

TELEPHONE:  
WILLESDEN 0682.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS:  
PHONE, WILLESDEN 0682.

# The Catholic Missionary Society

THE MISSION HOUSE,

1<sup>A</sup> BRONDESBURY PARK, N.W. 6.

Tel. Northwood 1537

Gatehurst,  
Gatehill,  
Northwood. Middx.

10th January 1941.

My dear Marjorie,

It was nice to see your fist again, which, if I may say so, is improving rapidly, owing no doubt, to your being in the sleuth department.

First of all - congratulations, and may you spike Hitler's guns. Was it under your direction that Haw-Haw got it in the neck? I am sorry of course, that your Christmas was a bit upset owing to the sudden change-over. Yes, mother and Christine are splendid the way they are standing up to it, and it has been most unpleasant at Bromley at times. Thank you for all your sympathy over the Mission House tragedy. It certainly has been a pretty appalling time humanly. We thought the high explosives bad enough, but it was the limit when the landmine was added. Whether we shall ever get back to the Mission House we do not know yet. Our architect has sent in a claim for three thousand pounds damage. The walls, which are very massive, are, according to his reports, still firm and structurally sound. My Fathers were dispersed for a considerable period, and I myself was working for about five weeks at a London hospital on the bombing casualties as a priest. It was terribly harrowing, of course, but I

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found the responsiveness of both Catholics and non-Catholics amazing, and learned a lot from them. For the moment we have gathered together at this house in Northwood. I am now looking out for a larger place. People have been very good to us in sending help. Luckily, our capital has not yet been touched.

It will interest you to know probably, that almost all the stock of the whole Masterful Monk series, i.e., six books, went up in the great blaze with Longmans. I do not know what is going to happen about them, but I imagine that if the paper can be procured they will reprint as soon as possible. I am only in the same position however, as hundreds of authors. As you know probably, Paternoster Row and Ave Maria Lane are the publishers' great quarter. Personally, I should like to see the devastated City area left as it is with railings round as a monument to human folly.

I enclose with this an American copy of "The Tremaynes" as a little addition to my measly Christmas present of the chocolates. I have heard from Edmund and Katie and the others quite frequently recently. They seem to be going strong in spite of the War.

As regards meeting, yes, I shall be delighted. Could you meet me on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday of next week, i.e., the 15th, 16th or 17th at 1 p.m. outside Oxford Circus Bakerloo Station, and we could

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have lunch somewhere and a pow-wow. But please do not argue  
with me in my shattered condition!

May I have a line from you to the above Northwood address,  
if the Intelligence Service allows such snappiness. It will  
be great fun meeting again.

Until then - cheerio,

*Uncle*

Miss Marjorie Dudley,

Box N. 100,  
W.D.O.,  
London, W.1.