

Strathearn,  
Scalby,  
Scarborough.

12th Dec., 1939.

Dear Cousin Julia,

I ought to have replied to your very kind letter long before this and sent our thanks for the beautiful pictures of Niagara and souvenir of their Majesties' visit to America, you were good enough to send us, but the truth is your letter has made two journeys to Orkney and is there still.

Knowing how interested our nieces in Kirkwe (Mina & Peggy) would be, I sent it to them, asking them to pass it on to the Village (St. Marys) where Alfie and Jamie live with their families. Well, it seems that Alfie was in at "The Vard" one day & read the letter, which was posted back to me so afterwards. But you had said such nice things at Lottie and Aggie that I wanted them to see it so I sent it back to them and they have it still. That is quite a long explanation, but it tells that as I have not the letter before me now, I cannot refer to its contents with certainty.

I do remember, however, that you asked if Scarborough was in Yorkshire. Yes, it is on the Yorkshire Coast and is called because of its beauty, both natural and acquired - "The Queen of Watering Places". It is a fashionable resort and is very full in the season. We live at Scalby, a quiet beautiful village three miles inland and revel in the freedom away "From the maddening crowd". I may be able to send you some pictures and snapshots by and bye that will make our position and course clearer to you.

And now we are at war, and you commented when you wrote, upon my silence on that question. Knowing that you are all keenly interested in what is going on, Willie has placed an order for the King-Hall News Letter to be posted to you every week during the coming year. It will keep you informed and it will be a sort of link between you and the Home-Land.

Commander Stephen King-Hall is now M.P. and I fancy he will prove a useful member of the House. I used to listen with great pleasure to his broadcasts in the "Children's Hour". He is a born leader and a great believer in the League of Nations. His old Father (retired Admiral of the Fleet) died a few months ago. Stephen served on one of our ships in the last war and his breezy direct style of diction, smacks of the briny.

I think I have worked for peace all my life and we both support The League with all our hearts & have been members of The League of Nations Union since its inception. At our age we are unable longer to work actively for it, but with our pe

Teacher  
His  
ships

Union

Pend

and our purses we do what we can.

We do not feel that The League has failed. It is like Christianity- and has had too much lip service. The Covenant is all right & if all its signatories had remained loyal to their pledges(our own country included) the state of Europe would be vastly different today. The Key note of the League is "Collective Security"- or a standing together against the aggressor, whoever he is. But you see, the application of "Sanctions" was optional and when put to the test, the various countries fought shy of using them. We felt that our country should have given a lead when Japan attacked China in 1931. But our Government stood aside, and the others followed suit, even after having declared Japan to be the Aggressor. So Japan got away with it- as Italy did later on on over Abyssinia, and later still Hitler over Austria & Czechoslovakia, - and now Stalin is the offender over Finland.

Willie and I are pacifists because we think war is senseless & wicked, and we believe that differences should be settled in law courts & not on battle fields, but we are not extreme pacifists who would not resort to force under any circumstances. There is all the difference in the world between force against the law, and force behind the law, and we feel that some sort of International police force will be necessary so long as there are breakers of International law. Some sort of a body will be needed- (call it what you will) to frame a workable code of international law and it will need to be strong enough to make that law respected.

Terrible and wide spread as this war may become, we cling to our faith in the progress of humanity. There is little evidence of bitterness between the peoples of the world, none of whom want war, and this is a big step forward. Have I tired you with all this I wonder?

I need hardly tell you that our dear folk up in Orkney are in the thick of it now, but all their letters to us are censored, so they are obliged to confine themselves to purely domestic news. They are all well however, and at last Jamie and Lottie have got possession of their little farm and are happy there.

Willie and I are just pegging away as usual-taking each day as it comes, and hoping we may not become burdens to other folk. Willie was 78 last week, and next April, all being well, I shall be 77 !!!

An old friend of ours in Sheffield, Sir ~~Ham~~ Henry Coward, was 90 last month, and his daughter wrote and told me that the other day he walked eight miles! He is a grand old man who talks of himself as being in the youthful eighties! I don't know what adjective he will apply to the nineties, but he now calls himself a "Lay Padre"

and is ready to go about helping & consoling the afflicted & bereaved during the war.

He believes in beginning each day by singing "awake my Soul" - You may have heard of him as the world famous Chorus Master in his younger days

And now I will end this long screed wishing for the quartette that form your household, many blessings during the coming year.

Willie joins me in thanking you for the pictures, and in sending love to our cousins over the sea.

Your affectionate cousin

Teenie Sinclair.

Original is eight pages of very fine hand writing.

MY GUESS  
THIS WILLIAM WAS  
78 IN 1939 SO  
CIRCA 1861  
PROBABLY WILLIAM  
SINCLAIR & CHRISTINE  
STEPHENS OF JUNE 1828

"  
TEENIE"  
"CHRISTINE"

YES CHRISTINE  
& JULIA 1867  
WERE COUSINS