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Converse, Charles. Letter to Laura Converse.

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Dearest Bessie,

Nov 3rd

I was terribly pleased to get the cable yesterday morning and to realize that you all are really safe and sound at home. It was a relief and I expect it was a little relief to you as well. Last week I wrote my letter at the office but I thought I would come on home today and write it under more comfortable conditions. I hope that you don't mind the pencil. I will try to make it ink next week so that you will have a change each week. There was no need of using flimsy paper today as this will go out in the pouch tomorrow for Washington and the weight is not so important. We don't have many pouches now so I will probably have to use air mail again next week.

We are here awaiting the final passage of the neutrality bill and the resultant effects it might have on U.S. vessels coming into British ports. I presume that if they are prohibited to do so that they will at least come into Irish ports since it is a neutral country. We shall just have to wait and see.

Lytbia and Herbert came in this morning to get her quota visa & to register the birth of the baby. Herbert now plans to take them back to U.S. tomorrow.

The end of this month. Whether he will
come back or not is undecided. He might
try to get a transfer to one of their U.S.
subsidiaries. Cynthia looked awfully well
and said that they were all getting along
fine.

Ed and I today received a joint
letter from Mac. I am sending you
a copy of it since it is interesting from
the angle of good old Mac and his
trials. He and Kate seem to have had a
really good holiday. Since Kate is not
going on that summer with Mac it
seems you might consider the idea of asking
her by Jampy to see you en route.

Last night, I had dinner with Bert
and John at their flat in Lourdes St.
We three had a very nice dinner, a quiet
chat and I was home by eleven. Both
has Government jobs and are extremely interested
in their work (tell Emma about them).
Their hours are long but the pay
not too good but they feel that they
can get along better than going back home
on sheer speculation with no definite
job in the offing. Boardman has become
impossible and would do nothing to help
John. He lives alone at Grosvenor Square. They
are toying now with the idea of sending
you to California to Alice who would

less to have them. They would then put
Gilda Johnie in a boarding school as they
had originally planned and Boots and
John remain in London at their work.
Both look well. Boots mentioned the
possibility of my living with them. I felt
that if it would help them financially I would
do so. They, however, seem so indefinite and
uncertain as to their own plans that
I have given up the idea. It would lose
its advantages for they are out often
and I could spend lots of time reading.

The situation at the office
surrounding no changes during the past
week. Dr. Dighton came in to see me
and said that I was still a miracle and
looking much better. The thing I must watch
is to keep down acidity etc. He is living out
at Hatfield and has invited me to go
for some weekends with him. I think that
I will when he asks me. This change will
be good and the cost low. He doesn't
come in often. Most of his patients have
left town and there is very little for him
to do. Wilkie wrote and said he would
come down and drive me up but I
don't feel that going to Birmingham would
be sufficient change from our own
monkey foggers here. We have
had one or two light fogs by the way.

Bob spent yesterday in bed because of a cold so Ed and I came home to lunch to give him a little company. He is up and about again today and at work. We had the new doctor up Tuesday night for supper but I don't think he is up to very much, too full of himself. We had thought possibly of asking him if he would like to take Sig's place but I don't think we will. It is really better with just the three of us although if the expenses run too high we'll have to consider some other plan.

Wednesday night Ed and I took a really long walk. I really got him into a pace more rapid than a stroll. Bob's cold was coming on so he stayed at home. We took a long loop through Riverside, Civic and back to the flat. It was a moonlight night and crisp and cold, ideal for walking. Ed had a friend of his whom he knew in Japan up from Washington the first of the week. He spent Monday night here at the flat. We tried to get seats at the new Paeonian

I left a page out here
as it wasn't interesting to you

show "The Little Dog Brought" but no
luck so Ed took her to see the
Jack Muller show. I couldn't see
myself sitting through that so Bob
and I stayed at home and Alice for
once turned out a really nice chicken
supper.

There is a plan that the Department
has put into effect permitting us to allot
a certain part of our salary to our
families in the U.S. This will relieve
the necessity of buying a dollar draft
each month and the uncertainty of the
mails won't affect the arrival of the money.
Each month \$150 of my salary will be
sent to you by check from Washington.
You will be able then to deposit or bring
your money each month by a certain date.
This plan is much better than to have
to wait for draft mails each month. Don't
you think so?

I certainly hope that I get a lucky
break and get a promotion when a list
comes out. We could certainly use the
additional \$400 per year. However I
don't suppose that there will be one for

months to come. Just one week first
the depression held us back, now the war.
It might not do it this time though so
we must remain hopeful.

I talked to Paul today about
arranging Mary's permit. I have written a
letter to go with Winnie's that I hope will
turn the trick. Paul said that his
family are all well. He is going down to
spend the weekend with them leaving
this afternoon. He seems very pleased
with his business.

The rationing of food is
still delayed. I think beginning January
1st we will be limited to 1/2 lb. of butter per
week and 1/4 lb. bacon. Fortunately for me that
I use little butter & eat no bacon. There
seems to be ample food supplies on hand
and no need of a rationing further at
the moment. The Blackout continues
unchanged however. No one seems to have
an definite idea at the moment as to
what future events will take. There are
so many conflicting opinions that one
can choose one pretty good authority
that that happens to meet the requirements
of his own temperament.

Sunday night went to see a
sorry show at the Odion, Edgeman
Rd. and that wasn't enough I had
to catch my coat, trying to get up
quickly and let someone out, and
snagged a hole in it. My brown
Capton suit was the victim. I
haven't heard a word from Gustavson
since you took the things to him.
I'll have to telephone Jerry
you wouldn't mind if he kept the
slaver things personally.

I've been anxiously looking
forward to your letters re your
arrival and also the result of
your search for a place to live.
I hope that Bill was able to get some
good prospects lined up before you
go to Tampa so that you don't have
a long expensive stay in an hotel.

The children went to having
a really thrilling time for it is
just like a new world for them. The
memories of the old S. are so vague.
I would love to have been with you
all so that we could have placed
you up to the top. I expect that Florida

will thrill them really more than
New York with all of its fruits grow-
etc. Some will be all over to do
some real fishing and actually catch
something besides tilapia. I know
that they are going to receive
marvelous skill from the stay
and I think the benefit to you
is more necessary and will be
greater than to all three of them
put together. I really decided this
winter for you all had been too
long without the sun to withstand
the cold and possibly flu. There
are a lot of colds going around al-
ready and I suppose it will be
bad this winter, seems to be a necessary
adjustment to bear. I am glad that I
am practically immune.

Sincerely yours to all
and remember me to those
of your friends who remember
me. Love again, with a wink,
Merittally,
Charles

Lies about his big
that are the same kind of the serpentine