THE NEWS OF THE WORLD FOR THERESE

1. The ides of August

A magazine in South Bend, Indiana has folded. Kathy is coming to town and wants to be a mechanic. George S. is giving a poetry reading soon. Carolyn is going to New York to be with Freddy if she can get a job. He works in a bar. You and I are going to see a Godard movie and I want a drink first. Auden: "The nature of a poem is the outcome of a struggle between occasions of feeling and words." I should give this up, along with the booze: I can't remember anything, I certainly can't talk.

2. Two days later

The news of the world is the same except you care about my clumsiness. The world changes slowly: George S. has still not given his reading and where Carolyn and Kathy are is beyond us now. To find the bar where F. works would be impossible. One + One just means (in French) the more it changes the more it changes. The more I remember there is a spirit in the world, or God has disappeared or poets write poetry, the less I care. A sonnet sequence in wartime, F., who works in a bar, calls this, but the more I hurry to where you're going,

3. Immediately

the less I care.

Michael Patrick O'Connor

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