

To MRS THOMAS KETTLE

25 September 1916

*Seefeldstrasse 54, rechts, Zurich*

Dear Mrs. Kettle: I have read this morning, with deep regret in the Times that my old school fellow and fellow student Lieutenant Kettle has been killed in action. I hope you will not deem it a stranger's intrusion on your grief to accept from me a word of sincere condolence. I remember very gratefully his benevolent and courteous friendliness to me when I was in Ireland seven years ago. May I ask you also to convey to your sisters (whose addresses I do not know) my sympathy with them in the losses they have suffered. I am grieved to learn that so many misfortunes have fallen on your family in these evil days.

Note: Mary Kettle's brother-in-law, and friend of Joyce, Francis Skeffington, was killed in Dublin during the Easter Rising of April 1916. Though not a participant in the rebellion, he was taken prisoner by the army and fell into the custody of Captain John C. Bowen-Colthurst. The captain later had him, and two other captives, both journalists, shot. The government charged Cpt. Bowen-Colthurst with murder but tried him by court-martial, not a civil court. The court-martial found Cpt. Bowen-Colthurst not guilty by reason of insanity and he was sent to a facility for the criminally insane. After a few months, the government released Bowen-Colthurst from detention, the War Office pensioned him off, and he emigrated to Canada where he died in 1965.