

113 Lakeview Ave.
Cambridge
October 8, 1949

Telephone: UNiversity 4-8921

Dear Margaret,

This brief note may or may not be the prologue of a longer letter in a few days. Its immediate intent is to tell you that the Medical Aptitude Test which Alec and I must take this fall will be given on Saturday, October 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. I will be happy to see you whenever you decide to come, but I think from many points of view a different weekend might be better. I would have little time on Friday, and even less humor. Saturday morning and afternoon would be occupied with the examination. Saturday evening and Sunday, however, I would be free.

What I shall do on the following weekend I don't know as yet. I fear there will be a Hallowe'en party here on Saturday night, and I have already spoken to Alex about going to New York that weekend. But if you came then, that in itself might be a way out. At the moment I have no definite plans. My concern is only to find the gentlest method of telling Aunt Priscilla how implausible I am about parties, and how ignorant about "indoor games".

That is what I wanted to tell you. For the rest, there are many things I could write you, but most of them empty things. Few things are, some are and are not, most things only seem to be. We are frightened by those which are, pained by those which both are and are not, and deceived by those which only seem to be. This morning, in Greek, afraid of being called on to translate a passage of Plato that I have read several times, I broke out in sweat. And then was not even called on to translate. All of life is like that.

Let me close now. I must do some reading for a seminar paper due Nov. 23, but none of my work seems to be especially difficult. Please write me about your plans for coming to Cambridge, will you? And write me about anything else, as opportunity, desire, or need demands. - - - I wanted to say something else, but cannot find words. Some things should not be said but lived, and these, I think, are the truest, most lasting, and most beautiful.

John