

Oct 10

My dearest George

I have just been spending the best part of an hour collecting photographs and papers to send off to you. I am very ashamed that I am sending those New Europes to you at once. The collected rather fact when I got home first I and was trying to get time to read some. It shant happen again. I will try and be very regular. Oh I have just realised that one of them belongs to this week so I will keep it to send till tomorrow & read the articles that look most interesting.

I had another letter from you this morning where you tell me about going to look for a position & not finding it very good & about seeing old 40 Siege Battery. You will be glad to see them again. I hope you wont be wishing badly that you were with them. I have been fetching jam from the goods station this morning and took

Clare along with me. She enjoys that. We have put the boxes of jam away in the old petrol tank place. I think that we are bad jam hoarders. I shall have both the children to look after this afternoon as Violet is going out, that always gives me very little time for doing other things.

We didn't do any thing very thrilling in London yesterday, only shopped. We could not have fitted in seeing any one as well as our ~~for~~ shopping.

Mill bought a grey tweed coat & skirt, a very nice one. Marby is having a green velvet dress made for her. We each got a hat but mine was much the nicest and rather the most expensive. I feel sure you will like it when you see it. Its black felt with a black ribbon round it which sounds dull but it is such a becoming shape. I think it will last me as well as my old brown one has. I do wish you were here this winter to see me wear the fur coat & black hat I shant really enjoy it a bit without you. I must just keep them very nice for next winter so that you can enjoy them then.

We've just finished putting the children to bed. I read Clare a little poetry when she was in bed. I am glad one of the children are old enough to talk and understand now, it make ~~her~~<sup>it</sup> so much more interesting. Bessy is a dear little thing, but all you have to teach her at present is to be clean and to say ta-ta and that sort of thing and I don't find it nearly so interesting as Clare's stage. I hope I shall soon find her a interesting it would be awful if sometime she were to feel that I was less interested in her than Clare. We have been in the garden all the afternoon picking the last autumn flowers. I am rather fond of the late time of red leaves and straggling flowers, just the last little bit of summer before winter comes.

I can't understand decent what can be the point of not marrying if you wish you to live together & have children. Is it so that you shall not have the feeling of security in the other person that marriage gives. I don't know how it would be for the man but I'm sure it would be simply horrid for the woman. I'm sure she would always go on loving & then suppose she were left. But I want to read Jude the Obscure even

if it is awfully sad.

It doesn't look as though you will get time for poetry for some time to come. Perhaps you will be storming up the poetry of life within you.

I have heard today that one of the people down our lane have had a letter she had written to her son returned with 'missing since the 26<sup>th</sup>' on it. Don't you think its a cruel way of receiving the news. I wish I could be managed that someone could send these poor people a letter just a few lines with some little word of appreciation. The other is so careless and hard. I hardly know her & yet I'm afraid I ought to go in and see her. Its such a very difficult thing to do well.

I do hope you cold is less stuffy and horrid by now. I don't think you can do anything for it except try to avoid getting chilled.

If only two or three months could finish the war but I'm afraid our peace terms are very stiff. The thing that I don't feel sure about & that President Wilson has said nothing of, only other people have, is punishing individuals for individual cruelty. I'm not sure it isn't just a desire for <sup>vengeance</sup> revenge and that that should be left in Gods hands. I wonder if it will be included in peace terms.

I send you kisses and so much love my dearest.

Your very loving Ruth.