

Nov 6.

My dearest George

My temperature did not go up again yesterday I have not got up yet this morning. I cant because no one has time to bring me my cloths or any thing else I want. Rose had to go to her sister yesterday afternoon. The sister telephoned to say she was begining flu & as she was alone of course Rose had to go. She will come back today when her other sister has come over from Faonham.

I am quite well enough to do every thing only nrose says I am infectious for three days after my temperature is normal so I cant go among the others till the day after tomorrow. Considering that I had a temperature for less than 24 hours I think its rather unreasonable to consider me infectious as long after it left me as if I had had it for a week but I think nroses like to go by rule.

Clara has a cold but no temperature. I suspect it as being the first stage of influenza & have told Violet to be very careful of her & I know she will be. Directly she gets a temperature I shall have her in here & look after her

my self.

Mildred had a letter from Bice yesterday saying that they has had to send the girls home they had practically all had or got the flu & all the servants too so they couldn't stay open. Bice has had it herself & is just recovering. Only one girl in the whole school has been bad.

I had a letter from Nancy Graves yesterday evening They have got a little cottage in bicycling distance of Roberts work. Its is big enough to hold a nurse and baby. But she says that Robert is hoping for a job in London in which case they will never have the baby there. It would be very nice for her Father if they were in London. He must be awfully lonely.

There is no news of Aric's baby, I think it must be going to wait its full nine months which is the best thing that could happen though boring for Aric.

I have been reading War & Peace nearly all the time. I am lucky to have such a book to read, it is wonderful. I am now reading the retreat from Moscow. How wonderful Pierre's character is through all that suffering. And in what an extraordinarily gentle Christian spirit the whole book is written.

I don't think there can be any doubt that

different nations have different characteristics  
The Russian must be a very practical simple  
gentle people, I don't think it can be only  
the quality of the writer that give one that  
impression though it he may enhance it.

On the other hand I notice many times through  
the book that the Germans with the French army  
are spoken of with special hatred and dislike  
for their cruelty & barbarity.

I don't find that at all a cheering thought. If the  
Germans are really cruel by nature it will take  
a long time to alter them if they ever can be  
altered. If their cruelty were only the result  
of the Prussian education that they have all  
had it might be thrown off easily. But if  
it is of such long standing as the Napoleonic  
War when presumably they had not been drilled  
to cruelty it does not seem very hopeful for  
their regeneration, does it.

I haven't bought and sent you Mr Clutton Brock's  
book because I think he is sure to have  
sent it to you since I gave <sup>him your</sup> ~~you~~ his address.  
If you have not received it when you get  
this letter just say so & I will send you  
one at once

I'm up now but still in this room so that I  
shall not infect the rest of the household

I have been reading the paper with the delightful thoroughness that one has time for when one is in all day. The news from France is wonderfully good as usual & we seem to be standing on, they talk about parts of the German army being in full retreat. I ~~do~~ now understand why we are not let to know the peace terms with Germany is because they have got to humble themselves by asking Foch for them.

Our terms with Austria seem pretty complete don't they. I wonder if there is any chance that the Germans will hang on long enough to let us attack them through Austria from Italy. It's rather an alluring prospect but I would rather have peace. Oh it is interesting watching what happens every day!

I am very very glad that so many of our prisoners have ~~now~~ are to come back. Some of them must have had an awful time. But nothing is so bad as the way the Germans have treated the Belgians French in the conquered parts I suppose they have been quite as bad to the Belgians. Just think how one would hate if we had had Clare at eighteen or twenty years old dragged from us and taken we did not know where, to do we did not know what. Perhaps have body & soul ruined by the German men. I think we ought to

think of that side when we talk of peace.  
They say in the Austrian domestic terms that  
the blockade is to hold but I hope something  
will be done to relieve the worst starvation.  
I haven't succeeded in getting up to the Holt yet to  
do any gardening. I don't think I shall quite know  
what to do with those shady beds at the top when  
I do get there. There is not use treating them as  
though they are sunny. I think we had better  
have green things and any flower that will grow  
regardless of colour. White foxgloves & wood  
campanulas might do & Solomon's seal & there is  
a big plant on the shady side of the yew walk that  
I don't know the name of, it has feathery cream  
coloured flowers & dark green leaves shaped like  
a fig leaf.

I've just had a letter from you. Hurrah! I want  
answer the Montemont part now but lets talk  
of cupboards & shelves. Your shelves look very  
nice, I am glad you are such a handy carpenter  
I suppose you have painted them green. I quite  
agree that it would be nice to have that  
cupboard stuff at the Holt. It might look  
well in the study and certainly would in our

bed room, so would the velvet curtains look well over the door between our dressing room and bed room. Is there any chance you could buy those curtains off the men when the battery breaks up. As I have made them I think we have the first right to them. Also I should not mind the new check table cloths, the stuff for them hasnt come yet but they would take me long to make. I dont think we could ever make the curtains fit our bedroom but your study seems rather more possible. We might buy some more, it was not very expensive. Clare has got a cold + has cried such a lot today, its simply awful being shut in here + hearing her + not being able to go along + see what's wrong and comfort her, poor little kid. Its almost impossible really to discuss war news at this distance things alter so fast but one cant help trying.

Good buy dearest. Be very very careful to go to bed quickly + not get a chill if you get influenza.

We shall be living at the Halt again together some day soon + that is very wonderful.

Your very loving Ruth.