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Camp 3

May 17 1922

My dearest Ruth I write to you on the eve of our departure for the highest we can reach - just because I shall feel happier in case of difficulties to think that I have sent you a message of love. The difficulties will be such as we know in all human probability; our endurance & will to go on taking precautions are less known factors - but with such good people as these are I feel sure that we shall all be anxious to help each other & that after all, provided competent mountaineers is the great safeguard.

I have very good hopes with the coolies fit & cheerful that we shall establish a camp well above Chang La the day after to-morrow - I believe I expect that Norton, & Marshhead who came up the day I wrote to you last have joined us - the four of us will be sleeping at the North Col to-morrow night & we hope about 25000 the following night — & then!

I can't say that I feel stronger for the days here (since
the 12th) or weaker either for that matter. I say
he went better up to Chang Lu yesterday than on the
13th. Well it's all on the knees of the gods, & they
are bare cold knees. We shan't get to the top; if we
reach the shoulder at 27900 it will be better than
anyone here expects.

Dearest one, you must know that the spur to do my
best is you & you again - in moments of depression
or lack of confidence or overwhelming fatigue I want
more than anything to prove worthy of you.

All my love to you
Many kisses to Clare & Beridge & John.

Over your loving,
George.

