

Trent University Archives

Medd family fonds

Accession 81-001 Box 1 Folder 2 Letter 7

Letter: S.T. Medd to his wife, Estelle, whom he addresses as "Stell," 10 February 1916. Discusses the reorganization of units and the temporary nature of ranks during the war. Has visited Arthur in London. Family affairs.

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

P.S.

I am writing in ink so it will be easier for you to read. Your eyes will [come] all right. Just give them time.

10/2/16

My Dear Stell,

Yours of 23<sup>rd</sup> just came in so will write you again so as to catch up as I sent all or nearly all my news early in the week letters. This will just be a running comment on the news in your letter.

Now I again want to say I am feeling better since I wrote that, better in mind, bodily I am O.K. but I was for the first time in a long time really down on my luck for last 10 days. In this regiment I think they really are trying to make it pleasant possibly with the idea of my staying with it permanently. As yet I do not know. Certainly the association w'd [would] be as pleasant as the 8<sup>th</sup> but I will seriously consider it before deciding. I can go to Folkstone and take courses till doomsday if I so desire but that is not what I came over for. At same time if I decide to do that, something where I can better use my present & to be acquired knowledge would likely turn up. Presten the Col [Colonel] is an old

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friend and is, if not a total [abstainer], pretty near it and will consequently see to it that we work. [Munroe] of course was a nice fella but Harry Rogers told me he heard that General Hughes only wanted strong men & Munroe certainly had been to [too] long a [departmentally] clerk to have strength. Don't pass this information along as I am indeed sorry the 8<sup>th</sup> was broken up as I believe Munroe & the rest of us could have easily passed the tests. However, I am satisfied now it is ended & all have to hang on their

own hooks. Well enough of this, the past is dead and the future is alone worth considering. I try to write so as to catch the Tuesday mail tho I am told it occasionally does not go on schedule. So you write Sunday's [& if] by any chance (& I do not anticipate it) I do go back I can get back into practice that much the sooner. And unless I can be of good use here I do not intend to stay just to keep warm as I can keep a good deal warmer in Canada.

I note you had Mrs Hill

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for Sunday. Well she w'd [would] be good company but don't lend her anything. She has poor business instincts. Stell that woman has had an awful road to hoe. Hassard told me they seldom had enough in house at Calgary to eat; & that Hill got into every friend that came to the house and they would cut them dead and that Mrs. H was about the same. Their Calgary house & contents were mortgaged from the day they entered it and the doors had to be watched to be sure the bailiff did not get in. Now girlie, is not that a pretty mess? For these people one half the world does not know how the other half lives. But some conceal their troubles better than others & it is not known. It is a good plan to have mothers to tea as you saw, as they do go home earlier. I see [Masi] Hamilton is soldiering well. He is a queer fish & wanted to come with me as my [ ]. I would not have him on a bet he drinks and is rather shady you know.

So Gen. Hughes was down, well he is doing all he can to help them. Am glad Charlie

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is get along nicely re his wound. As I said before, the fellows who get thro can't have to [too] much consideration. Col. Mills seems to bob up serenely. Of course he can't understand he has been getting the short end so long, he probably is used to it now. Speaking of Mrs Matthews, she doubtless finds it hard to come to it that the girls are not [in power] and running the [comm...] but have some sympathy for the poor woman. A man back from the Artillery front said yes there was an officer of that name with the artillery. Well the tone of voice meant something. I did not enquire.

Certainly you w'd [would] not put yourself [about] for the woman. Just look out (excuse the phrase) good and plenty for yourself.

I see Keith Leck is a Major. Well Stell, there will be a whole 'raft' of Majors & Col & general when this deal is all over, but the rank of any one after the war unless he has done something to be confirmed will be that with which he [entered] the English Army. All ranks above that of one's grade in the militia are just temporary it seems. That is all.

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After war take their militia rank again what ever it. This is what was handed out to me by one of the headquarters staff here, so I suppose it is authentic.

Stell, I had a good laugh about Scott and the school. It begins to look as tho if you want him to do anything best plan is to tell him to not do it. Just to back up and he will be for full steam ahead. Or perhaps he just wants to be left alone to figure it out for himself.

I give [ ] pair. I gave him pair at xmas that Fred sent me. He came in just as I was opening parcel. There were two pairs so I divided the spoil. I did the same with Mr. Waddells cigars. So there it goes [away], these ever lasting cigars. Well they have little to think about. Rolly may yet have to get out here & oh my he will be happier. My dear girl you have an uncertain birth day. I thought it was Feb 17<sup>th</sup> so I will not cable as I intended. Write one date. I will put it in my common place book & hope to not need it here.

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This diary I sent you was merely a detail. We were warned as I told you for the front & were looking to complete last three weeks training in two weeks. I am wearing your socks; they are most comfortable. Now go slow for a while as it is bad for your eyes. Yes I suppose R is getting ready for a [burst]. The little pigs may placate the lady (ring I mean) so there you are.

Speaking of that piano, Mrs. Allen offered it to me for 100.00. Of course I am not in the piano business. I do not know you did not like the snap you put in the back. I think it is fine. It is fine working and well I just had a look at it and I say again it is fine. There is a strong same expression that always appealed to me in you. I of course have the other one but I have it tucked away in case anything happens to this.

Speaking of Scott and the Sunday school banner and Mary's interest in it makes me think of my own childhood. I was rather successful but never had any one but Mother to bring my child & boy triumphs to & of course it never was quite the same as if I had a brother or sister near my own age.

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Scott will be trying glasses himself just to see how he looks. By the way I wore glasses for about 6 years after I had that accident. I found the glasses with temples in ear stays most satisfactory as it strains the eye unless you look thro the middle of them. And eye glasses are now [ ] shift. I have not been on leave now for quite a while. Not since I went to Ldn [London] to meet Arthur. This business leaves me without much desire for play.

Well Stell cheer up, it is not much consolation but many are much worse off to night than we two and there is a good time coming my dear. Well love, the kiddies will have my letters perhaps before this one reaches you. I mailed them two days ago and

also writing Edna to acknowledge snap shots of the kiddies & Hugh rec'd from her some time ago. Also a note to Mother. Well I started this letter not knowing of anything that w'd [would] interest you

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and here I am turning the 7<sup>th</sup> page. I learned a little French at Bramshott. There was a French Count or no a/c. Now let it alone I hear you say & his pronunciation helped a little. Believe me, your loving husband.

[STM]

P.S. Continue to address me as follows... Major S.T. Medd 8<sup>th</sup> CMR CE[ ] Army P.O. London, England