

June 14, 1937 5 p.m.

Dear David O.:

I was terribly sorry to learn just now from your brother Thomas that your leg had been giving you further trouble. I do hope you are taking care of it to make sure that you will not have to go limping about in more or less discomfort for a long time to come. Remember the old saw: "A stitch in time saves nine."

I stayed over today in the hopes that you would be able to realize the hope you expressed to me, that you would reach here this morning. There are a number of things that came up that Brother Grant and I came to a unity of the faith on, but I wanted to talk them over with you. I shall jot down what I think of as being the most important.

1.

Speaking of your brother and his visit to me of a few moments ago, reminds me that it has developed (so far as Brother Grant and myself are concerned), that he was banished from Germany when he was on a mission there. Somebody told me the other day that Brother Budge, when he was there as president of the German Mission, had some difficulty until he proved that he was not the Budge who had been banished some time ago.

The German authorities have, I am very sure, kept all of the bad of Kaiserism (probably jettisoning much of the good); at any rate, they seem to have kept their criminal methods. President Grant and I both feel that in view of this fact we ought not to send Thomas to the German Mission, but rather to the Swiss-Austrian Mission. I have spoken to Thomas about it, and he says he would rather prefer to go to the latter place instead of to Germany.

I think that under no circumstances should we send him to Germany without sounding out how the Germans would feel about it, through our State Department, if our State Department would make the inquiry; to make the inquiry would be merely to bring it to the attention of the German authorities, and to bring it to the attention of these authorities would raise the question which would subject Thomas to continuous espionage, and that, it seems to me, would be most unfortunate.

2.

The building at the back.

Brother David A. says that Brother Grant said he would leave to us the question as to whether or not the building at the back here should be completely torn down or only partially torn down. I am for tearing it all down, and, believing that you would be in accord, I have told Bishop David A. to arrange to get his men started, and get rid of the disturbance and dust all at one time. If you have any different ideas you will of course be guided accordingly.