

William Hugh Peal,
Fyeter College,
Oxford.

May 26, 1923

My Dear Henry:

Thank you very much for your most interesting letter and the enclosed clipping. Morrow was an ass and a scoundrel. He couldn't speak three sentences without grammatical errors. Mrs. Morrow seems to be as coarse - certainly she is as ugly - as he is.

It seems that you are able to have a wild time in Detroit. I wonder if you really enjoy the orgies. I have had a few wild days in Europe but I cannot say that they meant more to me than the long calm evenings in La Center, St. Louis & Lexington.

It is great news that we have heard from Lexington. It has not been so long, Henry. I shall never forget the early days of the Fraternity. We had many decisions to make, the wrong choice in any of which might have ruined us forever.

You ask about women. I have almost decided that I must some day have a French wife. I like both their appearance and their ^(over)

outlook on life. As to the present, I see very little of women. I have had two affairs since Xmas, both short, but lively while they lasted. One is an American girl who is studying in Europe. She is cultured, gay, a cultivated musician; in short she is an exceedingly charming companion. We have had a rather hectic romance, broken with quarrels & reconciliations. She is in Oxford now for the "Eights Week" celebrations. Just at present we are estranged again; & I think we have gone far enough.

The other girl was from a lower social strata but is in reality far more interesting. She is a little French shop girl in Vendôme, where I spent part of March & April. Really Henry, she was a darling. She had the ability to make herself believe that she had fallen in love with me & almost convinced me that I was really in love with her. If I didn't see her twice a day there was a great row. I can "barley" fairly well now, and I have learned all

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William Hugh Deal,
Exeter College,
Oxford.

the language of love. I am a little sorry in one way that I knew "ma mignonne", because if I ever marry an American girl, she will be a little Pole after the flaming, caressing "enforte" in France. But Henry, she was a dear. God help me if some newspaper man should ever see & translate some of my letters to her as an interesting feature story. I should love a French woman of good family & good education. Leaving the physical entirely out of it, they are charming & witty companions as well as faithful & industrious helpmates. An American woman studies how much she can spend for clothing etc. A Frenchwoman studies how little she can spend.

I have my examinations in less than three weeks now. Everything you know depends on that final exam. I wouldn't mind it if I had been in good health, but I have been sick half this year - a bad case of indigestion.

Well, here's best wishes in

Love, War & Business. Remember the
Donkey in November. He can't possibly
put up a worse man than either
Harding or Coolidge, the former both
ignorant & weak, the latter well
educated but very weak.

Sincerely,
H. Hugh Paul

EXETER COLLEGE,

OXFORD.

May 8, 1924.

Dear Henry;

I was very glad to hear from you again. You waited so long that I thought you must have taken my remarks on the election seriously. I of course feel deeply for the agricultural states. And I deplore our economic policy with all my power. We are living on our capital; and in another generation we will have followed England's example. We will have put all our eggs in the industrial basket, to be endangered by every

America. But after June
the Sixteenth I shall
be travelling about
England for a few weeks.
If she comes to Oxford,
before that time, it
would give me great
pleasure to show her
the place. After that
date I might be able
to make my itinerary
cross hers somewhere.
I am certain that she
is charming since
you like her; and tell
too.

"A Daughter of the gods,
Divinely tall and most
divinely fair."

I too have just
had a birthday, the
twenty-seventh. No
gray hairs or other
visible tokens of
decay are to be seen.
However, I do not
feel myself a boy.

Your suggestion about
locating somewhere
near you interests
me very much. I rather
have a fancy to St.
Louis; but if I do
not get located
there, I may try
Detroit, Cleveland or
Chicago. If you know
any lawyers, do a
little inquiring about

war & disturbance in
any part of the world,
you see I still think
in terms of economics,
although I have softened
some exaggerated views
I once held.

I shall be very glad
to see your lady friend.
I am in Oxford now grind-
ing night and day on
my B. C. L. (which corre-
sponds roughly to the
American J. D., but which
includes a large amount
of Roman Law) I have
only been able to do
the two degrees in
three years by the
fact that I had read
history, political science
and economics in

EXETER COLLEGE,
OXFORD.

any openings there
may be. I don't mean
to saddle any errands
on you, just casual
inquiries, which can be
made without trouble.

I spent six weeks
in Italy in ^{March} April and
May. It is a very lovely
and most interesting
country. Rome is a
never-failing treasure-
house of art and learning.
Florence is the city
above all others in which
to study art. And
Venice is a city, than
which there can be
~~none~~ ^{none} fairer. There is

one word that describes it - radiant, you may imagine London, Paris or Vienna from your knowledge of American cities, Venice in sunshine is altogether different. Not so good a city for amusement as Paris, not so artistic as Florence nor so interesting as Rome, Venice is more startling than any.

It is perhaps the strangest of all cities in one respect. I saw not a single horse or motor car, can you imagine a city which Ford has not conquered?

I am returning in
July. If my present
plans hold I shall
sail on the *Mauritania*
on July 4th. It is
like losing an arm to
leave Oxford where I
have spent the three
best years of my life;
but I suppose I must
go to work in a harder
and sterner school.
Nevertheless I am very
reluctant.

I hope to hear
from you about the
young lady. Fraternally,
Hugh

W. H. Seal,
Exeter College,
Oxford. OXF. ORD

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Mr. H. J. Beam,
536 Book Building,
Detroit Mich.
U. S. A.

William Hugh Peal,
Exeter College,
Oxford.

Dec. 6, 1924.

My Dear Henry:

It was very refreshing to receive your kind letter, and to know that you are so well on in the matter of "making your pile". No doubt you will sail by me in a Packard, too proud to look on such an humble member of the proletariat as I when I return. Of course I must say that you let some fine opportunities slip, when you are on your summer vacation; no disrespect intended to the young ladies. Don't let yourself go too long Henry. If I err not in my calculations you are a year or so my senior; and I have had a twenty-sixth anniversary, full nine months ago. I have never regretted a love affair; and if I had the last ten years to go over I would have more. Think how little the dear and rigid virtue of the celibate will benefit you when you are an old man, trying to warm your feeble bones by the cold sun of early spring, or listening to drivellings of the local minister. Almost the saddest sight in the world is the woman who has spent the golden years of her youth denying her nature in the name of an imaginary something she calls her virtue. Have you seen or read Eugene O'Neill's "Diff'rent"? If not, I advise you to get two hours of pleasure therefrom. No doubt all this is blasphemous to you; but you remember that I was always ^{thus}.

You are very wrong about me being glad that this is my last year at Oxford. I should like to spend the rest of my life here. Naturally I want to return to my Family and friends for visits; but nowhere in America have I found any place that so completely exists for the ideals that I prize; nowhere else have I seen a community of men who exist for the sake of learning for the sake of learning, and not to make money or a reputation out of it. If I should fall heir to a million dollars tomorrow, I should buy a house in Oxfordshire, and begin to try to be the Grotius of my age. Perhaps all this may sound very strange, coming from a good American. Well I should not change my nationality. Like the other five hundred thousand Americans ^{in Europe} I like to be an American, but I had rather live in Europe where one has personal liberty and intelligent and cultivated society. I do not mean that Americans are less intelligent by nature than Englishmen; perhaps they are more so. But the American mind is warped by money making, automobiles, movies, prohibition, in fact all the routine of a luxurious and utilitarian civilization. And the annoying part of it is that we are so democratic that we insist on everyone else following the lead of the majority. Well democracy is a good thing for a country, but, if possible, I had rather be one of the aristocrats in an aristocratic country. If you meet one of the average classes in England, you are astonished at his stupidity. But if you meet one of the upper classes, the Oxford type, you are amazed and astonished at his intellectual power. Now by the use of the word aristocrat, I have no reference at all to birth or wealth; the so-called aristocrat in England is as stupid as his fellow Babbit in our own country. Almost the most stupid and laughable person I have met ^{in Europe} is the Duke of Devonshire, the head of one of the ^{and} ^{the} ^{most} ^{powerful} ^{and} ^{ancient} ^{families} ⁱⁿ ^{Europe}.

William Hugh Peal,
Ereter College,
Oxford.

^{richest}~~nestest~~ families in England. He has been Governor General of Canada, and has held high position in the Cabinet, but he is a fool nevertheless. I do admire the intellectual aristocracy that has grown up around the universities, and has made possible the great literature, the art and the science of England. As long as we hold democratic ideal in education, that is so long as we insist that the man in the street knows more about philosophical and artistic matters than the experts, so long we are going to fail, as we have always failed, in literature and art.

I note that you have decided to support the present administration. Well perhaps you are right. The Democratic Party is as dead as a hammer. They committed suicide in 1920, when they nominated a good man and stood for an ideal against a poltroon and an appeal to the prejudices of the country. In 1924 they had a chance to align themselves with the radicals and make the campaign on a class-warfare ticket; they would not have won this time, but they would have gone in when the inevitable wave of radicalism, which always follows extreme reaction, does come. But they chose to straddle the fence, and nominate a man, able, honest and courteous. Davis could never beat Coolidge with the conservative mind, because he was too liberal. He could not hope to win the radical vote for he is too moderate. Of course the election is all to the good for you and me for we hope to milk the dear "peepul" for our pile. All we need to be afraid of is that the system breaks down before we get ours. I suppose one is entitled to feel a little melancholy pleasure in seeing one's gloomy forecasts come true. Do you remember in 1920 that I predicted the growth of lawlessness, the ruin of the farmer and the decline of America's influence abroad? I dare not show my face in a meeting which is discussing the foreign policy in Europe, for Coolidge is the subject of mirth and the American policy of malediction. The one subject that the American Club at Oxford is united on in Oxford is laughing at Coolidge. Did you see his notice after the election when he assured the people that he recognized the work of an almighty providence of which he was only the humble instrument? That was quoted in every club in Oxford to show that "Babbit" was not overdrawn. I always defend him for I know that he is a true Wilsonian in foreign policy and will protect the business interest and the little fellows like you and me. As the London Times says "Mr. Coolidge's re-election will insure the protection of the business interests of America; and the bigger the business, the more the protection." The choir will unite in singing "Love's Old Sweet Song". Hooray for Coolidge, the Ku Klux Klan, the Baptist Church, Prohibition for the lower classes, protective tariffs, and the American Legion.

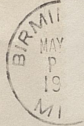
Your letter was greatly appreciated. Let me hear from you again soon.

Sincerely and fraternally

William Hugh Peal

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Interesting letters written by
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