

Tel. Hintlesham 238.

1.  
December 10<sup>th</sup> 1939

Hyntle Place,  
Hintlesham,  
Ipswich.

My dear Harold.

Your letter, dated  
October 29<sup>th</sup> 1939, was  
sent on to me from  
Auckland Castle, and  
reached me about a week  
ago. I was very pleased  
to receive it, and to be  
assured that you & yours  
are well. I not wholly  
forgetful of your relations

in England. Last February  
I resigned my Bishoprick, and  
sank into the penurious obscurity  
of a pensioned Ecclesiastic

It has ever seemed to me desirable  
that Bishops should not continue  
in office when their powers begin  
to fail: and such failure may  
be safely presumed when one has  
reached the age of 75. Accordingly,  
when I had become so old, I  
sought and received the King's  
permission to resign my office.

I bought this house — a  
small Elizabethan house, built  
about the year 1580, and I  
caused a study to be added to  
it large enough to hold some  
books, & give me elbow-room  
for writing.

I had hoped  
that you could have brought  
your wife & children to stay  
at Auckland Castle, which is  
famous and beautiful. This  
little house is certainly not  
famous, though it does not lack

the kind of beauty with which  
the Tudors were able to invest  
even their smallest buildings.

We shall <sup>hope to</sup> manage to house you.

if, and when, you come to the  
Old country: and we hope that  
in a calmer time that will be  
arranged.

I miss my  
work, and my friends, badly.

But, of course, that privation  
is one of the inevitable  
incidents of old age, & I may  
not reasonably complain.

2.

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The darkened streets, and restricted supply of petrol, make movement nearly impossible; an effect of the war which we regret the more, since we are thereby hindered from getting to know the County, and making acquaintance with our neighbours.

I have just published  
a book on "The Church of  
England", in which I set out  
some of the conclusions to which  
I have been led in the course

of a ministry extending over  
more than half a century.

There is no reason to fear  
that I shall be without work  
to employ my leisure. Indeed,  
I have a list of literary  
commitments which is excessive  
for so old a man.

This is the strangest of  
Wars. Today completes 14 weeks  
since it began, and we are  
still wondering how it is going  
to begin! The emergence of  
Russia as Hitler's ally is a

most dismaying new feature:  
and nobody is clear as to its  
significance. I am glad that  
we are quit of the Bolsheviks.  
They are more properly our  
Enemies than our allies; but  
how we are to deal with them  
is not apparent. The response  
of the Empire has been  
magnificent and heartening.  
I cannot think it reasonably  
possible that we shall be defeated  
in what is certainly a Crusade.

Are you a student of Browning's  
poetry? If so, you will know  
the wonderful soliloquy of the Old  
Pope reflecting on his duty in face  
of a frightful crime. It begins  
with

"And is this little all that was  
to be?"

and ends with.

Well, is the the thing we see  
Salvation?

With all good wishes to you &  
yours for Christmas, & the New Year.

I am.

Your affectionate Uncle,

H. Hensley Stenson  
Bishop

Harold G. Stenson Esq