

27 September 1943

My dear Besse,

It is so exceedingly kind of you to write and especially to let me have news of friends in the States.

It is difficult to say much yet about the Cambridge post. It was its potentialities which attracted me, not the immediate situation, for the Department had been in abeyance for, I think, four years, and had been very badly let down for the previous ten at least by the last incumbent. The University are, I find, entirely helpful in theory but probably never very good at saving time and rather helpless in the face of official restrictions.

I am so glad you find yourself with a congenial chief, and that you find your actual work so satisfying. I have seen Jack Youden recently, now here on operational research for bombers, and he is certainly immensely pleased with the kind of work they are able to do and at the appreciation felt by the Army Air Force.

No, I have not seen Simon's book, but I think I should agree with you about it. I never met anyone so pretentious with so little reason as Deming.

I should just love to fill the date you suggest in North

Carolina. I have not probed the feelings of our Passport Department recently, but they certainly let me down with a bump last time.

It was so good of you to send stamps for Joan. I am afraid, though, that their pretty pigments must be staining the Atlantic, for she never got them. I am so glad to hear about your nephew; George seems still to be in Africa, though he has visited Malta some time back.

I am glad to hear you're finding the exact fourfold table solution useful. I well recall how happy I was when the idea first occurred to me. What an interesting paper E.B. Wilson and Jane Worcester made of variations based upon it. It is so ~~encouraging~~ when this happens, for I find that in spite of experience I am still seriously dashed at the indifference and incomprehension with which almost any really new idea is at first greeted.

Yours sincerely,