

August 13<sup>th</sup> 1926  
Auckland Castle,  
Bishop Auckland.

My dear Harold,

I am more than usually doubtful whether it is right for me to accept sponsorial duties towards a baby, so far distant in point of <sup>space</sup> distance, and severed from me by nearly 63 years.

By the time he is old enough to think about Confirmation I shall be either in my grave or in my dotage, & in either event unable to be of service to him.

However, I must allow something  
for the tie of blood, & I must  
needs infer from your wishing  
the boy to have a Bishop for his  
Godfather, that you really mean  
to bring <sup>him</sup> up to be a good Christian;  
and, therefore, I will put aside  
my scruples, and consent to  
"receive him at the Font" as  
his Godfather. You will find  
somebody to act as my  
proxy, to make the responses  
in my stead.

And I enclose a small  
cheque (£10), which will suffice  
to procure a christening cup of  
silver, and to have inscribed on  
his the boy's name with the  
addition. " from his Godfather,  
Herbert Hensley Henson,  
Bishop of Durham",  
and the date of his christening.

If, by God's mercy, the boy  
grows to manhood, he will be  
glad to have a reminder of  
his baptism, & a link with  
his English forbears.

I am recovering from my operation, and hope to resume work next month - but I am warned to go slowly for a year. after which I may hope to be stronger than ever.

This obstinate coal dispute causes me much anxiety. I hope that it will be a thing of the past by the time you read these lines.

With kindest regards to your wife, I am,

affectionately yrs.

Herbert Dunelm.