

1.
December 9th 1934

Auckland Castle,
Bishop Auckland.

My dear Nephew.

I write to send you and
yours all good wishes for Christmas
and the New Year. It was a
disappointment to us that your
projected visit to England did
not take place. We hope that it
will prove only to have been post-
poned, and that we may have the
pleasure of making the acquaintance
of your Wife & children, and of
seeing you again. I think it
would be an interesting memory
for the youngsters, if they could

visit this House, which has much historical interest, but Time marches, and I am past 71. Even if my life is prolonged, it is not probable that I should have vigour enough to continue in office much longer.

Unemployment continues to shadow this part of England. There here is little, if any, lightening of the gloom. Nor, indeed, can I see much foundation for the optimism which is so general in this country. The outlook outside Great Britain is more than ever filled with ^{menace} gloom.

In the far East, a situation is developing which seems to make War almost inevitable; and in the Balkans, there is a most uncomfortable state

of affairs. The folly of mankind is inscrutable and infinite. Just now the civilized world has the aspect of the herd of Gadarene Swine stampeding under the impetus of the demons! And Winter, hitherto mercifully & unseasonably mild, may, and probably will, add its own larst Emphasis to the ill fortunes of the Unemployed throughout our Western World.

I am (as far as my public duties allow) absorbed in the preparation of a course of Gifford Lectures, to be delivered in St. Andrew's University next autumn. My subject is Christian morality, natural, developing, & final. and my purpose is to show that

there is no substitute for the
Christian morality such as the atheists
of Russia & the Nazis of Germany
vainly imagine. - There are to be 12
lectures, & I have not yet succeeded
in distributing my subject satisfactorily.
Something of this kind will probably
take shape:

1. Introductory - the subject stated.
2. How Religion affects Morality.
3. What is Christian Morality?
The Witness of Civilization.
4. In what sense Christian Morality
is specifically natural.
5. In what sense Christian Morality
is developing.
6. The historic indictment against
Christian Morality.
 1. Asceticism
 2. Intolerance
 3. Inadequacy
7. The Finality of Christian Morality.

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8. The historic Christ.
9. Influence of the Church in perpetuating & applying the principles of the Founder.
10. The modern Revolt against Christianity considered.
11. Christian morality & modern science.
12. Summary & conclusion.

You will see how vast is the range, and how thin & cursory must be the treatment. Probably as I advance, I shall find myself necessarily abandoning one whole aspect of the subject after another, until in the end, I ~~shall~~ limit my argument to but a small fragment of the general design.

But if I can succeed in stimulating thought, & pointing a direction, I shall

not wholly have missed my aim. I discover as I get to work how severe is the handicap of advancing years. Not only is my power of work much restricted, but my natural force is abated. My mind works more slowly; my memory is less trustworthy; my knowledge is largely obsolete. Moreover, a life-time of practical work makes the task of continuous thinking & writing uncommonly difficult. So you will see that I am in no good heart for my undertaking, & begin to suspect that (to use a vulgar Americanism) I "have bitten off more than I can chew".

Enclosed is a copy of the Sermon which I preached last summer in the Merchant Adventurers' Society's Chapel in York. The occasion

and building were interesting: The chapel is a wedge of medievalism in the modern world. The sermon was not worth printing, but old Lord Jamesport, who was among my hearers, insisted upon going to the expense of having it printed in order that it might be presented to the members of the Merchant Adventurers' Society: and he sent me some copies.

The public mind just now is largely filled with the question of India. This week the Government Bill is to be introduced into Parliament. I suppose it is my duty to go to London, & take part in the division in the House of Lords: but I hate going to London, & I am not sure whether

I shall do so. Much will turn
on the prospect of the division. It
would be disastrous if the Government
were defeated, & unfortunate if the
majority in its favour were small.

The Prince of Wales visited
the county last Thursday, and made
himself most agreeable. His capacity
of sympathy is a great asset, and
I think it is but bare justice to say
that his zeal for the Unemployed
has been of large public service.

May God bless you, & yours
in the New Year, & bring some
happiness to the distracted world!

Your affectionate Uncle,

Herbert Dunedin;

Harold Henson Esq