

40 Murray Road, Wimbledon

7 October 1921.

My dear North,

It is a long time since I wrote to you. I get such crowds of Museum, Society and business letters to write that what I call letters of affection get sadly crowded out! I am glad you had a good holiday at Nantucket, we took ours again at Knock on the Belgian coast, where I arrived in evil case, a horribk knee, wh. the doctor dignified by the name of rheumatoid arthritis, having been increasingly painful for the previous fortnight, till that Wednesday morning I suddenly realized that if I did not catch the afternoon boat that day I should inevitably spend August in a nursing home, whereupon I hastily threw all the wrong things into a bag, got myself escorted to Victoria & was

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~~was~~ rewarded by a good crossing. The rest of the fine air & a gay company of young people soon brought me nearly round, & the good effect, I am thankful to say, went on accumulating, so that for the last few weeks (I returned Aug. 24) I have been unusually well, as also, I think, is my wife. I have not much news. My advancing years are marked by kind people on both sides of the water finding me out & doing nice things, & has been made an Hon. Foreign Corresponding member of the Quaker Club, N.Y., an Hon. member of the Boston Club of Old Volume, and an Hon. D. Litt. of Durham University. I should like to have you in person to receive & acknowledge all 3 honors, but I could only get to Durham, where I had never been before. It is a lovely old place and I felt very pleased at being made a small part of it.

I am sorry to hear that the slump is having such a devastating effect on the

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book trade in America. It does not seem to prevent our Messrs. Maggs getting out a huge new catalogue of very high priced books nearly every month. The way they have come on the last few years is amazing. I fear that the slump has rather hit some of our Parib. Soc. members and hope you will do your best to keep them together. As long as you were more prosperous than we were, we gladly accepted your special ~~ex~~ pre-war exchange rate & used some of the proceeds to show courtesies to French & Belgian members, but now that you are hit also I would suggest that any American member who find it difficult to pay the doubled subscription be reminded that they have the right to continue at the old one, & that for 1922 you collect eight or at most eight and a half dollars for the two families, or any other rate that the American Committee approves. I don't as a rule like American members to pay except through you, as it leads to confusion

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- sure, but any who have it paid
for 1921 I would gladly see pay by
buying a draft on London rather
than drop out. All through the war
we were very tender with our British
members and struck no one off for
non-payment, with the result that
we got nearly all of them back. One
member who ceased payment for three
years has just covered himself with
glory by bringing Asquith & Austen
Birrell into the fold! I told the Council
last Monday that bookish people in the
States were now hard up and they
fully agreed that our aim must now
be to keep them together & not worry about
the money as long as we can do this.

You will be glad to hear that The Library in
its new form is doing very well, & that the
Advertisements & outside subscriptions to
Volume II. reduced the net cost by about 40%.

Please remember me warmly to Mr. Hook; my wife
is at Bournemouth & would send messages. She is
playing a lot of golf now & lately achieved

3^a

the triumph of her life by doing a 240
yard hole in two.

Thanks for all the ships you have
sent me. I was surprised to see that
General Hawkins left so much
money

Ever yours sincerely

A. W. Pollard