

*Emma Goldman*

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ONTARIO

Feb. 8th 40.

Dearest Ethel

You write your and Regies letters are being "opened" by the secret police. Mine is not only opened but it is kept for days and weeks on a stretch. For instance, your letter of Jan 8th reached me only the 6th. Of course one must make allowance for the slow crossing now. But alas my mail was again held up for 9 days. Your letter was contained in the packet released the 6th after nine days waiting.. I fear this will go on all through the period of the war. It is enervating to be kept in such uncertainty, but I am already grateful that the delay is not so prolonged as the first time when I was left high and dry for nearly six weeks without word from anybody. I tell you we here keep wondering that in England some civil liberties ~~xx~~ still exist. I catch myself wishing I were back. I would not feel so gagged and paralyzed. But I can never think of England without a shudder for the pain and mental suffering I endured there and the narrow attitude of everyone to every step I made there. Then too, as you justly say the few liberties one enjoys in England yet may also not be for long.

I need not tell you how cramped ~~is~~ I feel and how I long for intellectual companionship. Still I prefer it here a thousand times more than my life in London. At least I do have devoted friends and comrades here who appreciate what I am doing and who give me understanding and affection. It is some comfort to know that ~~xxxxxxxx~~ "there is no shadow on your integrity". That would really be the last straw after all the accusations and recriminations hurled at me by those who who claimed comradeship and yet did not know the first principle of it. I too, hope we may meet again, but if I can help it it shall not be England. You may never have realized that you really did not get me to the fullest because while I was in England I was always on the defensive. If I can remain here indefinitely I will and then perhaps you may come to America and visit me here.

You did right my dear that you did not send me the details of the additional crookedness of B. Strangely enough when I got your first letter containing the appalling story I began to question whether R had not also helped himself to the moneys that went through his hands for V. I was never told of the transaction nor did I ask questions. I knew that V. was of sterling quality and I had the same feeling about J.B. And far from suspecting R, I naturally felt they were ~~xxxxxxxx~~ transacting matters honorably. And that was enough for me. I knew what V. wanted the money for. Besides I was so absorbed with the work I was doing I did not wish to step into the other picture. I ~~xxxx~~ questioned the need of R's going on the trip. It seemed a waste of funds and unnecessary. But J.B assured me it was. So I gave my consent especially as I was assured it would only be for ten days. R was away for a month. He never breathed a word what he had been doing. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

It is truly awful that the man also helped himself to the funds intended for such a purpose and for which V. was only too ready to risk his life. Nevertheless it is childish of our Spaniards to judge everybody else because R. has proven a rotter. And it is foolish to say that the whole

Movement has been discredited.", For one R there are hundreds and thousands of our Spanish comrades and comrades in all countries whose integrity is pure light in this our slimy world. No matter how agonizing the ~~disappointment~~ disappointment in a miserable critter like R, and my disappointment is very deep (for I have trusted R implicitly) it is as nothing compared with the feeling of complete security that has come to me over and over again from my comrades who have remained ~~stainless and dependable~~ stainless and dependable no matter how great their own needs. As I said you did right not to send me all the ghastly details. But there is one thing ~~that~~ in your letter that makes me very uneasy. You say J.B. has been a quite unsuitable person to audit the books. Does that mean he was involved with R in the latter's crookedness? That would really be the last straw. Please let me know in a general way.

My letter dated Dec 27th although again full of ~~xx~~ typographic errors has explained that I did not mean the petty cash R used weekly, but it was monthly of course. That letter contained two additional errors, ~~xx~~ in re our Spaniards. I did not mean them, but J.B. which should have read Spaniard. I referred to him and the transactions he and R were engaged in for V. I feel so relieved that V at least is ~~exempt~~ exempt from the least suspicion. He always impressed me as honorable to the highest degree. I wish I knew how he has reacted to the two whom he had trusted utterly. And poor Janet what a shock it must have been to her to find R, so wanting. I mentioned in my last letter to you that she wrote me a violent and recriminating letter because I had dared to say that R. lacked initial and responsibility. I meant in the work of course, not as regards money. Well, life is a process of elimination. One has to be prepared for that.

If nothing else England has thought <sup>me</sup> be a lesson bitter as it was to face it. No, not so much England as my association in the work with English people. It has taught me to be on my guard and not to expect anyone to take my word for granted. And so I have made out a minute account of the moneys I have collected here for the needs of ~~are~~ various refugees. I inclose a copy of the receipts and the disbursements. The accounts have been audited by a public accountant ~~xxx~~ after he had gone through all our receipts. The account as you will see does not include the £40 of my own money which I refunded the amount in salaries I had drawn from the London SIA section before you took full charge of it the latter part of August 1938 when I left for Spain again. I can send you the receipts from Souchy, Mollie A., <sup>me</sup> Berneri and V. for £20 and you will have received £20 by the time this reaches you. I still owe SIA £3 although I left you £7 before I sailed representing the amount paid out to some of the refugees in Paris the last time I was there. Well, my dearest a very painful and bitter chapter of my life is closed for me now that I have appressed my own mind of the ever present gnawing thought of the part salary I was forced to take from the SIA funds. I cannot tell you what a relief it has been to me that I did not have to do it here. That is entirely due to my faithful comrades who had so generously contributed to my anniversary fund. Had I been able to economize the amount should have secured me for two years. But there are too many comrades and friends in distress for me to consider what will happen when the gift sent me for my 70th birthday will have given out. One has to live from day to day at present so there is no use worrying about the future.

We received the second and third copy of V's paper and liked it very much. Especially did I like your article in the 5th number. It is splendid dearest. Strangely enough I said almost the identical thing in the summer of 25 at that same peace conference attended by Ponsonby, Pierre Renus and others. All delivered themselves of the usual rubbish of peace in our present system saying not a word about capitalism needing and creating wars. No one, not even R at that time stressed the fallacy of ~~Realistic~~ Pacifism and the clamour against violence while capital punishment, the birch and every other form of violence is daily practiced by the State and its auxiliaries of which war is the strongest prop of the system. You can imagine how delighted I am to read your article which ~~exposes~~ <sup>points out</sup> the same fundamental error of not only the "wooly women" but also the spineless men. We here would like to support V's publication but we had to write him not to send more than one copy because under the war decree section 39a under which our boys were arrested it is impossible to circulate anything without making oneself liable to a long term in prison. However, I wish when you see V, you will be good enough to tell him I have not forgotten my debt to him or rather to SPAIN and The WORLD which I will send for the use of the present publication directly "my ship" comes in from Holland. In this case it will mean some cash for Bahasa and my material though much less than I had asked and also because of the low standing of the pound. V can rest assured that I have not forgotten the matter and that I will make good soon I hope.

Yes dearest I received your Christmas card. You look lovely on it and your garden so enchanting, ~~and~~ quickened my memory of the lovely times I had with you in your home.

It is alright about not divulging the foolish man who concocted the yarn about my saying English people do not believe in Committees. I don't really care but why would people invent such stories? This is what I cannot understand. In any event I should not have "guzz" bickered anyhow as this is not my nature. It does not matter really whether I know his name or not.

I have another request, could you find out for me without much trouble whether Sidoni Goossens and Greenbaum still live at 8 Wetherby Gardens. I think Spral knows. I sent them a Christmas card which was returned saying could not be found. I want to know because I want to write them to find out whether R has ever shipped the boxes of stuff I left to them. Both Greenbaum and Sidoni had offered to store the boxes for us.

Inclosed is also a recent statement of the status of Arthur Bortolotti. We got him out on \$4000 cash bail a very sick man. I had to nurse him daily to get him back on his feet. He is much stronger though not entirely well. His hearing is next Tuesday the 13th. of this month.

I know you are always a busy child yet I make bold to ask you to see Liza K occasionally. She must be in a terrible situation. No curtains to work on at this time of course. Also she seems to have lost some of her roomers. She wrote me once of sitting alone in the dark house during the black out. She does not complain at all but I can gather she is very much distressed. Perhaps you can invite her one day to your place. It will mean a great deal to her. Of course you are not to say that I have written you about her.

Do write again soon and tell me about yourself and your work.  
With love. *Emma*