

December 21, 1916.—Lloyd George's speech published today, or extracts of it in French. Not half bad really. I was rather agreeably impressed, not because it holds out the slightest hope of peace but because it doesn't have that fury and bombastic tone that I had expected of Lloyd George, since his silly blowing some months ago about a "knockout." Still, he does not show any large generous statesmanlike spirit in dealing with the situation, and it is that which renders the situation hopeless. It now remains to be seen whether Lloyd George has any of the real qualities of the statesman, or whether he is merely a politician.... But he will never take the large view that such a man as Lincoln, or Wilson, or Cavour, for instance, would have taken, and I fear that he will somehow slam the door on peace. Oh, for a man in Europe!