).

You seem, my dear, to be in a state of acute agitation: it still seems to me that the remedy is entirely in your own hands. But till I know just what part of my letter you take serious exception to, I am in the dark. Meanwhile I shall pray for you and especially on your birthday, which falls on Sunday, and on the Feast of Christ the King (a Papist festival, not ours, though celebrated in some churches). You surely cannot doubt my fidelity, or presume any defection of my love for you.

Hwarero-

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My Domest.

29 October 1946.

The weather has changed to winter in the last few days, and I returned from Shamley yesterday morning with a fine bunch of celery, which proves that there has been a frost, and a cold in the head, which suggests that too much must not be expected of inoculations. I shall mention this to my doctor at half past twelve, after which he is to take me in to the abdominal specialist for an examination of my hernia. I went to the Mercury yesterday morning on my return, expecting to see Martin rehearse his performers, but found that they had been at it all day Sunday, and were taking most of Monday off. However, I saw the decor, which looks quite good, and should look better under electric light: a gloomy Palladian window embrasure, with a lustre chandelier and a marble bust on a pedestal. I am wondering whether I shall be fit to do a good recording of "East Coker" this afternoon: I doubt it. I hope I shall not have to take to bed, as it would disappoint Martin. If I feel up to it, I shall go round to the Mercury after dinner for the rest of the rehearsal. Catherine Lacey is again Agatha; an elderly Miss Henrietta Watson is Amy; and the Harry is a certain Wheatfield, about whom I know nothing. And I believe that Murder is to be added to the programme of the Theatro Nacional in Madrid this winter. But I do not think I should have time to go to see it: I shall have my hands full preparing the Milton lecture, which I hope to use at Harvard, and the Johnson, which I hope to use at Princeton. I have just had a reassuring letter from President Havens: but that means preparing a talk of forty minutes which I can only use that dnce.

I am afraid I cannot interest myself very much in either revivals of Family Reunion or foreign productions or films of Murder; any more than I do in this recording of Four Quartets. I want to get on to new work: even for these prose essays and lectures I have to fight for time - the dentist, now, I ought to go to see my dentist again soon, and my afternoons are so busy that that appointment will probably mean a morning lost: and I only think of these pieces of work as things to be got

Lisber Charleson C.W. Stewart R. H.F. de la Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerleven S. C. T. Kot W. J. Crawley

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G.C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart R. H.I. de la Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerley (u.s.a.) T.S. Eliot W.J. Crawley

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MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1 out of the way. So it is unlikely that by the time I

come over again I shall even be able to talk about my play: I can't talk to you, or to anybody, about what I am trying to do in that way, until I have something to show, which can be discussed: for until I am quite sure what it is that I am trying to do, suggestions from other people are merely confusing, and explanations from myself only confuse me more.

I should like another letter with details of your daily life; the lodger, and the dog (whom you have never mentioned) and the cooking; as well as the pupils in Boston - what sort of girls they are (or grown women) and how they respond. And whether it is time to get out your fur coat. I am sorry to hear that the most congenial people you have found in concord are on the point of leaving: I suppose that most of the people there are just well-to-do Boston suburban. It seems to me a great disadvantage for you of a school like this, against a college, that in the latter there is at least a local college society, which usually includes a few interesting people. -You were happier at claremont than anywhere, in that way. I do look forward to the spring, and think of it more and more as Christmas approaches, and last summer recedes. I wish it was not clauded by anxiety about Henry.

Very lovingly Tou

Faber Charman C.W. Stewart R. H.L. de la Mare E.V. Modev & Morley Kennedley tu s. A.L. T. S. Eliot W.L. Crawley

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My Jear, exasperating fine, November 2, 1946.

Your letter of the 27th arrived yesterday: I should not wish to answer such a letter immediately on receipt, and I had to be out in the evening. So I am answering it to-day. truly sorry that my birthday telegram seemed inadequate, that it arrived too soon, and most of all that I should have forgotten when sending it that you were to be at Fetersham. Flease forgive me for these lapses. But I trust that you would not have been able to write quite as you did, had you received my letter of the 25th. I hope at least that that will make some difference. I was very distressed by your letter: but at the same time I still feel that you are looking at the matter in a much more dramatic light than there is any need for, an interpretation to which your use of the third person singular bears further evidence. Anyone would think, my dear, from your letter, that I was being quite faithfess to my past words, that I was perjured, and that I was merely seeking a pretext for breaking with you completely. I am still astonished by your treatment of the situation. I am as devoted to you as ever I was, and I feel as inseparable as ever. But do try to remember the original cause of this disagreement. I made a perfectly reasonable request of you. After I had received what seemed to me an unsatisfactory answer, I wrote rather brusquely to ask for an answer. Had you said, in reply to my first or second time of raising the issue, that you were taking time to think about it, I should have shown patience. Your answer, when it did come, was simply to tick me off for venturing to cross you. I then attempted to put it stronglyto you, that you would have to accede to my very temperate request unless our relations were to be impaired, and that brought thisstorm upon me. By implication, you treat my attitude about the Blessed Sacrament as unreasonable, and dismiss it as unworthy of argument even. But I am afraid, mydear, that the request I made is one which I must go on making, and that relations between us cannot be perfe ct until you comply with it. Do you think I like this

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A dear exception find find hovember 2, 1946.

Your leater of the fith errived yesterday: I should not wish to answer such a letter immediately on receipt, end I her to be out in the evening. So I em answering it to-dry. I em truly sorry that my birthday telegram seemed inadequate, that it strived too soon, and most of all that I should have forgotten when sending it that you were to be at letersham. Ilesse for bluow not fail tout I trust that seemel each for em evigret heye been able to write quiteras you did, had you received my letter of the 25th. I hope at least that that will make some efference. I was very distressed by your letter: but at the state time i still feel that you are looking et the matter in a much more dramatic light than there is any need for, an interpretestion to which your use of the thire person singular bears further evidence. Anyone rould think, my ceer, from your letter, that I was being quite faithless to my past words, that I was parjured, and that I wis merely seeking a pretext for breaking with you com letely. I am still estemished by your treatment of the situation. I am as devoted to you as ever I was, and I feel as inseparable as ever. But do try to remember the original cause of this disagreement. I made a perfectly reasomeble request of you. After I het received what seemed to me an questistictoury ensure, I wrote inther brusquely to esk for am grawer. Hed you said, in reply to my first or second time of reising the issue, that you were textre time to think shout it, I should have shown patience. Your saswer, when it aid come, was simply to tie me off for venturing to cross you. I then attempted to put it stronglyto you, that you would have to scools to my very tomistate request unless our relations were to be in the that prought this storm upon me. By implication, you treat my attitude about the Elessed Sacrement as wheelsoneble, and dismiss it as unworthy of argument even. But I am afreid, mydeer, that the request I ande is one which I must go on alling, and thethrelstions between us cannot be porfe et motil you comply with it. Do you think I like this

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situation? Do you not see that there is a flaw in xxxx our relationship, so long as I have to reflect, that if I were ever freed, by a death, and able to marry, I should have to come to you with this same request again, because I should not feel that I would wish to marry anyone who could not agree to it?

There was no need for you to express regret for losing your temper, mydear: I don't min d your losing your temper in the least. Ferhaps I shall lose my own temper, and then we shall know more about each other than we did before. I said your letter distressed me; and much else in the latter would move me very much too, if your assurances of love did not come with an implication of reproach which I do not think that I deserve.

Please go back to the beginning of this correspondence, and see whether you still think my simple request so unreasonable that it could only be dismissed as you dismissed it.

I am rather tired, this weekend, as I had to fight a cold all the week (in spite of a 11 my inoculations!) in order not to disappoint Martin and the players by being absent from the first night of the Family Reunion. (It was a brilliant production: the three leads, Alan Wheatley, menrietta Watson (who is 73) and Catharine Lacey (who was Agatha in the original production also) were as good as could be asked; and the only weaknesses in the play are those only too obvious ones which are due to the lack of skill of the playwright). And then I had to go out last night too, to a small dinner in honour of Edmund Blunden's 50th birthday: one must show particular courtesy to minor poets. And tomorrow I must take myself out to Wandsworth to see Tereshchenko. And I am very worried over Henry, who has pneumonia.

your over loving Form.

MUSeam 954314/mest 24 Russell Square London WC I situetions Do you not see that there is a flee in yams our relationship, so long as I have to reflect, that if I were ever freed, by a derth, and able to marry, I should have to come to you with this are request again, because I should not feel that I would wish to marry anyone who could not agree to 1th.

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ES FRIDAY NOVEMBER

MERCURY THEATRE

"THE FAMILY REUNION" BY T. S. ELIOT

It is good to see this play again less for its own sake than for the sake of the verse. No verse written by any other modern poet approaches more nearly to the condition of drama. Its idiom has no archaic inflections; it is consistently precise and lucid; it can carry a joke which Mr. Wodehouse would not disdain and, without breaking its own texture, pass to a delicate transfiguration of religious and poetic experience.

With this dialogue Mr. Eliot might well produce the great poetic play which the modern theatre needs, but The Family Re-union is not that play. For although the author has made a clean break with the Elizabethan poetic tradition, he has returned in his narrative to the ritual of the Greek theatre with the result that he seems to have too little narrative material for his purpose

and to over-describe his crisis.

The revival gains much from the intimacy of the little Mercury Theatre, and it is beautifully acted by Mr. Alan Wheatley, Miss Catherine Lacey, and Miss Henrietta Watson, the principals in the drama of family sin and expiation. It is important that Harry and Agatha should make perfectly plain the universality of the theme, for "the bird sent flying through the purgatorial fire" expiates not only for his own guilty desire but for the guilty desires of many, thus giving the play something of the character of a passion drama.

ES FRIDAY NOVEMBER

was now facing an entirely different threat from that which had ever faced it before. Modern weapons demanded from our defence a higher standard of preparedness and an increased degree of dispersion. The British Empire straddled across the world like a great wheel with this island as the hub. Gradually we should try to get some of the strength of the hub out into the spokes. The White Paper regularizing the organization of defence in the form proposed was excellent, but he was a little worried about one thing. It was perfectly logical that where there was a Minister he should have under him a Ministry. That was a little frightening from what he had learned to understand from that term.

We lived to-day in an age of bureaucratic boom and it would be a tragedy if this organization became what was truly understood as a Ministry. His fears were borne out when yesterday he opened *The Times*, which he must say, in passing, was always excellent on defence, and read, "The new organization is based on a full-blown Ministry of Defence in place of a Minister of Defence assisted only by a secretariat." He sincerely hoped the right hon. gentleman would not become full-blown. (Laughter.) If he did he would be running a very great risk.

It would be fatal if the Minister of Defence had a staff to brief him on the apportionment of resources among the three services; and no doubt he would do it single-handed. He did not fear that the right hon. gentleman's impartial judgment would be corroded by salt water—(laughter)—and, reversing the dictum of Voltaire, it might now and again be necessary to shoot an admiral to discourage the others. (Renewed laughter.)

SINGLE RESPONSIBILITY

We now had one man responsible for the whole of our defences. It would be for him to judge whether the resources of the

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Mr Downor

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Your letter of November 3 arrived this morning, together with one from Sheff and one from Martha. Martha had been in Cambridge and had very thoughtfully rung up Dr. Hoyt. Sheff had also spoken to Dr. Hoyt, and the two reports tallied; but I was particularly glad to have Martha's, as I felt more sure that Hoyt would speak frankly to a fellow doctor and a rather eminent one in her own way. The prognosis is much more unfa vorable than he has yet revealed to Theresa and Marion, so I beg you to keep what I say entirely to yourself. is that while Henry is making a satisfactory recovery from the pneumonia, both the general weaking from this illness, and the fa ct that it has necessitated the suspension of all treatment for the leuchaemia, constitute a very grave handicap, and it is now unlikely that he will be able to reestablish his position sufficiently to give prospect of long survival.

In these circumstances, it is possible that I may have to make an effort to get over in December or January. difficulties may prove insuperable: the first is to get a passage at short notice (preferably of course by air), for a purpose for which Governments recognise no "priority". second is my support while there, with the exiguous £75 of my own money which I shall be allowed to spend. And I shall have to find a place to sleep in and a place to eat: I can't impose myself on Theresa (unless she should wish me tobe there) although Henry will be in a hospital. Some of the tentative engagements already made can, no doubt, be advanced and arranged at short notice. But I shall now have to write to Preseident Havens to say that I find that I may have to visit America much sooner than I expected, on account of my brother's state of health, and that therefore it would not be right for me to accept an engagement for a fixed occasion

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in June, for which the must be werta n of the speaker.

And one of the difficulties is that I shall, in that event, not have had time to prepare any lectures.

I had just arranged to go into University College Hospital, I Gower Street W.1 - in a private room - on January 2nd for the hernia operation. As I have said, this means a fortnight or so in the hospital, but I should not be fully fit, or able to travel (lifting hand luggage etc.) for six weeks. This, of travel (lifting hand luggage etc.) for six weeks. This, of course, can be postponed; and I am wondering whether I should not do so at once: for the summons might come in January, or before I was strong enough to respond to it.

I thought it was as well to try to explain the practical difficulties which will confront me, at once. As to why I feel an obligation to come, if I can, which I did not feel in Ada's an obligation to come, if I can, which I did not feel in Ada's case, (apart from the fact that the latter was in the middle of the war, when I should almost certainly not have got the permission) that involves a whole long history of relationships. But the fact that I had a much closer understanding with Ada, But the fact that I had a much closer understanding with Ada, made it less important to be with her; and though I am less intimate with Henry (to the extent that it is a strain to be with him) he is much more dependent upon me. And there is also the help that it might be to Theresa.

Everything comes at once. This afternoon I expect Geoffrey Curtis (a young monk who has been a friend for some years) to tea, as he says there are things he needs to talk about; to tea, as he says there are things he needs to talk about; and Martin Browne is coming in after dinner to discuss a proand Martin Browne is coming in after dinner to discuss a proand Martin Browne is coming in after dinner to discuss a proand Martin Browne is coming in after dinner to discuss a proand for a revue for the Mercury Theatre, to which apparently he wishes all his poets to contribute. And I am in the midst he wishes all his poets to contribute. And I am in the midst of arranging for Mrs. Webster's Insurance Policy, and making of arranging for Mrs. Webster's Insurance Policy, and making sure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will bury her in the fasure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the London County Council will be a sure that the london County Council will be a sure that the london Co

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likely to live; and seeing whether I can find time to take part in a broadcast in honour of Faul Valery; and wanting to re-write the last chapter of my Notes Towards the Definition of Culture so as to get one real piece of work finished at least, and then reviewing the necessary reading for the lecture on Milton; and the question of how we are to raise £300 to pay for the repair of a house for which St. Stephen's is responsible.

So I cannot expect to reply adequately to your letter of the 3d. I must be content, for the moment, that you agree to my request that you should always consult to rector or vicar, though it seems that you do not accept my arguments - as you do not (once more) refer to them. We must, for the present, just recognise that our religious points of view are opposed: even that some things that seem to you absolute values, seem to me a great menace to civilisation. Remember that the stand that I have taken over this particular matter, is exactly what enyone should expect, who had followed my prose writings at least, for some years past. I can't uncertake now to try to explain why think that "liberalism" in church matters Leads to materialism in philosophy and totalitarianism in government! or that a great danger to freedom comes from such sources as the wellmeaning "liberal" Mr. Henry Wallace! But I wish you had kept copies of your letters, to compare with mine (I have taken no copy of this one, however, only of thepreceding two on this subject) and ask yourself whether your affirmation that "your whole nature cries out against limiting attendance at the communion table" really meets my particular point.

Your Doctor

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likely to live; and secing whether I cem rind time to take ortine a proceduration of including value; and wenting to re-write the lest chapter of my Notes Towards the Destinition of Culture so as to get one rest lied of work flatened at least, and then reviewing the necessary resding for the lecture on allten; and the question of how we are to raise 1300 to pay for the relation of now we are to raise 1300 to pay for the relation of now we are to raise 1300 to pay for the relation.

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G.C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart R. H.I. de la Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerley (u.s.a.) T.S. Eliot W.J. Crawley

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My Becoved.

16 November 1946.

I had hoped to receive a letter from you during the week; but I have had no letter from you or from anyone else. Not unnaturally, after our recent correspondence, I look for a letter mor anxiously than ever, and a week now seems a very long interval. Added to this, the waiting for more positive news about Henry, of the success with which he responds to the leuchaemia treatment when it can be resumed. I had a cable from Sheff yesterday saying that he was better. I also enquired of Pan-American airways, who tell me that from the end of December one should be able to get a plane at a month's notice. I thought in only fair to Mr. havens to write and explain to him, in confidence, why I might have to come to America sooner than I had expected, and that therefore I ought xx not to accept such an invitation as his, for a particular occasion for which they would have to get a substitute. As no other of my engagements was for a particular occasion or a particular date, I need not do anything about them: and I have not thought it necessary to warn Willard Thorp.

I do not find much to write about in these present circumstances; I only want to tell you that I long for a letter from you. How much easier it would be to talk: I should welcome the thought of coming over sooner, were it not that the visit does not offer the prospect of a leisurely quiet period such as I should like with you free from distractions or other worries.

you Ton

G.C. Faber, Chairman, C.W. Stewart, R. H. Lee Latture E.Y. Merley & Mortey Kenney levice, s.K.) H. E. Ellot, W.J. Crauley

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G.C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart R.H.I. de la Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerley (u.s.a.) T.S. Eliot W.J. Crawley

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MUSeum 9543 (4lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

Beloves.

18 November 1946.

Your good letter of the P2th arrived this morning, and I want to enswer it, in part at least, at once. First of all, I am very sorry to hear of your increasing anxieties over your aunt and uncle. One could foresee this, of course; and I have been anxious about it - primarily, I admit, on your own account, as I have feared it might mean an increasing and lingering bondage for you, especially if you are to retire from professional work, which to some extent it a protection. I should expect your uncle to go first. I am am not clear to what extent your aunt is incapacitated for ordinary activities, and whether she has enough resources in the way of interests which she can pursue. Blindness is a great test in this way, especially perhaps when the sufferer is too old to learn braille, and the other adaptations to the situation which make many blind folk appear so marvellous. I do not like to think of your having to spend some years, now, as an attendant upon her. After Dr. Ferkins's death, will she have enough means to have an attendant, or not? Is she still able to entertain? I know that hositality is one of her chief pleasures in life. Forgive me for prying; but I do very much want to know what sort of situation you foresee.

By the same post with your letter, came a note from Abby asking me to stay with them (I am not quite sure who "they" are, but I imagine that Abby shares her house with a friend. That is probably the best headquarters I could have. Of course, I shouldbe glad of am excuse to stay in Concord! but of course if there is anywhere quite near to brescott street (and Francis Avenue is near) I obviously ought to stay there. I should not want to stay with the Hinkleys, for two reasons: one being that I expect Eleanor has her hands full looking after her mother, and they have such a fixed, self-contained way of life that a guest, in

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18 Movember 1916.

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such circumstances might be a heavy burden; and the other reason is that they are too detached from our family for me to be happy with their company at such a time. I don't know Abby as well as Martha, but she has an Eliot feeling. But it is also means a great deal to me that 6 Hubbard Street should be possible, so that I may look forward to a weekend or so with you, perhaps two short visits. That, my dear, is the one bright spot in the prospect.

I am sorry that Theresa has not been more forthcoming, and this time, on her account more than on yours! thinking of how lonely she is really, with apparently no relatives or close friends to depend upon. I suppose this is partly the result of twenty years with Henry.

I expect the Richards's also wouldbe glad to have me; they also are near, in Kirkland Street, and that would be a congenial environment in such circumstances.

I have not undertaken to do anything extra for Martin. I am very sceptical of his qualifications, or those of any of his associates, for devising a revue: it needs a kind of technique of which I should think he had no experience whatever. Even if I was plaint enough to consent, it is simply out of the question for the next six months; and even then, I should be foolish, with my limited time and leisure, to spend my energies on anything so ephemeral. Once Iget down to it, a play of my own will take all of my attention for a year. I shall approach Cheetham in Lent about the wardenship (for the annual Vestry election takes place soon after Easter). I do not in fact give much time to it - the other warden takes the chief responsibility for the accounts: but the responsibility alone is a burden. Twelve years is long enough: though I must remember that during the first years, which were difficult years for me, the position and duties were a great moral support to

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such circulationes wight her to ty tures; and the other restion is that they are too cetached from our family for me to be help with their costany at such a time. I don't know ably as well as merths, but she has an alight realing. But it is also means a gract deal to me that t hubbard atreet should be possible, so that I may look forward to a weekend or so with you; jurhays two short visits. That, my dear, is the one bright apob in the grospect.

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me. The present circumstances make it not only easy, but unquestionable, to refuse new requests: such as the constant demands that I should go abroad - to Italy, to Spain, to Belgium, to Denmark, and now to Buenos Aires! My last letter is from the Mayor of Florence. Some of these have a strong claim upon my conscience, too, in the present state of Europe.

And now, my dear, I trust that, as you propose yourself, we can omit religious problems from our correspondence, on the ground that they can be much better discussed when we meet. Your promise, meanwhile, is sufficient. But I think you mistake, when you assume that I was not deeply moved by the love you expressed in your letter from letersham. In another context, it would have made me ever so happy: but, as I said, it came to me with the implication that I had betrayed you, which seemed to me not only unjust, but to show a grave misund rstanding of my motives for criticising your conduct. I feel as strongly about that as ever; I am sorry, but I think that I was right and you were wrong: my consolation is the hope of being able to make yousee my point of view when we meet. For I do not think that it is good for you to take the Sacrament without understanding what you are doing, and without understanding the meaning of "The Church". But it is not true that I have changed. One never comes to the end of understanding anybody, because one never comes to the end of the possible new situations in which one may see them. But the person may have been the same all the time.

Your Ton

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me. The forent diraumstraces make it not only ersy, but undiquestionable, to refuse new requests; such as the constitut our mands that I should to abross - to italy, to spile, to sellam, to sellam, to lemmerk, and now to butener hires! My lest letter is from the Mayor of Plorence. Some of these have a strong elsts upon my conscience, too, to the present state of Murage.

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MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

Doans Enily. Get 25 November 1946.

Your letter of the 20th, which gave me much pleasure, arrived this morning, and I must answer it briefly at once. I shall not expect you to write more than once a week, in your present mode of life: indeed it seems to me that you have your hands more tham full, with the work both in Concord and Boston, your housekeeping and cooking, and also your concern for your aunt and uncle. And in the holidays I can imagine that to time time for writing is still more difficult. So I shall not be disturbed by a week or eight days' interval.

As I think I have told you, Theresa has not been informed of the seriousness of the situation, so I do not want her to suspect it in consequence of anything I say to you. Marion told me that Theresa did not even want her to ring up, for fear of disturbing Henry: I think one reason however is that she thinks that Henry will be wanting to know everything that people say toher and everything that she says to them. She was even nervous, when I was there, of having a conversation with me of any length when Henry was about, lest he might feel out of it, or wonder what we were saying about him etc. It is often characteristic of deaf people to be apprehensive of conversations that they can see but not hear.

I hope to hear from Sheff, in a week or so, that the leuchaemia treatment has been resumed. Upon his reaction to that depend the prognostics, and consequently the doctors' recommendation as to when I should try to come. In his last letter, Sheff seemed to think that it was likely that I should not be needed until April. If that is confirmed, I shall go ahead with my operation in January. As you know, May and June are the period when I wanted to come, hoping to see something of you after the end of your school term; and it is a considerable sacrifice to come sooner! I have had a very pleasant letter from Havens, appreciative of my solicitude not to risk inconveniencing him for an engagement of

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MUSeum 95/3 (+1/mes) 24 Russell Square London WC1

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G.C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart R.H.I. de la Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerley (u.s.a.) T.S. Eliot W.J. Crawley

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such importance to his college. The commencement address must be cancelled: he has offered me an engagement to speak at the college if I can let him know within reasonable time at that I am afraid that that would have to be some time earlier than I the commencement, and that you would be unable to come.

But if I have to come precipitately in January, February or March, I shall depend upon Harcourt Brace & Co. for supplementing my seventyfive pounds, and upon the possibility of a few reading engagements at short notice. If I was there during the crisis, of course I should not want to be distracted by any public engagements at all.

Your last two letters have made me much happier. It is so important, inpersonal intimacies, to be reminded from time to time that there is always, to theend, more to learn about another person. The worst difficulties are created, not by simple lack of understanding, but by being sure that we understand another person - by insisting on their conforming to our conception of them, and then, when we find that they won't fit, feeling that they have let us down badly. And the aspects of anybody are endless.

You always Goving

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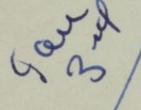
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You always army

BY AIR MAIL

addies







Miss Emily Hale,

6 Hubbard Street,

CONCORD,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

from T.S.Eliot,
19 Carlyle Mansions,
Cheyne Walk,
London S.W.3.

MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

I have just received a cable from Sheff saying: "Doctor approves April visit". This is a great relief, as it must mean that the crisis is not nearly so acute as was feared; and if it is safe to postpone the visit until April, Henry's prospects of life are probably for some time longer than that. Of course, repapse is always possible: but I think I am justified in pursuing my plans for the operation in January - to go in on January 2nd, and have the operation on January 3d. It is University College Hospital (Private Ward), Gower Street, The surgeon told me that I should be out of bed for a little on the next day, so I ought to be able to write short letters in a few days time, and after a few days I shall be able to have my secretary come with any urgent business, and dictate business letters. I shall also go to the Cunard Line and put myself down for a passage in April. I should hope that Henry's condition will be such that I shall not be with him all the time - which means that I should be able to stay longer, because of being able to fill some public engagements. I shall therefore let the Princeton engagement stand; but I shall not try to renew the engagement at Chambersburg (he may have got involved with some other speaker by now in any case) because that would be a disaster for the college if I failed them at the last moment - whereas the other engagements would mean only an ordinary cancellation. I should hope to stay for two months as before: if I came in the middle of April, therefore, I should stay until the middle of June (and hope that it might fall out so that the Morleys should be coming over on the same boat - they intend to take a house in England for three months this summer). Therefore, I hope that a few days might be possible somewhere, where you might be, in the country, after the end of your term; as well as seeing you in Concord. As for your Concord Speech Day, I should prefer not to commit myself to any engagement which would greatly inconvenience the institution if I failed them (as in the case of Chambersburg): but by March we ought to be able to see more clearly what the prospects are. But Concord Academy does not seem to me to have been so appreciative of your own work, as to make me feel under any obligation to them.

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Meanwhile, having done the culture book (except for the alterations which I foresee in view of my readers' criticisms - I shall have Mairet's suggestions in a few days) I have had to turn at once to the Milton Lecture, in order to have it ready against any eventualities. I should have preferred a more leisurely period of browsing about among the Milton material, before starting to write: it is difficult to switch mne's mind over so abruptly from one subject to another, and find anything to say about the second. I should have liked best of all to proceed at once with the Johnson book, that being a subject on which my thought was already pretty ripe: but while I thought that I might have to dash over in January or February, it seemed only prudent to try to have a Milton lecture ready: and once having started (I have drafted about half of it) it would be wasteful of time not to go ahead and complete it.

And now December is here - a month which always seems to produce distractions and interruptions. I cannot bother with Christmas cards, or with searching for presents - the young people etc. must continue to receive cash payments to buy their own presents with (this is, I find, more expensive than buying presents oneself, but shopping now is endlessly tedious at best, and in December would be intolerable). Nor do I particularly desire to go to the Mirrlees' for Christmas: but old ladies of 85 or 86 have that claim upon you, that each occasion may be the last; and certainly this will be the last visit to that house, as she moves to a smaller and (she hopes) more economical house in March. And to the house and its occupants I owe a good deal, for the hospitable shelter during five and a half years of war.

I hope in a few days to be told your plans for the Christmas holidays: and I trust that conditions are not now such that you will feel obliged to give most of your time to the Perkins's.

Your devoted for.

G.C. Esber, Chairman T.W. Stewart R. Hill de Jahlare F.W. Morley & Morley Kennorley (m.s. A). T.S. Elion W.J. Crawley

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MUSeum 9743 (Aures) 24 Russell Square London WC1

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Doarskain

8 December 1946.

Did you ever receive the Trojan Women from Kinchin Smith? He said that he had sent it. I hope I did not give you a false impression of the play, but that you will find it both possible and suitable. Its topicality might not be so apparent in America as in Europe.

I received your letter of the 1st December. I know that for the last part of the term you must be extremely busy, but I hope that afterwards you will tell me more of your Christmas play - but afterwards must mean, after your Christmas vacation and after you have time in the new year. I am somewhat relieved to learn of the probably future for Aunt Edith, if she lives the longer, as I should think was likely. Of course I am sorry that your uncle should have retired so much into himself: surely the causes of this have nothing to do with you - it is not only you from whom he has departed - and perhaps within he is very deeply lonely. I have always felt that insome way or other his life had not been altogether happy and fulfilled, though superficially he has had the career, in his later years at least, of a successful minister, and surely a very popular one. And sometimes a growing awareness of a disguised loneliness makes people withdraw rather than reach forward to others.

I return the letter from Isobel Whiting, which is certainly a very sweet and personal one. I have read the letter from Marion, which is certainly as affectionate as her powers of expression make possible.

I have put myself down for a sea passage in April, and must go in again to the Cunard Line tomorrow to discuss the possibility of priority. Priority, oddly enough, means not the Queen Elizabeth (the only passenger liner now running) but some smaller cargo boat. I shall also see whether it it possible to make an air reservation for late February or March, in case there should be a relapse. The account

Museum 95/3 Mines) 24 Russell Square London WC1 3 December 1916.

pid you ever receive the Trojan women from Minchin Smith? He said that he had pent it. I hope I did not give you a false impression of the play, but that you will find it both possible and suitable. Its topicality might not be so apparent in America as in Unrope.

Treceived your letter of the lat December. I know that for the last part of the term you must be extremely busy, but I hope that afterwards you will tell me more of your Christmas play - but afterwards must mean, after your Christmas vacation and after you lave time in the new year. rot enujul vidadord edd to masel of beveiler Jadwemon ma I Aunt Edith, if she lives the longer, as I should think was likely. Of course I am sorry that your uncle should have retired so much into himself: surely the causes of this more mort nov ying ton at it - new mitte ob of anidton evad he has departed - and perhaps within he is very deeply lonely. I have always felt that insome way or other his life had not been altogether happy and rulfilled. though superficially he has had the career, in his later years at least, of a successful minister, and surely a very popular one. And sometimes a growing awareness of a dispuised loneliness makes becole withdraw rather than reach forward to others.

I return the latter from Isobel whiting, which is certainly a very sweet and personal one. I have read the letter from Marion, which is certainly as affectionate as her powers of expression make possible.

There put myself down for a sea passage in April, and must go in arain to the dunard line tomorrow to discuss the possibility of priority. Priority, oddly enough, means not the queen Tlizabeth (the only passenger liner now running) but some smaller cargo boat. I shall also see whether it it possible to make an air reservation for late February or March, in case there should be a relapse. The account

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which Sheff transmits from the doctor is certainly very good; and I have had this week a letter from Henry in his own hand. However good the recovery, I yet feel that it is merely a question of time, though the time may stretch out even to the end of next year. Meanwhile I must reconcile myself to the fact that I shall not accomplish so much this winter as I had hoped to do. The uncertainty is itself a strain. I have had recently several offers from America, tempting in themselves, but undesirable in the circumstances. One from Columbia, to deliver a set of four lectures, the first of a foundation to be called "The Bampton Lectures in America", and well paid, I should have declined in any case: for they have to be on some theological subject - I could not prepare such a set of lectures in the time, and the subject could not fit in with what I want to do in the next two years. My culture book will contain all I want to say, I think, about everything except poetry, for a long time to come: the Johnson, and a play, and another book on poetry which is shaping in my mind, should occupy me for a long time to come. If I can make the Milton good (I have just completed the first draft) and put the Johnson into temporary order good enough to deliver as two lectures at Princeton, that will be all I can do in these next months. I have also had offers from Virginia, from the National Art Gallery in Washington, and from the Library of Congress - the last for a lecture for which they would pay a thousand dollars, if they might publish it first: which excludes the Milton, which must be issued by the British Academy.

I regret very much that you cannot see this production of the Family Re-union. I go again to see it next week with Bobbie Speaight and the Lambs. Now there is a question of its being translated for Madrid: Mr. Leopoldo Panero of the Embassy, and Mr. Munos Rojas want to translate it. I went for sherry to Panero's last week: strange to be in a room of Spaniards, a people with which I am not really acquainted - some with strange names, like the Marquis and Marchoiness of the Holy Cross.

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G.C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart R.H.I. de la Mare F.V. Morley & Morley Kennerley (u.s.a.) T.S. Eliot W.J. Crawley

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MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

I have had a cable from Miss Sophie Tucker, and am debating how I should answer it. I feel I should only give a provisional answer - and I am not sure that one should accept such an engagement provisionally. Suppose that I had to come earlier - well, probably I could let her know in time to get someone else: but suppose that I was there, and that Henry was then dying - however, I must send her a long cable and leave it to her. But I could not have faced Chambersburg as well: I know how these commencement addresses take it out of one. It's much more difficult than reading a paper.

When I go to bed tonight, I shall imagine you lying on your sofa and listening to a symphony concert. I think of buying a wireless set next year: we have some good music now on a new programme. I wish we could listen to the same concert at the same time!

I hope that your next letter will tell me where to write during December. And during the first two weeks of January you will only expect a few short notes in handwriting from me.

Your devoted

MUSeum 9543 14 Missell Square London WC1

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Those that your next letter will tell me where to write during December. And during the first two weeks of January you will only expect a few short notes in handwriting from me.

Then sometime.

MUSeum 9543 (4lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

Beloved.

Perhaps this letter will arrive conveniently for you to answer it! or you may well be too busy, just before the holidays, and too tired, just after your Lower School play. I hope to have one more letter from you before Christmas: and of course what I should like would be a letter at University College Hospital, Private Patients' Wing, Gower Street. W.C.1 on about the 4th or the 5th January: let us say just a wee note, as I know how little time to yourself you have during the so-called holidays. I shall write again before Christmas, and address you at Commonwealth Avenue; and again after Christmas. to Concord.

After what you say in your letter of December 8, I confess I feel little inclined to put myself out for Miss Tucker. She should at least realise that if I made the commencement address, it would be because you asked me to do so and for no other reason. Incidentally, I think it would have been more polite of her to have written to me, in good time, instead of merely sending a brief cable: one does not invite a stranger. who has only been formally introduced and to whom one has never spoken, so informally as that. I should overlook this lack of taste, of course; but it is an additional irritation, on top of her behaviour towards you. To prepare and deliver such an address is, as I know from experience, as worrying a task as giving a lecture, if not more so; and even if I did accept payment, which I should not, I could get a larger fee more easily elsewhere. I can only reply to her, inany case, as I did to Havens (who was not only polite, but most kind). I have put myself down for the Queen Elizabeth in April, and also for a riority Passage, which would be on some small ship. I find that the prospect of lectures sonstitutes a stronger claim on priority than "compassionate" grounds: they say so many people pitch stories of sick relatives which cannot be substantiated. whereas a lecture engagement can be proved by one's correspondence. At the same time I have made enquiries about air passage, should I be called sooner.

I was very touched, my dear, by your offer of financial

MUSCIMI 9543 Milner 24 Russell Square London WCI

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MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

assistance, in case of need. I have had a similar offer from Sheff; and if I have declined his offer, I certainly would not accept yours: for Sheff at least is financially in moderate comfort, whereas your finances are a source of anxiety to me. The point is that it might be difficult to arrange re-payment: it would probably involve a special appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury! No: if I need extra funds, I shall call upon Harcourt Brace & Co.: there will be some accrued royalties, and they could also give me an advance upon my next book; then they could deduct the payment from their next remittance, and I could clear matters up with the reasury as best I might, knowing at least that the people who advanced the money would not be out of pocket.

I have indeed been worried for you - as many people in your position, and retired gentlefolk living on annuities and small incomes from savings, must be worried about themselves in America - because of the prospect of inflation and as the newspapers say "soaring prices", of which rumours appear in our press. Such a situation could pretty confidently have been predicted. Indeed, a war such as we have been through was sure to bring about at least one kind of social revolution: suddenly, a different class of people come into money, and a class less responsible, more extravagant because of the novelty of money. The middle and upper middle classes are impoverished: all this happened in Germany after the last war, and the result was totalitarianism. So we are only at the beginning of immense social changes, which will be, as far ahead as we can see, disruptive and destructive of civilisation. All I can hope is that the people I most care about will be able to live out the normal rest of their lives without being reduced to complete destitution. I really do not know how you manage on your small income: and there is nothing whatever that I can do about it. As for myself, I think that the gradual increase of my income during the last twenty years has so far just about kept pace with the increase in prices and taxes: so that in 1946 my real income is just about the same as it was in 1926. So I am comparatively well off: but for everybody (in our class of society) there is the discouragement that no-

MILE COUNTY SAS (41/mes) 24 Russell Square London WC1

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MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

thing one can do will give any assurance of security for old age, no prospect of a really comfortable retirement as the reward of industry or ability. Those who prosper are the speculators, and they too can only live from year to year. For those who have a family, and want to leave their children with settled prospects, the outlook is the most discouraging.

I gather from what little you say, that you have suffered from repeated interferences and obstructions in your school work. I hope that the Christmas festival will bring you some serenity and Christian hope: though I confess that for myself Christmas is so attended with duties and social interferences, that I gain far less religious benefit from it than I do from Holy Week and Easter, when it is easier for me to withdraw from the world and concentrate on the religious significance of the celebrated days.

I shall think of you with your play this week. My dags will be pretty full, but I have only to be out one evening: as I think I mentioned, a visit to "The Family Re-union" with Speaight and the Lambs. I should have gone anyway, as I feel I owe it to Martin and to the Cast to go again, and the run may be over when I am out and about again, as I think a date was already fixed for the Saroyan play (what a contrast!) to start at the Mercury. I am worried about Spain: to withdraw the ambassadors seems to me just one more act of national disgrace and turpitude in compliance with communist pressure. Of course the Spanish regime is a despotic and probably a cruel one - I imagine that both sides in the Civil War were equally But to protest against the Spanish regime, and pretend that the Jugoslav regime and the Russian regime are guiltless (and they have been far more insulting to Britain and America than Spain has) is suicidal hypocrisy. Meanwhile the Mallet children are wondering where they are to spend their Christmas holidays - I called on their grandmother yesterday.

you very boing Tom.

C.C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart, R. H. Je la Mare E.V. Morley & Morley Kennerlop Chairman C.W. Stewart, R. H. Je la Mare E.V. Morley & Morley Kennerlop Chairman C.W. Stewart R. H. Je la Mare E.V. Morley & Morley Kennerlop Chairman C.W. Stewart R. H. J. S. Ellot W. J. Can

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Museum 9543 (40mes) 24 Russell Square London WCI thing one can do will give any assurance of security for old age, no prospect of a really comfortable retirement as the reward of industry or ability. Those who prosper are the speculators, and they too can only live from year to year. For those who have a family, and want to leave their children with settled prospects, the outlook is the most discounsing.

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MUSeum 9543 (4 lines) 24 Russell Square London WC1

This is my last letter before Christmas, and I hope it will reach you at Commonwealth Avenue. I shall send an inclusive cable to the Perkins's tomorrow: I at Shamley shall think of you with your family burdens and difficulties on that day. I return on Saturday, and shall write again over the weekend; and I hope that by Tuesday of Wednesday of the following week I shall be able to sit up and write a short scrawl (to Concord) to let you know of my progress. It is curious trying to analyse one's feelings before undergoing an operation. I have only had one before, when I was 19; and since then twice in nursing homes only for complicated teeth extractions. And this is only a minor operation: but where there is no fear or danger of the consequences, there is still a certain revulsion from having something done to one - an odd feeling that for a few hours one ceases to be a person and becomes merely a thing to be dealt with. There is also a certain dread of nurses - women in whose hands one is helpless, and who will treat one as a child, either being hearty or pepery and bossy. Don't think I am making a fuss, over such a small event!

At any rate, I shall be free from foreign visitors for a time. I shall be a little anxious until the middle of February. lest I should get any sudden bad news about Henry, and be helpless; but so far as I can see, from what Sheff and or Hoyt tell me, there is no likelihood of any rapid deterioration in that time. It still seems to me possible that I might have to come in March, but I only keep this in mind so that I should not be too upset if the call did come. Even April is earlier than I should wish: I should prefer to come in May, in order to have as much as possible of your company, wherever you may be, after the end of the school term: but if you decide to do the Trojan Women, I may be able to see that in any case. You know, I have never yet seen a play produced by you, and that has been a matter of much regret.

I must now leave off my Milton, half finished in its second writing: I still hope that I may be able to write it a third time. I do not know whether, after the two weeks in spital, 6 C. Faber, Chairman C.W. Stewart R. H.J. de la Marie F. V. Morfey & Mouley Kennerft vou S.A.) I. S. Elfor W. J. C. av. fe

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MUSS CHIM SEAS (ALLIES) 24 Russell Square London WCI

/ Xxxxx - 22 December 1926.

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I shall be fit to sit up and type for any length of time during my week at home. I may be able to take my material down to the Fabers with me, for the fourth week, but it is difficult to write apart from one's books. The B.B.C. now want to record this lecture while I am giving it, and put it out later in the evening.

I appreciate your writing briefly on the 16th, and shall be glad if I may have frequent notes, even of only one side of a sheet, don't try to write more - during the holidays and the busy days after your return.

I don't hink I have written anything about my second visit to The Reunion. I hit upon an unfortunate night: Miss Watson, the lady of 73 who is such a supurb Amy, was out with laryngitis, and her part was taken by Henzie! She did a very good conscientious job, I must say, as an understudy: and one hopes she does not realise how completely wrong she looks and is for such a part: instead of the middle-middle-class woman who has transformed herself by will and force of personality into a great lady of the upper middle class, she succeeds only in being a terribly dominating bourgeoise - a matriarch of the ghetto. The play was very well attended, for a uesday so soon before Christmas, and is to go on at least through January. Also Agatha (Catherine Lacy) has gone the way that so many actors and actresses go when they have been highly praised in a part (all the reviews praised her especially) and is now overacting and trying to express too much emotion: weeling, writhing and fainting incoils. Is it really only a few actors who have the strength of character not to fall into exaggerating a successful part? Bobby went like that in his later stages as Becket: almost sobbing when he did his And they tend to make too long pauses for the audience to look at them. Now Alan Wheatley, who is the Harry, is admirable in that respect: his performance the other night was identical with his performance the first night. Success has not turned his head in that way at all.

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I suppose it is only the real rare artist who acts for the part and not for the applause. I spoke to Martin about Catherine Lacey: he said she had not been very well, but that did not seem to me quite relevant. I don't know whether Martin makes himself feared enough.

My loving thoughts and wishes are with you for Christmas. .

Your Tom.

C. C. Labor, Chairman Cay Stewart R. H.L. ac lablace E. M. Mortey R. Mortey R. Mortey Remodelland and C. S. Hiot, W. L. Crawley

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MUSeum 9543 (4/1/10%) 24 Russell Square London WC1

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