

Towards England.
15th. December, 1934.

3. Waldron Square.
Sea View Road.
S U N D E R L A N D.
C o. D u r h a m.
E N G L A N D.

My dear Frank,

I got your letter of the 22nd. Oct. 34 which my Wife sent on to me. By the way, this should ~~be~~ be the fourth letter that I have posted but perhaps one has crossed with your last one. However I do hope that none go astray, but they have to do a good bit of roaming around before they arrive at their destination.

I want you to keep what I am going to say, strictly to yourself and in your reply do not make any reference whatever to the incident I am about to relate. Letters sometimes have a way of getting into hands they are not intended for. It may be that a letter from you may arrive at my home when some of the family are there. Also, until I hear that Mary has written you I am not sending any more letters on to here. You will appreciate that a crisis may rapidly arise at Morpeth. Anyhow. Please don't refer to what I am about to relate.

I am enclosing a page from a letter that my wife sent me the other day. It will explain as much as I know myself. All I know is that this affair with father has only developed during the last 18 months. I have never seen the woman. but she is the wife of a head clerk at Morpeth Post Office, and one of these people who are capable of developing a kind of passion for Parsons and Doctors. She was or is a great worker at the Church. and I believe she recently spent a fortnight at ST. Annes, at the same time that father went for his holiday. Mind you, I do not think there is anything actually immoral in the affair or should I really say, sexual. To my mind he is so overcome with hatred to his wife that anything is bad enough to cause her pain whether he hangs himself in causing it. You will understand that I am not supposed to know anything about the affair, even that it is happening. but my wife thought that I ought to know, and although she promised mother she would not mention it, she told me about it. I have thought for a long time that his brain was going. At times he is besides himself with rage, hatred and passion. As regards his not leaving you any money, well, what anyone will get would not buy a bit of Ice in the winter. A man who has never earned more than about £260 a year cannot save much. I believe, in all, there will be about £500. I used to be nominated for his Executor but I got him to change it and now I have nothing to do with it and know very little about matters. There is little use spending time, bothering about nothing. Some years ago, I tried to get him to

leave practically the lot to Sydney. I figured out that you would be well able to see yourself through. I do not know what happened, but a hint was once dropped that his wife was having a finger in the pie, so of course I stepped out. I feel I am trusting you with this knowledge very quickly, but whatever you do, be very careful not to make mention in your reply to me. I am assuming that my letters are opened by yourself, but I sometimes feel I would prefer a private address although from the initials on your letters I take it that someone pretty near to yourself types for you. I refer to your reference FBRWMLR.

I am glad you liked the snaps of my little lot. Have you any around of yourself or wife or kiddies?. I should be so interested to see them. I certainly thought the photographs fine. There are far too posh for to be in the range of my pocket, but well, I could be worse off. One thing I have and that is a real good wife. Her family were at a Church, father was at in London some years ago. Sydney met the family. When I married, their family were in a pretty good way, but things went all wrong and her father lost his all. I certainly agree with you. Money has its uses, but it can not buy those things which really satisfy in life. The deepest and most precious things in this life can only be given. I mean respect, love, tenderness, and above all, sympathy and understanding.

How are things really going along in U.S.A. I am watching the experiment with great interest. In fact all Europe is. To many of us we think that it is the greatest attempt that has ever been made to really combat the evils of our present system. To my mind, it is a Socialism, greater than the Russian, but carried out undoubtedly by a great people, and with brains behind it. I only wish I had travelled internally in U.S.A. My experience is chiefly confined to Texas & Virginia.

It is a great pity that you never knew Leonard, as he was at the time he passed over. Leonard had the makings of a fine type of man. Wherever he went he was always a leader. Kind, thorough, considerate and as straight as a Die. When I look about today, I feel that the World and especially England, would be a far better place, if only those thousands of Britains best blood were alive today, using their Influence and advice in their own little spheres.

I must away now so with fondest love and best wishes to yourself and family, for the success and happiness in the coming year.

Very sincerely yours.

Arthur
(Dutch)

Jake is 73 & his wife about 69. Please destroy this letter after perusal

am not a bad hypost-
for a Haster even if
I am a wren
wren.

to reply if necessary & post in W.K. - may pass no comment on
Frank's last letter - your mother came over for the
day on Wednesday last - she enjoyed the day I think
& had a good old talkation - the two Leannies I mean -
The Church have reduced your Father's Salary - & your
mother hears privately that whilst she was away - the
deacons had a meeting & gave your Father a rare
dressing down - upon his unseemly behaviour regarding
his woman & also towards your mother - he of course says
nothing - your mother is silent about wanting him to retire
& just doke supply preaching - but he says NO! but she is
anxious for him to leave Marketh - & quickly too - she of
course wants to go to home for Xmas - but he says he
want go - but wants her to arrange to go - but says in
view of what has taken place doesn't think it wise -
don't also - it is apt to give people room to talk - about
having him alone so much & he also able to say - well I
was left alone etc - I agree she ought not to go & I think
when he finds her attitude is firm - he will decide to
travel - Xmas Eve on Monday there isn't that excuse -
- if she is there alone she wants us to go - & I suppose we
shall - but for many reasons I think the children are
best in their own home - I would rather remain here
- also I don't feel as if I can be bothered to shut up the house
etc & get all of us over there for a few days - I loathe Xmas
& wish I could sleep through it - but like everything
else pleasant & otherwise it will pass along.
We have had pretty awful weather since mother has been
here - we have had 70 hours continuous rain the last three days