

TELEPHONE 47.

Perhaps I may see you in the vacation. I shall have to be in London for part of the time, because I want the Museum reading room. I look forward very much to seeing Mrs Busdon, especially after seeing her picture. This Ganett Jones is

working hard at a social science diploma & will be in soon. I did not tell you that her husband had been killed at the front a couple of months before we met you in Yorks. Yrs sincerely E. Flower

GIRTON COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Mr Busdon

Thank you so much for your letter. We were very sorry to miss you, but shall look forward to seeing Mrs Busdon when she comes back to London. We only just called on the chance of finding her, because I happened to be up in London for the night - ostensibly to read at the British Museum, but really to go to 'Tristan'! Your brother is coming here this week - on Wednesday. He is going to have a debate with Mr Coulton (who wrote 'The Main Missions of Pacifism') under the auspices of our U.D.C., upon the necessity for starting peace negotiations. ~~He is~~ Mr Coulton is a great National-Service-Leaguer & hates the U.D.C., but he is a very nice man. He is also a fine medieval historian, and historically I am

at his feet up to 1500, but after 1500 we never seem to agree about anything. However I should be a very good debate & it will be very nice indeed to have Mr. Brodson again. I don't know what to say about the question whether there is a growth of public reason about the war. Sometimes I think there is & sometimes (after cabinet ministers have been speaking) I feel deadly depression about it. But I often feel that it is very much a matter of age: I find the younger generation up here, so much more moderate (even if it doesn't agree with pacifists or the U.D.C.), & the older generation so intolerant & fire eating. Youth & the army seems to me in favour of peace, & age & the press against it. However I recognise that that is as untrue as all generalisations must be. I am very much cheered to hear that you find a change in the house: I do believe that there is a mass of moderate opinion in the country which is almost if not quite ready to discuss the basis of peace negotiations. If only we were not so closely tied to our allies in the matter of making peace, it would perhaps be easier for our ministers to take a more moderate line.

Girton College
Cambridge.

Dec. 11th 1916.

Dear Mr. Buxton -

I am very sorry that I have kept this so long - we have been involved in the end-of-term rush & as I always accumulate hours of coaching to fit in during the last week, my own correspondence gets neglected.

I have been very much interested in the draft letter, which you sent

(i.e. U.C.)
so extremely pacifist that it
will obviously have no real
effect on the final decision. If
only the middle party could
express its opinion. The
"Nation" does it - of course -
but that appeals to such a
small section of the public.

I sometimes think that it is a
pity that the U.D.C. has be-
come identified in people's minds
with the extremists - though
its 'platform' is not extreme.
Personally I am one of the
extremists by conviction - that
is when I am not trying to
make a compromise & get
at the practical & expedient

me and which I now return. I
am convinced that your contention
is perfectly true: [no one who
looks at the extracts from the
foreign press printed in the Cam-
bridge Magazine could fail to
see that it is Mr Lloyd George's
'knockout' speech and the
Paris economic policy, which
is keeping up (very naturally)
the German ardour for the
war.] It seems to me that
the present change of ministry
is a terrible fatality - but
perhaps it is not really as

bad as one feels at the moment.

in [I think that it is probably
true that the German milit-
ary successes are at present
too great for them to be
likely to consider reasonable
peace terms :) but that will
not last long & even as
things are I feel sure that
the moderate party would
have got a greater hold, if
our spoken policy had not
been either too violent for
German self respect even to
contemplate peace - or else

course of action to be persued
at the moment. But I do
think that some body like
the U.D.C. might have been
very useful at this juncture, &
I do not think the U.D.C. can
do the necessary work,
because public opinion simply
lumps it in with the extreme
pacifist movement. I do
hope your draft letter, which
expresses the middle view
which ought to find expression,
may do good.

I am coming to London
tomorrow or Wednesday,

I think, & shall probably be
there all the vacation, except
for a few days at Broadstairs.

So I hope perhaps I may
see you & Mrs Brewster, if
she is well enough.

Yours sincerely

Silvestro

I am busy looking for a country
cottage near London, but I
shall not find a XIV century
one, I fear.

Wasn't it maddening about

your brother's debate ?