

*Important - Letter  
to Casement & Kene Meyer*

, Feby. 10, 1915.

Dear Miss Morris:

I received yours of January 13th. I meant to write you a long time ago.

I cabled you at the holiday time and am glad to know from yours written from Kelmscott that you received my cable.

I hope the apples have arrived in good shape by this time. They hadn't arrived when you wrote your letter on the 1st, but they have doubtless got there by this time.

I should have thanked you long ago for Bain's "Syrup of Bees". I can't say that I read it or that I ever will read it. The truth is I can't stand very much of that sort of writing. It is too sweet and romantic for me. Lord Dunsany writes somewhat in the same way, but I can read him.

I did read very fully and carefully Clutton Brock's life of your father in the Home University Library series. I sent for five or six copies of it and presented them to different friends of mine. It is a well done book.

I also have to thank you for volumes 21 and 22 of your edition with your autograph as usual. I read the introductions with great pleasure, read them in bed at night when I came in, and I congratulate you on them. I just received today the Athenaeum sent by you and containing a short but good review.

I also want to thank you for sending me Lawrence Binyon's little volume of poems. I glanced through them the other night



but none of them struck me as particularly fine.

I haven't read Clutton Brock's "Thoughts on the War" which you also kindly sent me, although I have taken it with me in my bag on two or three trips expecting each time to have the leisure.

I have been dreadfully driven for the last two months. I have had a very large and annoying matter in Washington, a suit against the Bank that I am counsel for going back nearly ten years and involving \$1,200,000 (in English money £240,000). After weeks of negotiation and consultation and visits to Washington and Philadelphia, digging up facts, conferences, offers and rejections of offers, the matter was finally compromised by the directors paying in \$750,000 (£150,000) and buying the asset which the Comptroller of the Currency claimed the original board had no right to buy. There was no element of bad faith involved in the transaction and no other Comptroller had ever objected to it. But this was part of the campaign of the present administration to get at what they call "Wall Street".

The matter was closed the latter part of last week and left me about exhausted. I have taken a cold since and I am so hoarse that I can hardly talk in a whisper.

As I promised you, I enclose herewith London draft to your order for £20 to do just as you please with.

Times have been rather hard here and collections never worse. But people in this country ought to be thankful that they



have peace. I [too] have often thought of the poor devils practically condemned to death out there in the trenches at night with death from a bullet or cold or pneumonia almost certain for many of them. It makes one hate the whole nation that is responsible for this slaughter, not the people of the nation but the leaders of the nation. How long it will last no one knows. My sympathies of course are with the Allies. The sympathies of nine people out of ten in this country are with the Allies. I think fifty per cent. even of those of German blood do not sympathize with the Germans. My friends among the Allies think that the good weather will help the Allies more than the Germans. On the other hand I had a long twenty-page typewritten letter from a business man in Petrograd recently, and I met at lunch yesterday a man who had just come from there, and both the writer of the letter and the man I saw yesterday were very much discouraged regarding Russia's ability to whip Germany in the east. If Italy were to come into the thing and remain in, it would clean the business up. But Germany is prepared, and preparation is two-thirds of the battle.

Nothing that England can do in the way of searches or seizures or enforcement of new contraband rules will change the opinion of people in this country. If I were in power in England and it were necessary to keep copper or rubber or other things that are used in powder or explosives or guns or other war material out of Germany, or to even keep out food in order to starve them into submission—if it were necessary to accomplish this to make new



rules of contraband, I would break all the old rules in order to break Germany. The American Civil War was begun to save the union, to prevent secession. The slaves were not liberated by Lincoln until the war was on for some two or three years. There were people then who told Lincoln that it was unconstitutional for him to issue the emancipation proclamation. Lincoln said that it might be but that if it were necessary in order to save the country to break the constitution, he would break the constitution. That is a dangerous doctrine, but there are times when such a decision is the only right one. ]

It must seem queer to be in London now with its darkness at night.

The raids of course are terrible but in a military sense they are good for England because they will brace up enlisting.

I knew of course that you would do all that you could in the ways that you have described. But it is fortunate that you have had your regular work to do in connection with your father's edition. These are times of course that try people to their very souls. They are desperate times for England, but not so desperate or so awful as for Belgium. England has not suffered anything in comparison with France. Poor Poland has perhaps suffered even worse than Belgium. And in Servia perhaps the slaughter has been the greatest of all. It is a horrible war for all of the countries concerned. England will perhaps suffer the least