

Nov. 6. 1916.

My sweet dearest Ruth To receive 9 letters from you in two days - six yesterday & now again 3 - makes me almost weep for joy: but it reduces me to a state of distraction when I sit down to write to you after so much said; it would keep me busy for a week to answer them properly. They are a most lovely lot of letters my darling & I want to kiss you a hundred times for many beautiful things you have said. It seems to me you must have been living very vividly lately with plenty of personal connections and very interesting ones. I am always glad to hear of my friends coming into your life. It is very pleasant to hear of your making a friend of Robert for yourself & quite convinces me that he is as nice as I thought him. I'm sure he must have enjoyed staying at Westbrook - how did he get on with the rest of the party? As to your question about Johnstone - you had better know that at one time the H.M. did not encourage Robert's friendship with him & was not disposed to let him go out very much on the grounds that he was somewhat spiteful & didn't get on well in the house - for instance he stopped his going out to Potty. For that reason you had better write first to whoever

is in charge of Saunterites (A.L. Irvine if it's he), using a dictionary so as not to shock the pedagogic mind, ~~and~~ state that Robert has asked you to write him & inquire if you may do so - making it clear that I advised the unusual course of writing to his housemaster. You must be careful not to put it in such a way that the authorities would think you were inviting the boy to meet Robert or they might suppose he wasn't dealing quite straight with them. I can't doubt that your request will be granted - please give my respects to Johnstone & say that if he cares to write to me I shall be very pleased.

I heard from Rooper today - you have met him haven't you? He told me what I suspected that Clements has left Chouse - I am sorry he was the one interesting - really interesting - by I knew.

Your visit to the Reads seems to have been a great success - they are a nice couple & evidently have a proper appreciation of you - I can't tell you how much more I like them for that.

Kar (with a K) Cox is a charming person - I don't know her so well as many of my friends, notably David & Geoffrey Keynes. Ward I never knew well nor did much use for. He was a friend of Rupert Brooke's - an able fellow I expect.

Yes, I'm sure Bridget is one of the best people - with conspicuously plenty to learn & none the worse for that if she is learning as I don't doubt she is from her sad experiences. I must try & achieve a letter to her; she's quite one of the

people I should like to be remembered by.

The best of your letters I think was that about Chubb-Brook's speech. You evidently got hold of it very well; thank you especially for remembering that wise & original saying about wasting time over meaningless moods. I gather that he thinks the commonest transgression of the Christian character to lie in our manner of judging people. Probably the great mass of mankind will always judge the folk they're actually up against because it's so very difficult to deny oneself that indulgence of vanity. But I think one might succeed in not judging those who don't actually cross one's path & some who do; I don't mean by that to refrain from seeing one's neighbour's weaknesses but to discuss them rather so as to find out their cause - to diagnose - not with a view to condemning them. I'm constrained by what you say to remark about Mr Kendall that I never entertained a more bitter feeling towards him than merely the desire to avoid a horse. Now with Langton it is quite different; I feel in my bones the ill-used pomposity of the man & that is probably because he has offended my vanity by having too little regard for my opinions. You are evidently getting to know Mrs Brooke much better & I'm glad of that. I regard her as even more wise and nice than I would have expected of him. What you tell me about Kit is real bad news & must upset them very much. Please say how

sorry I am. I shall try & write.

My beloved one I'm afraid I've been lazy about writing to you just lately: but it's not through lack of thinking of you. I've been in rather a sociable mood - inclined to put myself at the disposal of anyone who wants to talk; one can spend a lot of time that way sitting about after meals & so on; - or then simply seeking pleasure; I played bridge again last night & found it a very pleasant diversion. But where I'm particularly lazy is in going to bed early; it's so hard to be comfortable out of bed & suppose I reach my dug-out about 9:30 on a cold wet night, I just feel inclined to turn in & read for a bit before going to sleep while I get my feet warm. I never have night work now which is a great blessing but am liable to be called up about 6:30 a.m. in haste. It's rarely I have so occupied a day as yesterday when I was up early, busy all morning & afternoon & out at night; & yet I don't seem to find lots of time on my hands. I haven't done any writing of any kind lately & haven't felt any very great desire to. After all I have a good many little duties & I hardly like to give myself up to such a violent concentration as writing demands or to busy myself to that extent. Some small change in conditions of life may drive me back to it.

The two parcels of clothes arrived to-day; you're chosen very nicely, dearest one. It makes me feel rather

luxurious - still I don't think the men go short of warm clothes, though they haven't yet got oil stoves in their dug-outs nor a dry mess room. But I draw the line at a hot-water bottle; it would make me feel a pig. Besides I can keep quite warm enough in here with my stove; I'm quite cosy now - when I get my curtain!

Wet & cold again to-day - but I refuse to think of the war to-night - you have given me such a nice lot of things to think about. Let me rather tell you that Lethbrun has applied for special leave to attend to business & will probably get it. That at all events will be a start; but there's not much to build on yet. Dearest I want all your beauty near me & your sweet understanding; we shall hold each other very fast when we have one another again & I shall kiss you very eagerly a great number of times. The time is long. I do very little of expecting or calculating for the future - but my mind is full of visions, of you chiefly.

Good Night Ruth. Kiss Clare for me.

Your very loving
George.