

February 14th 1937

Auckland Castle,
Bishop Auckland.

My dear Harold,

Many untoward
circumstances, which I need
not describe, have hindered me
from writing to thank you and
your wife for the charming pictures
of your children. I am very
pleased to possess them, and
wist more than ever that you
could have brought them to see
England and to stay here. The
time draws on — I am in
my 74th year — when I must
retire from the Bishoprick, for
although there is no retiring age
for Bishops, yet I could not

rightly continue to hold office.
after it had become apparent that
old age was beginning to impair
one's efficiency. It would have
been a pleasant memory for the
children to have stayed in a famous
house, for such Auckland Castle
may be called, and although, in
these strange times, the ancient
pomp has vanished, and the
Successor of the Palatine Bishops
must live on his memories, yet
we should have been able to give
the youngsters enough to eat!

I send you a copy of the
Bishopick, which contains an

Article on the Coronation.
which I hope you will find
time to read. As Bishop of
Durham I have to "support
the King on the right hand", a
duty which is more conspicuous
than onerous. However, it will
necessitate my attending the
great Ceremony, which - such
is my horror of crowds - I
should certainly not have done.
if I had been free to follow my
own inclination. However, your
Aunt will be pleased to see
the great Pageant, and she could
not have got admission if
I had not been required to go.

The aspect of the world darkens daily. It hardly seems possible that another European War can finally be averted; and, if it comes, there may be an end of what we call Civilization. We seem to be locked into a malefic machine, which is quite deaf to reason & mercy. Everybody professes to desire peace: and nobody dares to cease preparation for War. If the issues were not so tremendous, one could but laugh at such a spectacle of madness.

With affectionate regards to your wife, & my Blessings on the children I am,

Yours loving Uncle.

Herbert Dunelm: