

Calcutta

March 2nd, 1946

My dearest Son,

You had our most fervent
good wishes yesterday, were the less
energetic because of the stress we are
passing through. The phrase 'things will
have to get worse before they can get
better' is not a very cheering one, but it is
one that rather aptly fits the present
moment with us. There may be a quiet
& gradual change to calm & security;
there may be a change for the better as
models & sterility is the original cata-
strophe: but the most probability from
the facts actually known is one or two
more violent ^{& energetic} gusts before we round the
dangerous point & glide into comparatively
smooth waters. The position is that a further

letter has come as a sequel to my
 reply, making still more stringent
 demands, with veiled menace as
 to consequence; 'I don't, Keller, I
 can't do what Sam wanted
 to do, that is apologize in abject terms
 for things that in my view need
 no apology, I must, if they are
 resolved, as they seem, endure
 the consequences.' However much we
 think it is only fluff - that the thunder-
 cloud will disperse, 'steadfastly
 faced. Some things there must be
 complete climb-down: that the thing
 has been altogether overdone / you can
 do things, more things, better things
 thoroughly. So there is more ground today
 for good cheer: even if things as the matter
 have an ugly look.

Friday There is nothing very much

fresh this morning & I may find it difficult to write more later. The main thing she said that we are in very fair good heart & able to believe in the ultimate righting of things that are wrong. For see, old lad, it is an instance of a very common case familiar both in civil & in military life. The present war has possibly offered examples. The man in immediate contact when a difficult crisis arises, who faces the responsibility & would have come through all right, is disabled by the action of those above him & then it is found convenient to make him the subject of all the blame. Such a man if he knows he has done well; if he ever knows he has done his best in face of great stress of circumstances, however much he may suffer in fortune & even in reputation, has no reason to be very deeply dissatisfied. And I & your mother have all those considerations. So you need not be ashamed of your father, or take our present trials very much to heart. And indeed it all seems

just now, it is not by any means impos-
 sible that we may after all unscathed with
 credit - the college - the Principal. For
 after all the facts, broadly speaking, are
 entirely with me. But it may take a long
 time. People ~~always~~ ^{also} will probably after
 a bit recover their balance & judge more
 surely & more fairly. Do you not prove
 yourself - I know you can't help pried-
 ing a bit; & above all don't let indignation
 carry you away. Keep it all to yourself as
 much as possible - & for us when we
 meet - which may be far off soon. Run no
 unnecessary risks in any way. For
 you in part depend now the fortunes of
 us all. We can't help misrepresentation
 a wrongful judgment; but we can - we
 will hold up our heads - & go pretty much
 our way. We are expecting post letters this
 morning & hope - so much hope - for news
 from you in a real letter - such as has
 so often cheered us. Bye-bye for the present.

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Oh I want to tell you for your comfort,
before I forget that we are in no sort of
money straits & cannot be. We have
~~ample balances~~ - thanks to your
mother's good husbandry - ample
balances both here & in England. By
good fortune I have just come in for over
R2000 for this allowance of R250 a month
now granted as compensation from
Feb to Nov. of last year. This comes in
very handy. For one of the little inconveni-
ences of being 'under suspension' - &
then pleased His Excellency to place
me for the present under suspension' is
that you can't draw any pay. And apart
from that we have Government Paper.

It is a mistake about the mail coming
today: it is really tomorrow. The evening
paper said it last night, but it was a
mistake. However we have it both forward
to tomorrow now. This is not much of a

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better, but I don't think there is anything
more I can say with advantage. I wish there
were more cheering things to say this
week. I hope there will be next. Faith,
hope & courage will bring us through. It is
a very strange experience, & so very un-
expected: but like other experiences must
be faced & gone through with. That we
can face it at all is probably the best
proof that the position is entirely unob-
scured, as I think it is. In that case
all the real disgrace goes to the other side.
A number of people are being very kind
& helpful. There is also said to be very
strong feeling in our parson in import-
ant quarters. The best of us have the best
of the best. I hate the idea of your getting
those letters: & so does your mother
even more acutely; but you must in us
& we must in you - not the less much
overcome by it. Your loving father
H. R. Jarman

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P.S. - While the behaviour of the paper &
the silence & aloofness of men is
a matter for wonder, the fidelity of the
servants at the college & of most of the
staff is very touching. There is more
pity than pride & yet expression
a more horror & indignation. In the
moment the effect is one of terror. I
have also a number of very kind letters
to me here support.