

Aunt May 1922
1922
Apr 7. 1922

A April 7 1922

My dear Kate This is really almost too suitable. Whatever day did that miserable Free State take over its powers from Westminster, but on April 1st? The bill got the Royal assent on March 31.

Now while I think of it I want please half a dozen tins of nugget for boots likewise half a dozen boxes of lux. Mrs Sparks can order them in for me, but I fear I must also ask her to put them in a box and send them because if sent from the shop they may be stopped in the post having the shop label upon them I do not know that they will be but do not feel sure. I guess at present one is not asked to "declare" parcels but if we are I shall just pay the duty. I will have those things and no others, If duty has to be paid of course the shop can send them but I would like them sent privately first.

I do not understand about those knobby chairs. Oh no it is not worth while to send five, but I remember about five and twenty at holmhurst last time I was there, also in D V G Were some given back to Aunt Emmy at some point? or were the whole lot of the stuff which dreams are made of? If they were I fear they would hardly support Mr Q's very solid pupils. If there are really such a miserable band I should not in the least care to have them I thought really that they were there in limitless numbers. I foresaw a particular demand for chairs which is I think not going to be made. It was a question of people waiting a couple of hours in the house for a second class and I think they are very wisely not going to.

I am very glad that financially your head is above water. I do not know where mine is. I am running up both an overdraft and a deposit account. Mr Q's money is all on deposit. I have such a feeling that it is fairy gold and may cease at any minute that I am not going to spend it till I can make it extinguish the overdraft. He paid me seven ten yesterday. Seven ten is the figure per month. He must be taking fifty pounds a month I should think. It is tremendous hard work He teaches solidly from four till nine always and quite often from four till ten thirty. And he corrects exercises, vast piles of exercise books have to be corrected I shudder at the sight of them. That goes on Mondays Wednesdays and Thursdays. He asks half a crown a lesson, and makes a reduction on some ground or other for nearly everyone, But I do not think it can be less than about fifty pounds a month. On the strength of it he has bought a motor, and he goes home on Monday night and on Thursday night. He only leaves her alone on Wednesdays. But of course the whole thing depends on the country remaining quiet. He can neither leave her so much nor can he run about the roads in the dark if disturbance begins again. The motor cost three hundred pounds and I do hope he will make that up before the bubble bursts. He is counted I am told as one of the best teachers in Dublin, and as a Protestant teacher

he is unique. He has a regular arrangement with another clergyman about helping in Carbury and the Archbishop has given leave for the whole plan I think it is very far sighted of the Archbishop to encourage it. I wrote to him the other day and told him how nice Mr Q is and how he persuades people not to dislike his lessons however much they dislike the language, and the Archbishop was quite pleased and wrote back and said that Mr Q was " a great asset" But is not a very odd incident first and last? I remember how Mother used to say what a relief it was for a man in that station that he has not to provide for his family. When the lessons began I said to him " You make up a dowry for Cona with these lessons " and he began to laugh and said " Oh Cona will get nothing from me" It is so evidently part of the plan that he will give Cona the best education he can, and she will be a very lucky girl to have such a good and careful father. When she is grown up her future will be quite in her own hands, as X's was. Oh and did I tell you I wrote about X's savings and they are in West Kensington and will stay there till she directs anything different. She has the letter put away and we feel greatly reassured. I am glad those nice cakes were not expensive I thought they would not be. It is a delusion which haunts some people that it is economical to eat what is nasty. Mary Wills told me how very economical her mother used to be They had such plain dinners that very often Mary could eat nothing and she had to make it up with extra bread and butter at tea time. An egg to make the pudding eatable would not have cost more than the extra butter. Did I tell you Mrs Wills is just dead. She was sister to that old Mrs Penrose that used to be in Godmanchester. I am glad she is dead. and I am sure Mary is too for really it is very terrible to have charge of old people in this city. Last year she got so frightened she wanted her daughters to be always in her sight and you may imagine the harrowing questions which followed on that desire. Mary said it was delusion and she would grow worse if it were too much indulged, but then where did too much come in ? They were awfully good daughters and very fond and proud of her, but they could not hinder her being three times in a hold up, and all but getting her claim burnt in the Custom House. like mine. For some days they thought it was burnt and she could not throw it off and laugh as I did. It bothered her very much.

Do you know really and truly I think this is civil war. De Valera's I R A are fighting Collón's I R A actually and in fact, They arrested ever so many men in Cork who were coming up here to enlist in the Free State Army, and they keep this abominable murder business going as you see in the papers. Belfast is said to be quieting and I see something quite encouraging was said in Parliament..... Oh I apologize to Westminster, it was only that assembly in Belfast... but anyway a rifle shot was fired

in New Lodge Road off Antrin Road and a child of nine was killed on the spot, and later a bomb was thrown into a house in Spamount St I am not sure where that is but two sisters were badly injured and taken to hospital. I shall have no confidence in Sir J C till he disarms the whole civilian population. It is useless to do anything else at all till he takes away all the guns unearths all the bombs and has a ring fence round to prevent more from coming in, and he could do that fairly and disarm all alike.

I am really not able to follow all the I R A are doing but it is quite clear that De Valera intends to terrorize everybody till he has the country back again where the Black and Tans got it last year. Do you think it is any harm not to read what the ministers of the Crown say in England. When I looked over a summary and saw that Sir Hamar Greenwood proposes to provide money for every R I C an who likes to leave Ireland, and will stop disbandment for a little while in districts which it is impossible for them to leave, and says that is enough because ... no I see it is the speaker who says " we have passed on our responsibility for order " I do really think that sooner than read such ravings as that I will remain ignorant. I read in a book that no government is ever overthrown but that from time to time a government commits suicide. I think it was in my beloved ~~Armand's~~ Imbert de St Amand, I wanted the quotation afterwards and could not find it, but do you think it is true? " General Tudor ... was directed that men should onmy be disbanded in places whence they can as a matter of fact get out of Ireland in safety " " The government could not make arrangements officially for housing these men and their families who were coming to Great Brittain. " " the real fact of the matter was that the members of the R I C were such outstanding brave and gallant men that they would run risks" ... that last because two of them were murdered in Ballyhaunis while arranging for the departure of their families. Is it worth while to harrow oneself with reading stuff like that ? Well possibly it is well to read a very little of it. I will tell you one thing. I see with amazement by the Guild that really good and well meaning and careful people are careless in matters of government beyond what anyone could expect. On this silly point of that fool choir, some of the Committee have written the queerest things to me. Quite utterly overlooking certain facts of the situation. It is all right we are going to call a Committee and I shall state the whole case, but it is so strange to see how very important practical facts are misstated and forgotten. They say things like " If I remember rightly we agreed....." 9.

when we were careful to avoid agreeing to that. " I am sure we have not authority to " when that was just the one piece of authority we did insist on having. I do not feel at all worried about the Committee but I do think the British cabinet is just like that. They seem incapable of remembering or applying anything whatever.

I am glad James likes the R M Do I remember rightly that Ireland came into the Plunkett Greene book ? and that it was a little bit forced up in James' notice for that reason ?

How very odd that you should tell me about the nigger gaberdine You remember that little Agatha Close that used to be in the Studio here ? She was married the other day, and I saw that she wore a nigger gaberdine to go away in. and when you spoke of it I thought it wsounded so very odd.

That was indeed wondrous about the boat race Had you ever seen it before? I am sorry your arm is so alow . But I expect it will be cured atlast. Do you think you want change of air? I have been worried the last few days by having no voice. Also I have a great torpor of the mind. I keep silence and avoid the more mind wearing kinds of work I have done some needle work and some copying, but this letter is my only original composition for three days. I think it is a cold induced by fatigue. I do not know how I have got overtired, but I think it will pass.

Of course it is tiring to have a civil war going on. Yes I think it is civil war because the two sides fight fairly equall. As long as no real soldiers interfere with the two sections of the I R A I think they can get up a civil war, and I think it is civil war in ,ractise when De :Valera's I R A fight the Northern Specials. They also are equally matched, and might fight battles. And yet they do not fight battles. It is more like the old clan fighting. That was not war at all. Perhaps this is not war, Perhaps it is a sort of reversion to type. going back to clan ways. Yes As I write I begin to think civil war is the wrong phrase. I will go over the matter in my hezd and try to find a better one. It was not war at all last year when the I R A was against the troops I think that was a high degree of "civil commotion " battles were impossible and the end would have been a foregone conclusion had the government not been so determined on suicide. With a small wish to live they must have won. Perhaps now we have only widespread anarchy and riot.

I will think it over. Yrs R

W9.

1922

ap 10 1922

A. Ap. 10. 1922.

Dear Kate. Here is a conversation I have just overheard among Mr D's pupils.

1st female pupil? Will you be on Thurs?
 2nd " " No. I hope to be in London.
 1st you will miss the rebellion. It would be nice to miss the rebellion
 2nd Yes if you were in a friend's house.
 1st Well the English can hardly refuse to take us in when it was they did ~~made~~ it all.
 2nd Oh but you know they do not look at it that they did it all. They are terrible people, the English are!

Thanks for yours just received.
 I only want Sir Craig to disarm the civilian population. He has a police force i.e. the Specials. and is organizing a new police force into which he is trying to gather members of the old R. I. C. But also the London Cabinet goes on saying that he shall have troops he wants. I ~~think~~ ^{am sure} he has real soldiers there men^m like Charlie you know.

and a good many of them. The magistrates said several times that all civilians should be disarmed. And whatever happens it can be no protection, it can only be added danger that any ruffian on any side can get a bomb. But I do not believe that armed civilians would help much if the town were attacked. Armed men are useless except under discipline. If it is true that he can have as many real troops as he wants he has no excuse for allowing civilians to be armed in such days as these.

The news today is that several recruits have been held up. They wanted to come to Dublin to join the Free State Army and armed men appeared and held up the train by which they were travelling, and the recruits were taken out and in ~~one case~~ sent back to ~~Texas~~ ^{Dennisborough} Co. Wexford in a lorry.

Much the same seems to be going on every where, and there was firing all night in a boundary village in Co. Armagh. I think I will despatch this because I must write to James. Shall hope to answer all on Friday. Wm R.

1922
Apr 13. 1922

A . Apr 13 1922

Dear Kate This is not to be a long letter because I wrote earlier in the week. and I want to write today so that my letter may if possible arrive on Sat, and I do not know if any go out from here tomorrow, or if they are delivered with you on Good Friday.

Did you see that yesterday in Tullow the " unofficial I R A " fought the " official I R A for an hour and a half to get possession of the place where the officials were encamped. So they have been actually in arms against each other, and it is thought that some of the unofficials were either killed or badly wounded.

Mr Quigley tells me that he is coming here four days a week for May and June he will have two long days and two short ones and I did not feel I could raise the rent. I said I would not do so if he would pay it during the ten days off at Easter so in that we agreed. In July he goes to his summer school and someone else will take charge of the school in August. In Sep he thinks he will start again here " in a small way" Of course this rush cannot go on for ever, and I shall be quite prepared to have a great drop of classes in Sep. I think I may possibly arrange some other classes for next winter. I shall make enquiries and see what I can do. But it is too soon yet, and one does feel so very uncertain about the future. I think the fewer plans the better.

I have just read Mr Churchill's speech. I wonder what the quality is which has gone out of public life. Mr Churchill speaks like that and if Dizzy had spoken like that or even old W E G the only question would have been were they drunk or were they mad. One does not accuse this man of being either But I do wonder what is the difference? What is it that they had and that he lacks. Or what did they lack that he has got?

Yes I saw Albert's death. Never to my knowledge did I see him, but as you say it is the end of an old song. I always have a queer feeling about the babies who are born when noted people die They seem to replace them so very inadequately. But of course to themselves the babies are of far greater importance than venerable beings of another generation whose names come to them out of that remote world which they themselves did not inhabit. Dorothea was a year or two old when Louis Napoleon died but she may be taken perhaps in a way as succeeding him, and certainly to me she is a far more important figure than he is. So I think the idea of the world fading gradually away because all the interesting people are leaving it is an illusion.

Yoursay that Ages and Georgie take Ireland for granted Now I will tell you what I thought a very pathetic remark There came a lad here yesterday to teach Miss Proctor Irish and he waited a while in the Library and he and I got into talk. And he told me how he is a fisherman from an island just to the north of Achill and he came awy

because he wanted to see the world, but his brother has the boat and is there still. And we got onto unemployment and he said how the Dail had fifty thousand to spend on giving work, and I said "Where did they get it? From Westminster?" and he said "It is from the Government." and I said "You mean the Government at Westminster" and he stared at me and said "It is from the Government It is government money" So entirely does the west Irish fisherman recognize Westminster as "the Government" that he does not understand you when you say in effect "Which government?" These poor dears have never conceived of the Dail as anything but a party club. Behind it of course stands "the Government" and you and I are so unfortunate as to know how much that comes to.

Yes I do seem to read a good deal, but if you understand me it is not in "good" time. It is at meals I read and at odd times I read any number of books but they are not very solid. With a good deal of toil and others take the infection from the degenerates. Immediately on the disbandment the streets were put in charge of the "specials" There was always a special on duty in Everton xt Yesterday I got talking to him. He looked three or four and twenty and he wore a very shabby policeman's cap, and a long rain coat evidently intended to conceal the fact that he was not in uniform. I had observed him several times lounging in the door of Mulhern's public with a picture paper The Daily Sketch or the like of that. and I also had to catch a woman to speak to him when he was neither flirting with a lively girl, nor chatting with a boy in mufti. At last I did and asked him was he a special, Yes he belonged to the B division. A B and C indicate the amount of training received, less as you go down the alphabet. Did he belong to the Royal Ulster Constabulary, i.e. the force that is being organised now? No but a lot of our fellows might likely be put into it. Then he was not a real policeman? Well no he was a special just to put down all this trouble so I wagged my head and said how sorry I was the specials had so little success. Oh we are doing our best, "But you have not settled the town" Then later in the day I passed him and a chum in mufti was handing him a case of cigarettes. I said "Is that allowed?" Both looked very uneasy, and the friend said "Not formerly but now the police smoke in England and Scotland" "On patrol?" "Oh yes" "Well ~~that's all right~~ I said

about our own old R I C who did not smoke on patrol and who kept the roads safe. I cannot exactly remember how I brought it in for the boys looked a decidedly cross, and I thought perhaps I was silly and ended my remark "but times are changed, and I wish they were changing for the better, " whereat the two said "They are changing for the worse" So we parted good friends. But imagine putting the public safety in the hands of men to whom one talks like that. The cigarette went out of sight while I was there. I am sure it was wrong really, but imagine leaving it to me to point out that fact. Do you ever see policemen smoke and read picture papers on their patrols in London? Sometimes I see the specials in armed motors smoking, you see the white cigarette quite plainly, and it looks hateful amongst the guns, so flippant and disrespectful of the whole situation. You know I think a well drilled police acts in two ways Have I said this before? They check these manias in the crowds because being properly taught they are immune themselves. I heard a man once running on to a street meeting, and he was talking great rubbish which I do not now remember and part of it was scoffing at the police. "Much use they are Look at those fellows now standing along there Like so many monkeys along the perch" And I did look and there stood the police in a little row, and whether they heard themselves called monkeys or whether they did not it was all the same Nothing that a silly street spouter called them mattered to them. They looked so serene that they made the man who abused them look a fool. But it is quite different with these men The least bit of criticism and Sir James and all take it up so seriously and it is "unheard of provocation" and "intolerable insult" and really if they do lose their heads and fire on the crowd how can you be surprised? But all the same I am sure there is a conspiracy against the Northern government. I am sure some people on the continent or elsewhere are trying to make government impossible, and it is not such a very difficult thing to do under the circumstances. It all seems less dangerous than one might think. One gets oddly used to it. To hear that Miss Gledstones had to come up from town on her knees in the tram, or that Miss Cruikshank is vexed because that new piano is burnt at S. Silas's that they have just paid 46 pounds for, or that Mrs Musson was waked three times in the night by the firing does not seem out of the common, and it seems quite natural that after three or four hours you hear of a fresh murder or a new incendiary fire. When you meet again dinner and again at tea you expect that someone will contribute a fresh horror and they generally do. In a way you get to wish for it, because one nail knocks out another, and whenever the horrors cease there will be a most awful feeling of collapse. The more intelligent cottage people all have the same cry "There is no government anywhere" It is frightful to hear them Miss Hartford is the present head of the Settlement She says and perhaps she is right that she thinks it is only now that

Belfast realizes that there is no government to be looked for from London Of course Dublin found that our some months ago. The cottage people want martial law, and one feels that there can be onny one reason for not having it. It seems that Sir J Craig could ask for it, or even the Lord Mayor of Belfast, but someone has to ask and then the imperial Parliament is bound to give it. The form in which the objection is stated to me is " Sir James Craig is afraid that some would be offended" Why should " some " be offended ? It could only be possible if " some " had been condoning very irregular things indeed. I am much alarmed at this arresting of I R A members all over the six counties. It will provoke reprisals so called and do no good. He ought to begin by suppressing those useless specials. and having martial law till he has got together a police force fir to be so called.

I am surprised that if a golden sunrise can be seen anywhere it should not be seen here. You may call these the convulsions which are ushering in the New Age. Indeed some people do call them so, and begin with all sorts of fairy stories, If I did that for one place I would do it for all. D tells me that she has found some newspaper which gives " a little more news, but all as black as a boot" And oh by the way nugget is to be had again, and lux. I trust that folly may be at an end. Feenish is to go on as it is for the present. When next in Belfast Mr Dodd and I are to confer about making it into flats. I feel so much at sea about all future plans that I now only want to put off anything definite.

I trust all may go well this next half year about my income. The bank manager says I am to try and pay off the overdraft by little and little. I have rather put him in charge of everything. I propose to pay over certain incomings into deposit and pay the deposit over half yearly to the current account till it comes right. I am planning now to pay over like that all that I get from this floor of this house. The Guild does pay me but not too regularly, and Mr Quigley is very uncertain. I think his classes will soon close for the summer. However I think it will come right in time I told the man at the Bank all about Feenavarna and how I had kept it up to have a place to entertain the R Cs and he got much interested. He said it was much best to leave it now. But you know it is one of the compensations of the times that one is so confidential with everybody. It is no longer a personal matter that you were on such chummy terms with the Romans It has become everybody's affair, and the Bank Manager quite recognizes that Feenavarna was kept up to his very great advantage. But I am sure India is a good bit cheaper. There has been a rise in prices, but I think it must be a good deal less than here. So much the better I am sure. if it is so. My mind is setting strangely towards the selling of Feenish when the times comes. but I shall of course do nothing hastily. I cannot move in the matter for a year, and by that time I shall see whether certain expectations germinate. I do not quite know what I expect.

Apr 17 1922

ply in a general way I look forward to great changes in the methods
by which Church work will be carried on, and I think I may feel
quite free to sell, when these acts which practically make selling
impossible come to an end. I do not know what has happened to
Feenish the Elemental. It no longer inhabits the house called by its
name. Is it living here? or has it advanced in the scale and got beyond
being an elemental so that I do not recognize it?

Agnes sweet is the stage where you get off the tram for Clifton
Park Avenue. You often walk up to Feenish, it saves a halfpenny.
It is very tiresome about Kitty's eye. It has received so much care always
that it did seem a likely thing it would get well. Is the second eye
quite sightless?

I should think Emily Lutchens is five and forty. Did her talk about
India carry any conviction? On the surface it all sounds likely
enough but she is I think a great crank. I am glad Ellin Salmon is
a little nice. I think as a girl she was only objectionable except that
there was a sort of heartiness about her. Good natured is I suppose a term
of abuse, but you might have said it about her not unkindly. Fancy the v p
turning up in London. Seems rather odd somehow.

G b Yrs R

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1922
Apr 17. 1922

A Ap Q17 1922

Dear Kate You will have seen in the paper that we had heavy firing here last night but it seems that none was hurt. The "unofficial" I R A attacked Beggar's Bush barracks where the official I R A have their headquarters, also they attacked a lorry in the street, also someone fired at Collins on the steps of his hotel. I was waked about 12 30 by tremendous loud reports. I quite thought they were firing in the street outside. There came both single shots and volleys. X came running in and she said it was from the back, and it turned out that she was right but I could hardly believe it. I went outside on the stairs for a few minutes then it left off, and I went back to bed. I heard more firing further off, and then went to sleep and slept quite well. What firing that I heard was from Lower Mount Street. Margaret who is maid to the O'Sullivan's was in the middle of it. She was at a party and coming home and the shots were flying along the street. About Saturday night opinions are divided. Some heard heavy firing about one on Sunday morning, but no one heard it in this house only Miss French next door, and the paper says it was there. But all these night firings are reported very scampily. You never really know what or where they are. Poor little Miss O'Sullivan the invalide was very much upset. She says she is longing to get out of Ireland, and X says Oh well they cannot put her out of Ireland because she has as good a right here as anyone else and she is going to stay. The elder Mrs O'Sullivan that is to say Miss Kitty is quite on the valient tack but it is very hard for the little sick one. They had a most awful experience last year with ambushes and raids on Stephen's Green. But Miss Kitty has work in Dublin that she cannot leave. I said Oh well every decent person who stayed here defied the indecent ones and it was very splendid to stay and was helping to settle the country. I blew my trumpet as loud as I could because it does poor little "Dossie" good to hear its martial strains. I said that at last a good general would come and deliver us, and when poor Miss Kitty began in a conscientious manner that after all the people did want to have what they had been fighting for (I had suggested that words of command in Irish might suffice to appease national sentiment) I said "But when the general comes he will disfranchise all these poor silly people who cannot use their votes, and we will have a higher franchise and set up a Free State that shall be the admiration of the world." and Miss O'S said "Oh the sooner the better" and I said "Yes yes as soon as possible" The paper says that at Sligo Griffith's meeting was an unqualified success. The rival I R As exchanged shots and killed no one. It is reported that one man was shot but it is said in very small print so we hope it is not true. In Belfast "sniping was widespread, and general It lasted for ten minutes" so thzt might be worse.

Op 18. 1932

15 1932

Dear N. After all the fuss and bother yesterday so I kept this back

The Lux and Nugget have arrived and are perfectly lovely The price shall follow as soon as the officers are open. They are well worth the postage.

I have been having a great doing of accounts, and I have come to the conclusion that I should be more comfortable if I were to earn a little. The Guild is started now It is only to keep it up and see what comes. For that I do want rather more money, and altogether I want more money Cash is so very convenient in a rev. I am therefore making enquires for one or two more Mrs Trenches who would like to be read to. I have not been to her for about three weeks. She is often not well or otherwise occupied, so with her it is a great burst of reading and then a long pause. But if I had a person or two more it would all help, and I do not count at all on Mr Q's money If firing is to become at all " general " he may have to give up his classes. I am going at first to ask a shilling an hour for reading and then put up my prices as I become more sought after. Miss Gobson is going to talk to her favourite favourite doctor about it. She thinks he might findme some suitable people Being a life member of the L L is a great recommendation of me. Dear me I wonder ought I to say eighteen pence an hour. That is what Miss Gibson is going to say As I think of the L L I think perhaps I will.

I like reading out loud and I like being with sick people. I can often cheer them up, andmake them laugh and forget the stateof the country. Yes I think I will say eighteen pence.

Yrs R

The Irish Times is advertising for "serpical" articles, and I am planning to try them with you and the Marquis son of Louis 16 She can I think be made into an article if she & B will send me the book I have asked for, whether he can be made into a "serpical" article remains to be seen. If he can I could write next on that kind of subject but of course it is just an experiment. Anyway it will cause me to write the article.

"The four Courts" is miles away on the bridge south side

Assistant teacher

1922
Apr 18. 1922
Apr 18 1922

Dear K. After all the post did not go yesterday so I kept this back and here is the five and eight the things and one shilling postage. I cross it for greater security.

No more firing here as far as I know but incendiary fires of the most hateful description in Belfast.

I am worried slightly about my Indian letters D says that nine of March 2 arrived with yours of March 9 I have always posted on Thursday by the last post to Kingstown, the regular boat post at Westland Row. That gets them to London on Friday morning, and generally it is all right. It may have been an accidental delay of course, and it may have been a letter spending an odd week here. I am going now to post in a big envelope to you earlier in the week, and when you see the seal you will know it is only an enclosure and just post it on. I do not want my letters knocking about in the post here for a week.

I say I heard no firing today certainly there was none at night but I thought I heard machine guns about two today. It might have been only artillery practise at Beggarsbush, and of course it might have been fighting, but everything looks very quiet.

You remember Dixon the florist in Nassau St? He has his chief nurseries in Belfast so there is an adv in the papers from him to say that he has closed his Nassau st shop in accordance with instructions from the I R A boycott committee. That is the "unofficial" I R A. The official do not recognize the boycott.

The Irish Times is advertising for "topical" articles, and I am planning to try them with one the Dauphin son of Louis 15. He can I think be made into an article if the L L will send me the book I have asked for, whether he can be made into a "topical" article remains to be seen. If he can I could write more on that kind of subject but of course it is just an experiment. Anyway it will amuse me to write the article.

yrs R

The "Four Courts" is miles away on the Quays
North side

... and as a Protestant teacher

Apr 15 1922
1922

A AP 15 1922

Dear K You will have seen that the "unofficial" I R A occupied the Four Courts last night or rather the night before last. Also five people are killed in Belfast one in Besseque street opposite the water hospital, also in Sligo the "unofficials" have "proclaimed" it forbidden a meeting, and Griffiths says that the meeting has not been proclaimed, and he is going to hold it, whereat the Mayor and the civil population of Sligo are very much alarmed. So where one thought last weeks in terms of weeks and possibly months one thinks now of days and possibly weeks, and very probably hours. The city is quite quiet for so far, (4 p m) everyone making ready for Easter.

Last night I was outside one of the newspaper offices when the stop press came out. The boys were running like lunatics for the papers. But I paid no heed for I never buy an evening paper. I should not have known about the Four Courts till this morning only Miss Proctor brought word about ten last night.

I am gladder than glad to be here and not in Belfast. One cannot possibly guess the next move, and it would have been most harrassing to have to decide whether to spend Easter there had this news come to me at Everton St. Of course it is quite possible that all may go on in comparative quiet for a few weeks yet, but to tell the truth I do not expect that. I feel as if "decisive action" had come very near. If it has likely you will know about it as soon as I do. I always think of your hearing about those officers being killed on Sunday afternoon, and I felt no assurance till Monday morning. It was only what the milk boy said, and he had not got it quite right.

So you can send me word if anything very startling happens.

The music yest rday in Christchurch was so beautiful that I am thinking of going there again tomorrow. A whole big choir men and boys unaccompanied You cannot think how well it sounds.

Yrs R

1922
April 21

April 21 1922

Dear Kate I am relieved about the Indian mails. But is it not queer that it is only now my letters have begun to be late? However now I shall write direct from here on Wednesdays and I guess it will be all right.

You say you cannot make out whether there is anything serious going on or not. Neither can I. There is firing every night, ("I did not wake you" said X at one point "It was only sniping, not volley firing") and in the morning we are told no one was killed. That is as may be. No one would like to admit casualties. I see in the paper today a great account of an attack on the "Wellington barracks" lasting for an hour. We did not hear that I myself heard only about twelve or fifteen shots (not volley firing) I do not know where they came from.

By day the streets are quite quiet and we go about as usual. The people now at the Four Courts seem to be independent I R A They are commanded by someone called Rory O'Connor, and appear to be under no one's command. Today the Labour Party says that they must be admitted to a Conference, and then Labour will make a proposal. and there is to be a strike on Monday a general strike, to show I suppose that Labour is a party which really exists. I wonder does it? There have been no Irish classes this week, and I have had a series of little tea drinkings of which the last is to be today. It is the same everyday. We begin to converse very cheerfully on indifferent topics, and gradually we work round to public affairs and we tell stories in turn of whatever horrors we ourselves have seen. I am awfully glad not to be in Belfast. This city is far too unquiet to be left. I was in Merrion St yesterday between this and Stephen's Green. The College of Science is there, the ~~an~~ great place with pillars, and a big clock, and the houses opposite have great holes dug into their walls. Not so very many of them but quite decent bullet holes and in one house some of the windows have had bullets through them That is because the College is occupied by official I R A and some of the others came and fired at it, and it replied and hit the houses opposite. I wonder can the labour party really do anything? If they can they had better.

Now who have my guests been? Miss Moore of the Belfast settlement. Miss Bligh of the Guild. Ethel Macnaghten Those were on Tuesday. Yesterday Miss Story, introduced to me quite at first by Miss Stokes when we were at Florence, but reintroduced because she joined the Guild. and Mrs O'Brien, for today Miss Mitford Posy's friend and Miss Padham. Mrs O'Brien is really very nice, and she has asked me to go to tea next week with her and meet Katharine Tynan. now Mrs Hinckson Tynan. It is a queer feeling being with these ladies. We get quite quickly onto very intimate almost affectionate terms. We seem like a remnant. And at the same time we are desperately important. With us are the great

traditions. Like it or not the country cannot do without us. It will have to consult us, and consider us in the end. I know it will. A great many have fled. The Dail is now allowing no young men to leave Ireland without passports. It wants to stop emigration. What sense in that? Several boys have been turned back for the want of these passports, but once people want to go they will go, you cannot keep them. In the upper class people are going in great numbers. Mrs O'Brien is very unhappy about her three boys She says the two eldest just must go to the colonies There is no opening whatever for gentlemen in Ireland at the moment. She still has hopes for Horace. He is twelve, and she thinks she may be able to get him into the Irish civil service perhaps, if an Irish civil service has developed itself by the time he leaves college. I say let the elder ones go to the colonies Sir Horace spent 15 years in the states and is none the worse an Irishman for it. Sir Horace is a great friend of the O'Briens and this child Horace is his godson. Still Mrs O'B asked me how long he was in America, and I said I thought from the age of twenty five to the age of forty, and really she was quite cheered. I do seriously think that the younger men ought to be sent out of Ireland now. All this anarchy would be very demoralising for a boy starting life, and I would like them sent far far away. In England or Scotland they would so easily settle for life, but a man who is told that just for the present there is no opening in Ireland may roam about the world. build bridges or introduce electricity or the like of that at the ends of the earth, and come back a most useful member of Irish society before he is at all old. I think in her place I should definitely send them away in that spirit. I think perhaps I shall say that to her one day. I think it is really weighing upon her that she must not keep them at home, and I think that need not be at all such a tragedy.

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Well there is something in convent life I will propose it Now will
Daddy suggest anything else Oh will he say one word ? ;No he has nothing
to say All right I am off " I feel as if that were the story and I do not
like it atall.

From what you say I gather that Kitty has not gone to France I suppose
that plan with Dorothy Bussy fell through.
I have heard the Messiah twice in Belfast. But it did not last anything
like 3 1/2 hours I suppose they only sang selections.

X says I am to be sure and tell you that people came and painted up
outside Glasnevin cemetary " Arise You are all wanted " The charwoman
told her this interesting news.

Yrs R

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Dear Kate It is worse and worse that the news gets each day. Yesterday a real " battle " at Mullingar, and today three people murdered in Dunmanway (west Cork you know) apparently only because they were protestants. I must say I think the R C Bishops were unwise in the course against crime which they put out yesterday. They denounced all crime with a good deal of vigour and then began the usual whine about protestants trying to exterminate R Cs in Belfast, It was an awful pity because if they had left that out the rest might have done a bit of good. I think panic fear spreads abroad and people have this horrible idea for which the Cabinet at Westminster is responsible that the right way to get justice is to practise retaliation. It is to me the most horrible part that the one thing where everyone seems to agree is whatever happens we must not have the Crown forces back again.

" This is like having the palack and Tans here once more " That is the most awful account you can give of anything. I do wish it were not so. I do wish we had had proper martial law under a right minded general a year ago. I am glad to see that some of the Belfast people are beginning to ask for martial law. I do not know why they do not have it there. I wonder so much is the Lord Mayor afraid of having the class of outrages introduced that went on in the South. Is he afraid for instance of being murdered himself once he puts the city in charge of the soldiers. I am told it is the Lord Mayor when there is one who has to ask for martial law, and that martial law is in practise the will of the officer in command.

The Quigleys have asked me to go down to Jarbury with him in the motor on Thursday next, and I have consented if the city keeps quiet. They wanted me to stay for " a week or a fortnight, " but I have refused for more than two nights. We have had no shooting at night for about a week, but the Four Courts are still in O'Connor's hands, I hear that his brother says of O'Connor that he has had " too much cinema " I can well believe it. Mary Close came in here this afternoon They have a friend of about their own age, who was married in Co Galway Men came in at night and demanded arms and the friend whose name I cannot recall threw herself between them and her husband. There was a fight very much hindered by her exertions. But the husband though not killed was injured, and had to come up to a Dublin nursing home. His wife came up likewise, and one morning her maid went to call her at the hotel where she was staying, and the door was locked and she made no answer to repeated knocks, so they broke the door, and there she lay in bed, quite dead. She had had sudden heart failure. The idea is that she was strained in the fight and did not notice it. Mary says she is

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thankful that her own parents are both dead. Mary in her queer limited way is a real patriot. These people of whom she was telling went to the heads of the offices in Dublin and complained about being attacked and the poor Free Staters said they would do all they could to find out who did it, but of course all amounted to nothing. Sir Horace goes on with unabated vigour saying her has hopes for the country. He joined the other day in one of these constant meetings of protest. Everybody is always protesting and asking "the Government to establish peace. They seem to find some sort of satisfaction in giving utterance to their ideas but beyond that I do not know that they accomplish very much Sir Horace is always rather interesting about America He says that at one point a great many American Irish wrote to ask him if they could come home and be sure of finding work because they thought New Jerusalem was going to be built here. (That last expression is mine not his) " Now such letters come no more It is the other way" He also says that the young men are being prevented from leaving Ireland so that they may join the Free State army.

and women having a couple of years of peace followed by a general election on a raised franchise which might well produce some sane form of government. But in such a scheme as that the difficulty would not be with any Irish party. The really embarrassing matter would be to face his Majesty's ministers. When a governing assembly like the House of Commons loses all interest in its work, and all sense of responsibility to the subjects whose affairs it administers I do not see what you are to do. I am now inclined to wish that the Imperial forces should not be employed at all. What I want to hear is that there is a clever young officer in command of say the West Cork battalion of the I R A I want to hear not from one or two, but by the mouth of general rumour, that he is occupying barracks in say Macroom, and that his drill is so good and his corps so generally attractive that all the boys are wild to join, and he will only have a few. I want him to spend some months getting this one battalion properly drilled so that it may become not part of an army for which there is no need, but the germ of an efficient police force. I even I myself can see what play it is with all these lilly boys in Dublin. The sandbagging at the Ballast office and at Mildare St Club is so badly done that one cannot help noticing it, and I am ashamed of myself if I allowed such untidy, and obviously such very feeble defences. So I would have a year spent quite quietly in drilling and police instruction. Olliver spent a year you know over his " new model" and see how well it paid him. At the end of the year I would have the battalion, which by that time would contain many members of the

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Dear Kate I think it is rather piteous when Mr Gitton M P asks the Speaker whether his answer means that the Government has "~~jettisoned~~" the national honour by its Government of Ireland acts. If "jettisoned" means "thrown into the sea (which I suggest as an interpretation) surely no one can ever have doubted that phrase very aptly described what happened at the "Truce" and was confirmed since. I wonder do some people really think still that the Northern and Southern Parliaments here are anything that can possibly come to any good, and do they still also think that quite in the background of everything there is a strong solid body called "England" which will some day step in and put everything right. Miss Mitford was talking so foolishly the day she came here, and Miss Badham was half agreeing with her. Miss M kept on that "of course England could stop it all in one second if she chose" and I thought of father saying what a foolish habit it is to speak as if England and Ireland were two women having a quarrell. I feel no doubt that under a general who was both soldier and statesman, the Imperial troops could break up the I R A and the Specials and could give Ireland a couple of years of peace followed by a general election on a raised franchise which might well produce some sane form of government. But in such a scheme as that the difficulty would not be with any Irish party. The really embarrassing matter would be to face his Majesty's ministers. When a governing assembly like the House of Commons loses all interest in its work, and all sense of responsibility to the subjects whose affairs it administers I do not see what you are to do. I am now inclined to wish that the Imperial forces should not be employed at all. What I want to hear is that there is a clever young officer in command of say the West Cork battalion of the I R A I want to hear not from one or two, but by the mouth of general rumour, that he is occupying barracks in say Macroom, and that his drill is so good and his corps so generally attractive that all the boys are wild to join, and he will only have a few. I want him to spend some months getting this one battalion properly drilled so that it may become not part of an army for which there is no need, but the germ of an efficient police force. I even I myself can see what play it is with all these silly boys in Dublin. The sandbagging at the Ballast office and at Kildare St Club is so badly done that one cannot help noticing it, and as for the windows barricaded with furniture books and bedding I should be ashamed of myself if I allowed such untidy, and obviously such very feeble defences. So I would have a year spent quite quietly in drilling and police instruction. Olliver spent a year you know over his "new model" and see how well it paid him. At the end of the year I would have the battalion, which by that time would contain many members of the

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The Law Courts
Protestant teacher

old R I C moved out of its barracks, and it would be planted somewhere and then gradually it would be seen that where the West Cork appeared confidence followed. There would be no murders no robberies no irregularities of any sort in their district. and if anything did go wrong next day would come an arrest, then a trial and sentence all in due form. And when that was seen in one place the whole country would be calling out for West Corks to come and take care of them. and General Monk would pass from one degree of distinction to another, and at last he would be military governor of Ireland. If he were not more fortunate than Cromwell he might have to take away baubles and turn out assemblies, or he might secure working majorities for himself in the Northern and Southern Parliaments. That would no doubt be better than kicking them out. Then should come the raising of the franchise, which I am convinced is the permanent need, the election of the same assembly, of course only one, and then I think General Monk should have an attack of influenza and die in twenty four hours. That is the best end I think for the benevolent despot. After being military governor he would never be able to adapt himself to the most reasonable of Parliaments, and one must have a Parliament of some sort. The military rule in these days could not last for more than a year or two if so long.

It is a nuisance for Mary Wills She cannot take out probit on her Mother's will because the irregulars still occupy the Four Courts. Therefore she has no one penny of money. It is all quite straightforward about the will, and if she could go to the Courts she thinks it would be a matter of a few minutes. Did I tell you what someone indeed I heard it was his own brother... I cannot finish that sentence but if I told this story before I apologize. Someone was in a restaurant with the Brother of Rory O'Connor who commands in the Four courts, and the brother said of Rory " He has had too much cinema" I hear that the distress in town is dreadful 1 500 are now added to it. added 81 mean to the people out of work. They worked at the Docks, and when the Ballast office was seized by the Irregulars about two days ago, all the dock work was stopped, and these 1 500 were thrown idle. The Ballast Office is also the head quarters of the Port and Docks. Mrs Trench has some parcels waiting to go to various starving people in med- and eastern Europe, and she is afraid to send them. Apparently starving people always want clothes and she has made up three parcels two for children, and one for men. They are waiting. The Ballast Office looks as bad as Kildare St Club Just the same untidy heaps of sandbags in one or two windows, and untidy heaps of furniture in others. At the Four Courts they are I hear using deed boxes and law books for barricading purposes. There is trouble today between the two sections of the I R A It is to last till Monday. I shall try and see the Law Courts before it ends.

Protestant teacher

three rooms for the family.

You will wonder why I am not at Garbury The truth is that the last few days I was very poorly. On Wednesday I had a temperature of 101 yesterday it sank to 100 today it is subnormal, so I hope it is all right again. I had some slight cold with it, and I called it having a cold. I am much better today and I think it is all right but of course a motor drive would have been madness. I had to tell Mr Q about the temperature in order to get off going to see him, and I had to be very careful only to say to X that I had a cold because wondrous to relate she is most dreadfully afraid of temperatures. Is it not very funny that she should be. The thermometer terrifies her, and she expresses her terror by sneers and jeers. She herself took Mrs Philpot's temperature every day for many years, but she says it is too wonderful, and too mysterious and she cannot bear it. So to her I only said I had a cold.

I hope you will go to Brighton, I think the Brighton air is quite peculiarly good for you, and it would be pleasant to see that rummy old Agnes again. Yes I think I believe more in Brighton than in the specialist but you can see him if Brighton is of no avail. It sounds to me just the sort of thing that sea air does sometimes take away.

I am wondering about getting over to England X goes on May 30 till July 1st. Did I tell you? Miss Wills's maid is coming to me for that month The Wills household is broken up in May and I have engaged this girl for the sum of two pounds for one month Jolly cheap do not you think? She is a good servant, and her only drawback is a temper which bursts out three or four times a year, so in one month we think I may see nothing of it.

Do you see a suggestion made by someone, in fact I think it is the London correspondent of the Irish Times that a mansion house fund should be opened in London for the relief of refugees from Ireland? The Government wants to help them and thinks that would be a nice non-party way of doing it. I do not quite know why but somehow the idea makes me laugh But what was I saying? Oh yes about coming over myself If anyway possible when X comes back here I must go to Belfast. Even if I do not see the poor people I must go. I am planning to have Feenish made into two flats. and I want see whether such a thing is feasible. I think Mr Dodd would consent because if he took the lower flat it would leave him plenty of space now he is alone, and I could reduce his rent substantially. My idea is to put a little gate at the foot of the stairs leading up from the drawing room. Then in my own room I would cut off a piece and make it into a bath room, and put in a gas fire and make the rest into a kitchen. and then there would be

three rooms for the family, and I would keep the two attics for myself. And some day very very far off. I would build windows to both attics, and make one of them a kitchen and the other I would cut it two with a curtain and it would be a bed sitting room and there would be a little corner for myself whenever I liked to go there. Some day and not so very far off, the Mussons will retire and leave Heenavarna, and then I should like to give up the house and to have this possibility at Feenish. But I would not build or do anything very big at present. I think I ought to be able to let such a flat as I describe for £45 and the lower flat for £65 that is £105 and about £80 or £85 for me charges being paid. Well I suppose it would be £80 and charges being paid now I only get about £55 It might be a very good spec. But one must be on the spot and consult house agents and such like.

Suppose things went well, and I spent July in Belfast over that, and seeing the poor could I come over to England for August. That is what I should like but I feel very doubtful. You see to speak frankly I do not know how I can leave Dublin for as long as two months till the I R A is under some proper control. It is obviously "too much cinema" combined with this dreadful unemployment. Ever so many men join the I R A for a living, and when the funds run short they raid banks to get more. They cannot be put under proper discipline till there is a sound state behind them, and there cannot be a sound state till they are under some real control. Talk about the elections is all nonsense. How can free elections be held when the country is in such a condition that I and many others are hindered in the most lawful and important travelling. Either the election will not be held at all or it will be a mere farce leading to nothing, and these bands will go raging about the country, and then how can I leave this house? It is too much for X to be left really in charge. At the present time she is not well she has had a cold many months no perhaps only many weeks long, but she cannot throw it off, she never says anything about the shooting except by chance, but I know it worries her, and the sound is awful and the poor little ladies on the ground floor turn to her for consolation. That is a good thing and takes it all off her mind, but it does not take it off mine. I think we must wait and see. If one had confidence in LLG that would be such a help One might then say Perhaps the election will go republican, and perhaps LLG will take over again. And now one says Well anyway the Crown forces are gone That is so much to the good." There are just a very few Black and Tans left at Gormanstown and one of them was murdered the other day, and they came and burnt ever so many places in Drogheda and fired into the houses all along the street and left a paper to say it was a reprisal.

... in DUBLIN, and as a Protestant teacher

Ignorant brutes. What did they "take again" out of Drogheda? It was a retaliation, and that ought to have been very plainly pointed out to them. Yes I think we must just let it be for the moment. Times may unexpectedly improve. Or if not you must come over and see me.

Yrs R.

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... as one of the best teachers in Dublin, and as a Protestant teacher