

2-Monroe
3-Blauvelt
4-Granbois
5-Syria

to say his page is over.
The others are better - A.H.
Berlin-Vienna Train; Germany

August 30th, 1935

Dear Homelanders:

These past two days since I wrote you last have been very well occupied with interesting experiences all very useful to me in connection with various intentions of my visit. I leave with the feeling that the American Church can now reopen and carry on its work. That is very satisfactory and I am of course glad that I was able to work the thing out. I called on the leading members of the American community - the Consul General, Mr. Jennings; the head of the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Dunning; the leading American lawyer, Dr. Wirth; and others who promised to support the new minister whom I secured in America, and who came to Berlin to meet me this week. He is an Amherst and Dartmouth man, Reverend Albion Ross, who was for some time in Congregational Churches and more recently in Episcopal Churches in various parts of the country. His son in Berlin, connected with the New York Times, and since Mrs. Ross has come along and the young man is unmarried they have set up housekeeping in a small apartment where I lunched with them yesterday.

The Church was not closed by the German government, but by the former committee in charge of the Church. It was done to make possible a new start and to get rid of a committee which did not seem capable of carrying on. I have authorized Mr. Ross to set up a new committee after he has had time to find out who are the people who should be on it. In view of his long experience and his sound judgment I think he will form one that will do the work satisfactorily. He was much pleased when I took him around and showed him the Church. It is a fine building, very well equipped and churchly in architecture. To have it standing there closed that all might see the visible failure of the only American Protestant Church in Berlin has been hard on those who care at all about the institution. Mr. Ross is willing to give his services without charge and I think for the present it would be impossible to raise the money necessary to pay a pastor. Too many Americans have left and the financial situation is most unfavorable. A dollar brings only about two and a half marks in German currency instead of the four and a quarter which was normal before we went off gold. You can see what that does to Americans with a dollar income. And prices are good and high in Berlin any way.

Tuesday I had lunch and a long conference with Mr. E. T. Colton, formerly of the foreign department of the Y. M. C. A. I have known him for many years and regard his knowledge of the European situation as exceptionally extensive and trustworthy. It was a treat to have run into him, as I did quite by chance. I knew his plans for the summer did not originally call for his being in Berlin at the same time I was. But he changed them and our visits overlapped one day. He now writes a book every year or so and lectures in many parts of America. If you ever hear of his being in your part of the country go and hear him, for you will learn a lot.

That afternoon I worked on the American Church problem and spent the evening with some of the people most interested. We find the Consul General most sympathetic. I think he will be a real help. Curiously enough when I met him, as I may have written you, I found that we had known each other in Siberia in 1918. (As I write I am sitting in a compartment of the train with Dr. Koren of Norway whom I have met this morning by chance, and whom I have known for some years. He is the head of the Bible Society there and tells me that yesterday on the train he met the Australian representative to the League of Nations, only to discover that he had taken him into the Church twentyfive years ago in Norway!)

Wednesday morning I started out by having two hours at the headquarters of the Nazi headquarters for work with Women. Dr. Unger, who is a department head, had written me in New York that she wanted to talk with me. I found her a very charming person. She was born and brought up in Yokohama, Japan, and lived near my old college room mate Ferris Booth on the Bluff there. She had on her desk the picture of the present pastor of the American Church in Yokohama, who is a friend of mine and with whom I correspond from time to time. We discovered numerous other mutual acquaintances. Her mother's family ~~from~~ are from Ohio, but she is German and one of the small inner circle of the Nazi party, personally acquainted with Mr. Hitler and the other leaders. She is a genuine idealist, as one can see in meeting and talking with her. I was glad to have a chance to hear her talk in reply to my questions because she is the sort of person who reveals the reason why young Germans of the best sort are so many of them keen supporters of the party.

She had been disappointed with the Church when she was in the university and feeling particularly the weakness of her country. She had gone to Church faithfully and heard nothing that seemed to her to apply to the needs of everyday life. So she began to think about the possibility of a new religion that would take the place of the Church. She thought that it would have to be rooted in nature and the race. At the same time she began to be disgusted with the rotten shows in Berlin, almost all of which were given in Jewish theatres by Jewish companies. The sex literature and other low magazines and papers were everywhere on the news stands. She turned a listening ear to the Church and heard nothing from the Church concerning the cure of these evils and the general need of the country for strength and new moral tone. Then she came into touch with the Hitler movement and began to feel that here was a group intent upon the new Germany for which she longed. Their emphasis on race and blood seemed to her sound and she got more and more certain that the troubles of Germany were due in the main to the Jews. All of the rot that the party put out concerning the world plot of Jews to conquer every country she apparently swallowed whole and with complete gullibility began to think of every Jew as a menace.

Now she says that she does not agree with some of the methods that have been used against the Jews but that the methods are incidental. The main thing is to drive them from Germany. Her passion for service has found expression in the organized work for women. It is a fine work in most ways and excites ones admiration for the thoroughness of its organized expression of mutuality and classless democracy. They have work for all classes of women; but it is carried on in such a way as to minimize class and exalt the idea of their common allegiance to the nation. Mothers are trained; workers are advised; girls are placed in homes and schools; camps are established all over the country; and there is systematic instruction on all manner of arts. The other young lady who took me around the offices was born in South Africa and spoke English perfectly. Incidentally the fact that these two women came from outside of Germany made me think of the strange fact that many of the leaders of the party have thus come from outside. Hitler is an Austrian; Hess, deputy leader came from Brazil; Rosenberg came from Russia; and there are others whose names and homes I have forgotten.

Of course I was not there to argue with my hostess, although I found it impossible not to ask a number of pointed questions. I got the same kind of response that I have gotten before from the enthusiasts of the party. They cannot believe that the whole thing is not divine in its origins and destined to show the whole world the way to progress. They are perfectly sincere in their conviction that while the campaigns of the present use violence and force and deception the end justifies the means. It is one of the most dangerous things in the world because there is so much in it that appeals to the best youth. Its false basis in the absurd rot about blood and soil one cannot disprove to the enthusiastic believer. The fact that Hitler is clearly and definitely responsible for the dark murders, oppression, lies, militarism and anti-religious activity of the party does not seem to dawn upon those who really disapprove of many of these things. They think he is perfect and that he cannot make any mistakes. One of the professors at the University of Berlin, for example, told a friend of mine the other day in answer to a question "I do not know and I do not know anyone who does. But certainly Hitler knows and someday he will tell us." It is pathetic and grotesque.

When I was talking yesterday with the office of the man responsible for the settlement of the Church difficulties - Herr Kerl - I pointed out that this sort of thing in the universities would drive out all the many foreigners who in the past have come to study in Germany and who have in the main been her good friends in all lands. They cannot seem to see it, however, and I suppose the madness will have to take its course.

But to return to my tale - After visiting the Frauen Werke G. H. Q. - the head officers of the work for women - I had some writing to do and then went for dinner and the evening with Professor Julius Richter of the University of Berlin. I have known him nine or ten years, have had him in my home in Leonia, and have been before with him in Berlin. We had a very long discussion of many aspects of the problem and worked on plans for his next trip to the United States which will take place in a few weeks. He is a grand old Christian, a ~~stout~~ stout fighter against the abuses of Hitlerism but in many ways a disappointed and broken man, although he tried not to show it. What he had to tell me about some aspects of recent developments in Nazi policy confirmed what I had discovered before. The battle against the Catholic and Protestant Churches is now linked with the battle against the Jews. The papers are

more and more violent in their attacks and claim that the leaders of all three religious groups are traitors. It is increasingly serious rather than less so, although their tactics are not quite the same as they were. The demands of the English through my friend the Bishop of Chichester have been heeded because the German government desires friendly relations with England. The 500 pastors who were in prison this spring were released when von Robbentrop went to London and Eden came to Germany. They have not been returned to prison and may not be 1- but they are a good deal more careful than they were about what they say in public.

One of them, an old friend, came to my Hotel room last year and this year. Last year he spoke freely with me in my room. This year he began by putting my telephone under the bed clothes and then talked in a low voice at the other end of the room. That is the result of terrorism. The ordinary visitor will not see it or feel it; but when you get under the surface it is most apparent.

The following day I had a lot more appointments which I shall not describe in detail for fear of wearying you. In the evening I was invited to dinner with a family named Bielicke whose son I have helped in New York and who are very grateful to me for it. They cannot send him money although they have enough so that they want very much to do it. The regulations are so strict that if he were to give me 100 marks in Berlin personally and I were later to give his son an equivalent amount in American money in New York he could be held for treason. Just get that fixed in your imagination! This man used to live in Rochester and is enough of an American so that he is very much disgusted with things in Germany. He told me more about the unrest there is under the surface. But he added that everyone was afraid to show any opposition excepting the Church leaders. In his home I certainly received the utmost kindness and cordiality. The dinner they had for me was a feast. I am taking home with me some clothing and other gifts for their son.

In case you feel worried about my writing so freely, let me say that I am now on Czechoslovakian soil and about to enter the Wilson Station in Prague, named for President Wilson. This is a free country and the mails are not tampered with by sneaking secret police and the like.

Perhaps I had better summarize my German impressions and they stop for now. I am more than ever disgusted and alarmed at the character of Hitlerism and its menace to the best things in human culture and religious heritage. Outwardly and in many respects there is important improvement in Germany. The economic status is improved. The military situation is vastly stronger and this is a source of satisfaction and a sense of security for the German people who of course think it is all defensive in purpose. As a matter of fact there is a basic feud between the army and the air force. The former is not Nazi at heart and its leaders scorn Hitler and his associates - although they do not express this scorn. The latter is purely Nazi from top to bottom. Some day in civil strife the two may be pitted against each other. One of the secrets of Hitler's strength is the fact that almost all Germans wanted their country to be rearmed since the rest of the world had remained armed after 1918 and had increased the strength of all armaments. Hitler has accomplished this and so they will put up with a lot that they do not like because of what he has brought the country in a military way.

The shallowness of the claim that Nazism conquered Bolshevism and saved Christianity is apparent to any careful observer. Most of the worst features of Bolshevism have been adopted by the Nazis and none of the ideals of the Bolsheviks - many of which are distinctly fine. The Church is shaken to its foundations and its leaders more than ever fear that only a small minority body in persecution will remain when the Nazis have finished their propaganda for a pagan state religion. The state of the Jews is frightful although there are few cases of extreme violence now. I spend several hours one afternoon in a secret meeting arranged for me by the American Consul General with a leading Jew of Berlin. I'll tell you later the things about which we talked.

My final mission in Berlin was of such a secret character that I do not think it wise to write about it here. But I'll tell you about it later on. In spite of which I am over the line without even having had my bags seriously examined. The situation is a strange mixture!

Tonight at ten I get to Vienna and will be busy there with the meetings of the Central Bureau for European Aid for several days. If possible I will write you about that later on. It seems good to be almost ready to turn West and start across the Atlantic for home.

Yours affectionately,

Henry.