

Oct 18

My dearest George

I have been spending the last part of the morning writing a lot of letters. I have written one to David and one to Masula. Its a bit difficult to get those letters done when I have yours to write as well. I shall soon have to go out and take a run before lunch because I'm frightfully cold. Its been a thick misty morning and I thought it was going to be lovely but the sun has never properly come through.

Alison has not come after all, I don't know if she ever will. She has heard that her cousin is missing probably drowned, he was in the Navy. I am sorry specially as it is disappointing for Father. I ordered the stuff for your curtains last night and this morning the Simpson & Annette patterns came. They were none of them as nice as quite a lot of the Neal patterns and they were all more expensive and some of them twice as expensive. Your window curtains are't going to ruin you. They are only coming to 22/6 not counting the making which I may have to be helped with. I don't know what the velvet curtain will be

yet. I hope I shall be able to get a nice colour for it.  
Well I shall get a nice one but I hope I shall be  
able to get the colour I want.

I gave Clara her button frame this morning but she  
did not take to it a bit. I'm afraid she won't. I  
think she is too imaginative for the system, but  
we shall see. I would like to see a real teacher  
of the Montessori method try to deal with her. I  
believe she would make the geometrical insets into  
a herd of pigs and pretend a pencil was Auntie  
Mabel and play quite & happily like that.

I have been to the Hall this afternoon to  
hunt for books in your study to read. I  
enjoyed doing it. I do like your study so much and  
all your books I feel more as if I were home again  
there than I do anywhere else in our house. Mary  
Anne doesn't keep the drawing room looking nearly  
as nice and pretty as I do and the study is  
untidy and full of lumber but I think the books  
must give it a sort of life so that nothing can  
prevent it from being your room. It will be nice  
to sit there again with you. When you are working  
there in the evening I shall come and sit with  
you after the children are in bed and read your

books. I could not find any book about the French Revolution so I chose 'A Short history of our Own Times' by Justin McCarthy and 'The Industrial Revolution' by Arnold Toynbee and another one is an Everyman edition called something like 'The Growth of Free Thought'. I think I shall read 'The Short History of our own Times' first and then Arnold Toynbee's book if I can manage it but when I looked into it and at the synopsis of the chapters I thought it looked rather stiff. I suppose the Industrial Revolution in England came shortly after the French Revolution in time, though I think it took ages longer. If I find some parts too stiff I may be able to read others.

When I was up at the Hall the other day Mary Anne and Mrs Radcliffe and I were discussing handwriting apropos of teaching children and Mary Anne said what a very good hand writing she thinks you have. She said a page of your writing gave her great pleasure as a thing of beauty. I call that a nice complement. I wonder if you can remember that one a long time ago when we you were playfully laying down my duties as a wife

you said that one of them was always to pass on all compliments to you and every nice thing I heard said about you. See how careful I am to remember your behests my beloved.

I don't know if I told you that Olive Marsden Smully is coming here tomorrow for the week end, she won't come down till the afternoon. I am going to tea with Mrs Clutton Brock on Monday which will be nice.

I do want another letter from you I haven't had one since Monday & now its after post time on Friday evening. I expect its our push in the North that has upset the post. Its well worth it. Just fancy Ostend being evacuated I can hardly believe it. I am awfully interested in the fact that they have evacuated Lille without burning or blowing up anything. It looks as though they are taking President Wilson's words to heart doesn't it? What hates they are only to be able to behave decently under force, or rather extreme fear. I despise them. Good night my dearest, dearest. I wish we could have a little while together so very much.

Your very loving  
Ruth.