

Jan 6

My Dearest

I have not heard from you since Saturday its now only Monday but I should like to hear how you are, I'm afraid you may still be not well from influenza.

I have had a very busy day and have only just begun my letter to you at ~~six~~^{seven} o'clock.

When I came down this morning almost the first thing I saw was a gleam of fire light from under Clara's bedroom door and I went in and found she had had a bad night & that her temperature was a little up so she was staying in bed. We could not get any medicine to act properly and consequently she did not get over her tummy upset as she should. She was seedy last night and complained of a sore throat & I was a little worried about her. She stayed in bed till dinner time and then as her temperature had gone down she got up. Violet said she was quite good during the afternoon and after tea the medicine did act so now I don't think

we shall have any more trouble.

I went off at eleven this morning to see the
the two laundresses that Mary Anne had just
to make sure that all was well and found
when I got to them that neither of them
would take the washing so I spent the
rest of the morning hunting. In my searches
I came upon a most dear old woman who had
known Mother when she was still Miss Powell
at Piccard's Rough. She sent me on to
some one but she would not take the washing
because she could get no starch, that & coal
for the drying seem the greatest difficulties.
Just as I was leaving Farncombe I saw a
woman with a washing bucket come out of
a gate so I got off my bicycle and asked
her if she could recommend me to any one
and she said she would take it, she may
not be able to do it all but she will do
her best and if she can't I'm pretty sure
I can find a laundry that can take the
big things like sheets. I saw Beagly this
afternoon and he said she was a nice

clean woman I am pretty sure she is nice and not a gambler. So that pretty lucky.

This afternoon I took my the jam to the town to get it seen to in various way & picked up my bicycle that I had left at the shop and went again to the laundress with some washing, because the laundress here has a bad arm and cannot wash this week. Then I went to my study circle. It was very nice inspite of not having Mary Anne there and think we shall go on quite happily. We want one or two more people to join as we are now only four.

Constance Mussen was here to tea and stayed pretty late which was very nice. They are leaving tomorrow. She has promised to come with Mary and stay with us at The Hall some time. I want Clare and Mary to go on being friends.

I got down to the station this morning at a quarter to nine to see the O'Malley's off. Poor things I think they have been having rather a strenuous time with this move. Mary Anne rang me up

last night and wounded very harassed and on edge. She had been having more trouble with her cook and was in the middle of a bust up with her and she wanted to know if I would like to take her on as temporary housemaid till I can get my own. I wasnt very keen but I said I would if it would help her but I would not just to convenience the girl. Mary Anne told me this morning that she has had a reconciliation with the cook and she does want me to have her so that is fixed up.

This letter is nothing but one mass of household detail but my life will be nothing else now till we are settled in at the Hall. I do wish you could come back and help me but perhaps you will be back by the beginning of the term now that the Headmaster is at it again. I wonder if Mr Thompson has got off.

I must stop Dearest. I send you ever ever so much love.

Your very very loving
Ruth.