

MEMORANDA

1

Jack R. Clemons

Darkest threat the year contains,
Stabbing last of comfort veins.
In the way that I must pass
There are filching ills that mess,
Ambush meridian prepared
Where my tired feet may be oared,
That my fall may find be
To a dark monstrosity.

Peace, so fair to others' sight,
Powers to show my night;
Not the olive branch the brings,
But the nettles' bristled stings,
Blistering my loneliness
With a ravenous distress,
While the wolf despises the lamb,
Looms on my naked needs.

Years of baffling thoughts lie
Dead behind me, and I try
Now to feel this cruellest part
Hides the portions of my heart,
Soon to be disclosed beyond
Forest's parting lunge of fiend.

Let me sing as I press through:
"But the Lamb, He leapeth too!"

This is all I can do & the way of verse now, - the best line, the last, is
a quotation from Francis Thompson; but it's enough to show that I can
not quite so dead as my thoughts.

A 490 1944

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Poem at front of Diary 1944, Jack Clemons

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Memoranda of Reference, &c.

AS ADDRESSES, QUOTATIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST.

THINGS I KNOW AT THE OPENING OF 1964

- (1) That I am a Christian in the deepest sense - not a mere Christian writer, or Christian thinker, or (ugh!) Christian idealist, but one whose debt to God were paid by Christ & whose day of hope began with the Incarnation.
- (2) That even though "I have labored in vain & spent my strength for naught ... my judgment is with the Lord, & my work will with my God."
- (3) That I can account to Him when I have labored.
- (4) That I can witness only to the truth I then apprehended.
- (5) That His honor is not involved in the outcome of all.
- (6) That my faith in Him can never perish, though doubt of myself, my interpretation of His word & His acts, make life a nightmare.

PRACTICAL THINGS FOR WHICH I GIVE THANKS

- (1) That friendship, the only human warmth that can reach me, has been mercifully postponed, so that even in the bleakest day "the sudden little push behind the lowered flaps of my heart."
- (2) That the attack of insomnia a fortnight ago is quite gone & I enjoy again eight or nine hours of sound sleep every night.
- (3) That I have no physical aches or pains to aggravate the mental & financial stress.
- (4) That I have just enough good work written to keep off the fiend despair about my future.

Motto for the Year:

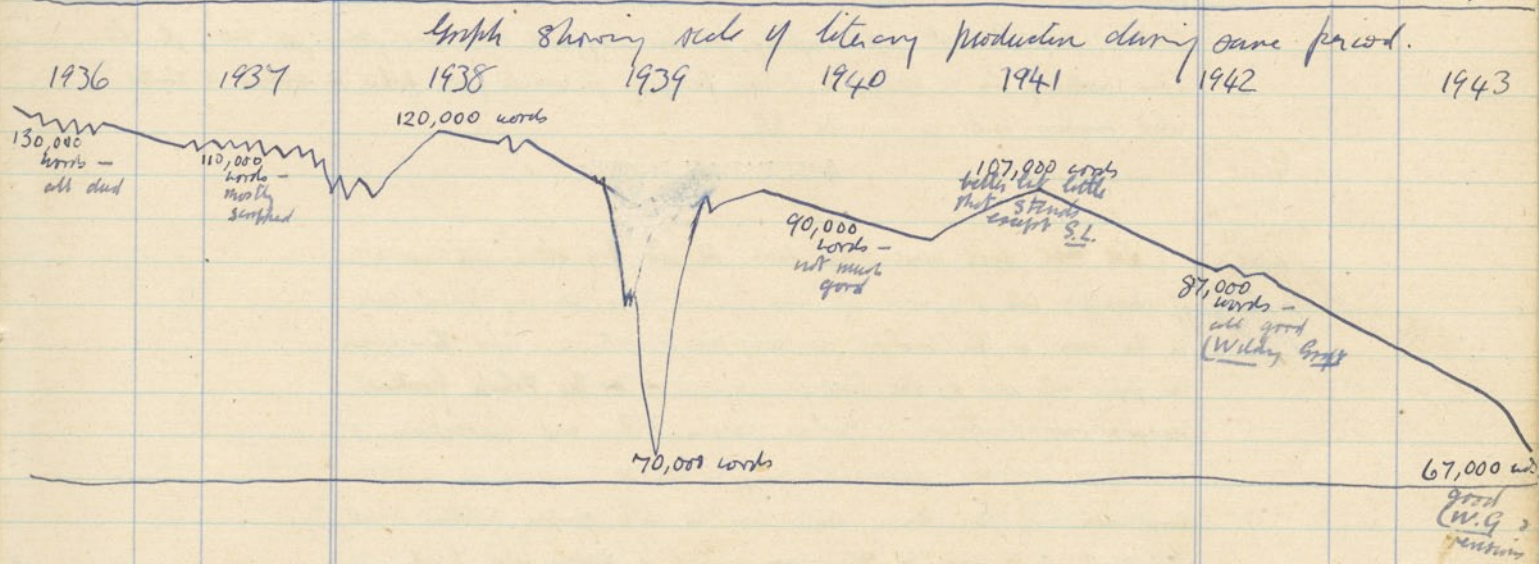
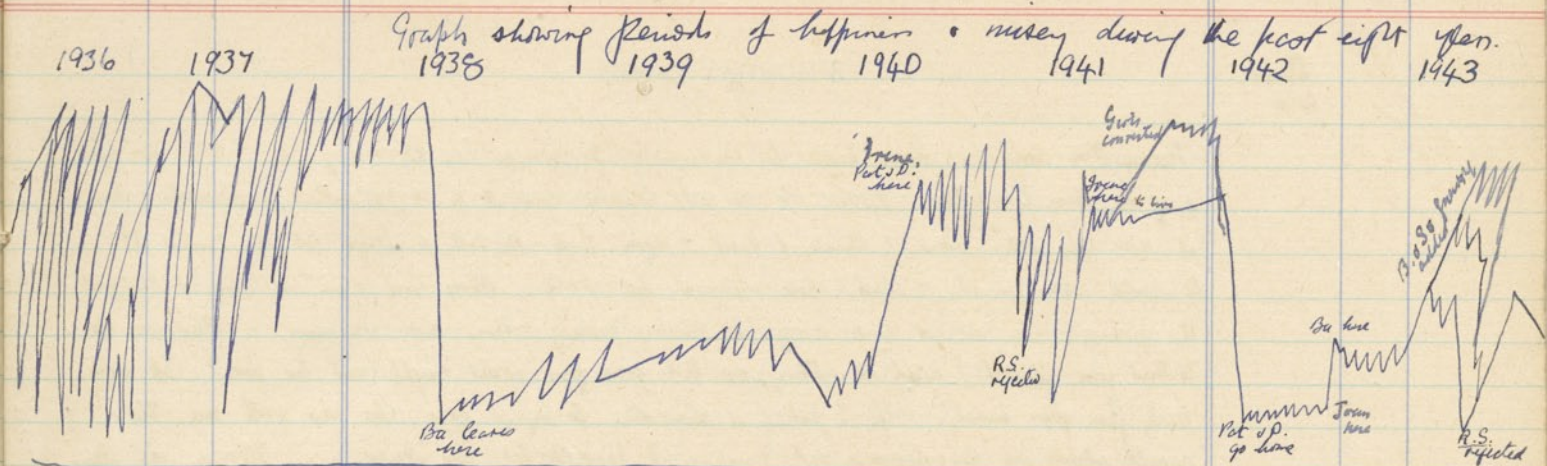
"THE IRON DID SWIM"
II Kings: 6, 7.

1st Month

JANUARY 1944

JAN 1 & 2

3



Financial Balance from 1943

£15 0 0

1 SATURDAY [1-365]

Circumcision
Bank Holiday, Scotland
Holiday, Stock Exchange

File.

Merely the end of another week to me - resolutions - fresh starts wait on God's opening of a new day, day of deliverance. Have been reading the Brevoort tone - when a lot, yearning to feel they express my experience, & in the evening I read several chapters in The Basic Testament, feeling the portion of Job, 5:7-12: "You were young, you were old: also was the course of your life as you were to what is to come. My desire is that they who give you trouble might ever be cut off themselves... because you were marked out to be free" from worldliness.

Date.

2 SUNDAY [2-364]
2 after Christmas

Pleasant, reading Bible, esp. Ex. 37 - "Our bones are dried - our hope is lost; we are cut off." So I could say; but God answers: "I will cause you to come up out of your graves... & place you in your own land." My love & hope are indeed valleys of dry bones - memoriam & MISS! But God can clothe them with flesh, breathe life, water & put them into them.