

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 1 Folder 2 Letter 13

Letter: S.T. Medd to his wife, Estelle, whom he addresses as "Stell," 2 April 1916. Scott Medd is on a course at Shorncliffe and is despondent about getting to the front. Family and local affairs. Describes a dinner party to which he was invited.

Notes regarding the transcription:

In this transcription, most misspellings and grammatical anomalies which occur in the original text have been maintained. Occasionally commas and periods have been added to assist in clarifying the sentence structure. Square brackets [] indicate indecipherable text.

TRANSCRIPTION

Envelope:

"On His Majesty's Service"

Mrs. S.T. Medd
452 Charlotte St.
Peterboro, Canada

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2/4/16

My Dear Stell,

I received eight letters on Friday, three from you (to say nothing of the enclosed letters of Mary and Scott, but more of them anon.), one from Mother, one from Fred, one from Arthur, from Edna, and from Rolland etc. P.C. from Paul []. Well didn't I have a feast; I read yours through twice. One was dated Feb. 23rd next 27th and the other one Mar. 6th. My dear girl I cannot account for your not getting a letter for a month as I write each week unless by some chance, I am away which is but seldom just now. Capt. Nelson showed me a letter from his wife stating she had not heard from him for over a month. Yet as I know, he writes every Sunday night. I am still on the staff course here at Shorncliffe and expect to complete it in another 6 weeks. It should end about May 23rd. I hear so many rumours as to what we are being prepared for that I have quit paying any attention to them. General H----- s [Hughes] is here at present. I have as yet been unable to see him to try and find out what we are [here] for. As a matter of fact, he inspected the staff and their work here last Monday. A lecture was going on & word came over that he was on the way. He had quite a retinue. All the command head [] he walked to the front of the hut and stood looking us all over, I suppose. Told the lecturer to go on then

asked him a question or two. I was in the middle of the room, he said to one of the staff "I see you have Medd here," then called out to me, "What are you doing here?" I got up and saluted to answer when he said, "I suppose you are taking this course,"

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I replied, "I was" to which he at once answered, "I suppose it is all right." When he was leaving the room he shook hands said he had no time to wait & to see him later which of course I will. Personally I feel I would rather either get over or get home if there is no [] prospect of need here for senior officers which by the way is what is said to us. I could be of more use in Canada helping to pay taxes than here. At the same time, one's hands are absolutely tied. No control at all of one's movements. It is for all the world like the [position] Stewart of the Cereal Co. holds Gen Managers in. You remember he kept Mr. Macdonald in Peterboro for a long time after [Durham] [came]. I believe & trust all do it so they always have people ready in case of casualties. Well it is exactly the same here. Just another rumour I was told by a 39th officer that as soon as this course was over I would be transferred to that Battalion and my chances of leaving England would be small. If I only knew or could form any definite idea of my being held here I could let you know and we could consider whether it would be well for you to come but my dear girl what I have been afraid of all this time is that I should bring you out here only to find me moved off and I see so many cases of just that thing that I see it is absolutely the wrong thing to do. I have heard of a number of instances. People getting to Liverpool expecting to meet their people and instead getting word they had gone over. It must have been so disappointing. Now dearie you will I suppose wonder why I have written

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this when all along you have been a brick and have never said a word but believe me it has been constantly in my mind and if I see there is a definite prospect of my being held here you will know about it quick. I suppose Sutton feels he is well advised bringing his family here as they have no relatives in Peterboro. I think his job will keep him definitely in England. He is in what is called an Assembly board, a sort of court of enquiry that considers and reports on cases of sickness, etc. He fell into it by accident just as he was beginning to wonder what he had been recruited for. He told me at Bramshott that his Practice was so broken in Peterboro that had this not turned up he did not know what he would have done. Of course, dear, forget I told you this although he did not tell me in any confidence. As a matter of fact, he seemed to think it rather a good joke. It seems things were pretty bad with him last spring and summer and finally he decided to try for the Army in order to relieve the domestic situation. Apparently, they had a hard time making ends meet, even in the house. He says he was rather turned down the first time he went to Ottawa but determined to try his hand again when Gen. H. was at the Peterboro fall fair 1915. He expected to get an invitation to the reception but for some reason he can't account for, didn't. So almost 4 p.m. or thereabouts, got his family into his ford (--- a ford) & was on the way when he met his friend the Minister being motored back. He turned

into a side street and well to use his own words he travelled that car the [] and arrived at the wrong hotel in turn. They away again

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again to the right one only to find that Matthews or someone had the guests off sightseeing but later got on the track and seen his man and got placed. Well girly, this letter is rapidly turning into a history of a part of the life of The Sutton family, so I had better stop.

I am so glad you had Fred down when he was returning from Millbrook. When he said he was for dinner at the hotel it likely was someone he had to see. And Stell dear, the reason he came in without telling you know was so that you would not be putting yourself about for him. He is one of the [] fellows that every breathed. He would do anything in the world for any of us. He must have a lonely life on the road all the time.

Arthur wired me and I succeeded in getting away. As I write, we spend Sat. afternoon and Sunday together. Later he stopped over night with me here and hit it off next morning. I need to get a snap of him but it was a very dull morning & I failed but better luck next time. I note what you say about R.M. and do hope he may get cured.

Sweetheart I felt like young Lord when I got your white socks. They looked too good to wear. The box arrived Saturday all O.K. We had a feast. I made coffee and Nelson and [Giamelli] and I ate a loaf of Boston Bull bread and about half the candy. It was fine, as we have not had the most luxuriant mess lately. We more than appreciated the contents of that box. I shared the bread, least it should spoil or get stolen, but the socks and the balance of the candy went into the bottom of my trunk. I tried on the socks this morning and they are all right. Next pair you can if you will make the toe a trifle longer to allow for shrinkage in washing. I am sending a pair of grey socks to each of

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a couple of the boys in [Ft.] but I will keep the white ones; they are so soft and fluffy. Do you mind?

Your father's cigars came in before the letters and were most acceptable. Thank him for me, Stell.

I will not say anything about Miss McCollum unless Art does. I had not heard the American version as to the cause of the war but it is very good. Yesterday Punch shows a very frightened Crown Prince rush up to his Father sitting on a broken keg and call out ["Fadder verdun"]. If the German does not get [this] there he may not be done. But I believe he will be more than half done. Of course, you should be proud about that [] affair. 50 time proud and once a year at that for 10 years. Good boy, keep on thinking.

Stell I could suggest that if that thing Russel takes to sitting in that pew again you should simply tell him, and so he can hear, that we pay for all the sittings there and propose to use

them each Sunday morning and to move somewhere else, that he or any one is welcome to it in the evening. I find the only way to deal with an Englishman of the louder type is to be very plain, no use in being timid or mincing words. The creatures do not understand gentle treatment. I think the Churchwardens might very well see to it. Perhaps you would rather do that, but you will be foolish to put up with the animal. There is no telling that will be of any use. Just have him turned out.

I suppose Charlie got the check, further I suppose he felt that that would be one way of getting both the cash and the cheque. Pretty good for Charlie. He can go a step farther and later hock (the kizar) piano. I mean [] the deal will figure out...

(I) wedding gift cheque 500.00

II extra to pay balance on piano 400.00

III hocked piano 300.00

Total 1200.00

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Stell can you tell Edna from me that I like the second snap because in it you are looking right out into the world, saying as it were, I fear no one and I know it and if you know a better gate to swing on than mine, go to it. It will not worry me. The other snap is good.

When I read how you handled the situation at the [P] meeting I was delighted. The idea of the people you say were holding down the platform makes me tired and mind you it is just because they take themselves seriously and are accepted at their own valuation that they are able to do it. I know you feel it is not worth bothering about, but I tell you it is. The people who relegate all the best things to themselves in public in our little city simply use other people's efforts and money and the great unwashed think it is their own efforts and money.

To take a picture in the house set the camera shutter at 8, turn the bulb stop to "time", put the camera on a side table and get the room into the finder so you can see what is going into the picture. Then press the bulk and wait say 50 seconds & press it again to close the shutter. I was very glad indeed to get the snaps. I think you have a very good one of the dog at the door. The one of the children in which I could hardly recognize, they seem to have grown so (by the way I weigh 160 so am not failing). And I think the picture of the two looking at each other after Mary has rolled in the snow is fine, the smug look on Master Scott as if he were just saying 'look out I'll do it again.' I will cable you in the morning as you will not get this letter for some

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time and I have just heard that some of our officers have been in action and there may be some casualties. Here is a story in return for yours; I hope I do not, as you say I do, leave the print

obscure. Two men had been out late the night before. Next day they met, one said to the other "Well what did your wife say to you when you got home last night, late wasn't it ---- you know you were afraid she would scold." The other man answers --- "my wife's a jewel, she did not scold a bit. In fact she didn't even ask me where I had been or what had delayed me; but late as it was she sat down at the piano and began to play and sing. I tell you she is one in ten thousand." The first man, "What did she sing?" The second, "TELL, ME, THE, old old STORY."

I will write a separate letter to each of the kiddies. They will like to get it that way. I quite understand the pictures they draw and Mary prints her name very well, but they must send me the key to the cipher before I will be able to decipher the letters. I trust all is well with you and the kiddies. My darling believe me, your affectionate husband.

SM

P.S. I should have headed this, girlie, Vol.I. Make a note of this when I cable you. The words "nothing new" will also mean that I am well. Also, that a cable addressed Mrs. Medd Peterboro means Mrs S.T. Medd 452 Charlotte Street.