

Sensen

30. 7. 36.

My dearest Aunt.

I will try to make my writing legible. The case of my typewriter has jammed, so I would have written with it.

The Child has burst-up. Peter lived, as you said, but quite well. I am not sorry she has failed this year. She is young for so stiff an Exam. To tell you the truth, I thought she wouldn't pass, and that it would be a good lesson for her. When she entered for it,

Bahadur & I talked it over, & wondered seriously whether we shouldn't ask you to tell her headmistress not to let her enter until she was older. This with a view to her health.

Then we decided that she was sharp enough not to break down on anything serious.

wasn't likely to get through; & that the slight check ²
would be good for her meals!

As I think it will be.

As for my book. It should be
out this Autumn, only Heinemann & I are hoping
an embittered argument at the moment, as they want
my book on Julian the Apostate to appear first.
I don't agree. But one so their reason is an
unpleasant one - & what follows, dear Aunt, is in
strict confidence -

It appears - looks so like it that I
can't think of any other explanation - as though
Tony in London ^{has} ^{been} spreading unpleasant
reports about ^{the book} that ^{it is} the stay of my whole life
(instead of ending with my 19th year), full of scandals
about well-known people, my friends etc. All of
which is rubbish. I can't say for certain he did
it, but these stories all originate in people in
close touch with him, & whom I hardly know, or
at least have not seen for years.
I don't know what to do. Tony will

3

only day it. My lawyers take rather a serious
view, as if it isn't stopped, it could be crushed
with an attempt to prevent me from securing my living.
A serious thing these days.

You see, it has upset my publishers.
Yet, Tony, the idiot is hardly mentioned in the
book, & then only as a child & with kindest
love.

As for not distressing my Mother - I
invented a kind of triple censorship; my own, Angus
Davidson, my literary executor & great friend; then,
finally, from the point of view of Christian
charity, Father Walker at St Hilary was giving
over doubt just parts.

So, actually, no one has anything to fear.
(Mother, I know, for reasons best known to herself, is
less fond of the book; & she certainly would have
put Tony up to anything he may have said.)

Such a lot of worry after such a lot of
work! Angus, dear Aunt, you shall see it,
directly I have a proof. The only two MSS are, at
the moment, with my publishers & being considered for
U.S.

Anyhow, as regards Julian, I have spent
 a lovely few days lately in Oxford, working at
 Magdalen with a don I know there. We didn't do
 much work, but he wanted company in 'the Long',
 So gave me an enchanting time. All the houses of
 Magdalen that the outsider doesn't ^{usually} see. I loved
 every second of it; & Oh Aunt, the new college,
 Campan Hall, is really of the best of ancient
 Oxford. Especially the Chapel. An exquisite Renaissance
 - classical altar & canopy, in rose-panels unvarnished
 cedar, very restrained. The body, over large with a
 'barrel - rounded' roof, no arches. (I forget the proper
 terms.) Plain oak pews, splendid simple work, but
 the kneeling benches, kaiser-rose-scarlet. Then, on each side,
 set in plaster, worked to a certain height to frame them, a
 lovely pale-blue. Translucous "Station of the Cross",
 black on wooden panels the colour of ivory.

The effect was wonderful, radiant. No need
 to worry about the future of ecclesiastical art in
 England when such work is being done. Even
 Nowhere is unproving, & you know how dull their altar-furnishings,
 bindings, could ^{be} ~~the Oxford~~ ~~be~~

One other thing - I have just been
 seeing my Lawyers, who are our old ones, how

Miller, Foster & Swan. Susan is a dear friend of ⁵
ours - he was at school with Sahib, & is also
Camillo's Trustee.

Now please, dear Aunt, forgive me, but
he wants very much to know some particulars as to
- date of the Settlement under your Father's will.

I suppose, as Trustee for the child, he should - as he
takes a great interest in her future; & after this
dreary mess that Mother has made of the Father's
affairs, he keeps rubbing it into me how important
it is to know exactly what her prospects will be.

He has a copy of your Father's Will, & surprised
me very much a few days ago by showing me also a
long document from the S. P. G. entirely re-arranging
all claims or interest in it. This, as he pointed out,
clears up all possible fears of future ~~litigation~~
litigation.

Now he has begged me to ask you if you
would supply him with a few further particulars

(i) Who the present Trustees are - I mean who (if
any) were re-appointed when the old ones died?
(On this I think you told me once that there
were no new ones.)

- (ii) What are the present investments?
- (iii) What (a) lawyer, (b) bank or (c) hold the securities.

Please forgive me for asking these questions. He made me ~~promise~~ ^{promise} I would when I saw him last week, & without delay. If you would let me know. Or, better still, write direct to him -

T. Swan
 Miller, Foster & Swan
 45, Lombard St.

London, W.C. 1

That will calm his mind, & really, as I quite see, ~~will~~ help bring some order out of this (the 'long' way) debacle. For remember so far as I can see, anything that has been saved out of the 'Jaltre' wreck will go lock, stock & barrel to Tony. And, to get it clear, will keep me in my lawyer's good graces. Which I value, as they have been very generous, very kind to me.

And forgive me for what may seem to you impertinence; but is not meant in any such way.

Please send your best -
 ever your loving niece

Tony