

Dec 29-30

My own dearest

I have had a very nice day seeing Mary Anne. I haven't had a letter from you which I hoped for but today was perhaps almost too soon to hope for it. Bob says you will very likely have had to post it by civilian post and that takes a long time now as they censor very strictly. You have gone such a long way away after being wonderfully close, it will bring you ~~being you~~ closer when I get letters again. If only I can have the feeling & feel that I have some of you within me all the time. I do love you you and wonder at you so, my dearest. I took your letter on religious education to Mary Anne for her to read & on the way I read it in the train again it is some time since I have. I think I understood it better this time than I did when I first read it. I have got further and talked with you since. I do agree with it very much and I am

very glad to have it. Now that I have heard you & Raymond and Robert Graves talk about the war I understand much more than I did before what it is like and what those battles mean, and it filled me with wonder and awe to think that you should have been writing that on July 1. You are a very marvellous person dear.

Mary Anne liked it very much & thought it very wise, she too liked the prayer and says she means to remodel Jane Diana's prayers on those lines.

Its awfully interesting to me to find that she is in so much the same state about religion as I am. She has always prayed for definite things but has lately been trying not to do so so much & never to pray for any thing definite at all unless as far as she can see on every side it is right that she should have it.

For instance she has been dreadfully troubled as you know by servant difficulties &

she says that it really has been getting on her mind a lot and it old day she would have prayed that she might quickly obtain good servants; but now she says she feels it possible that it may not be right that she should have them & they may be more needed elsewhere so she only prays for strength to go through with what ever turns up. Now it seem all right to me at present to pray as diffinith as that. I want to have a little daily prayer. As I was coming up the dore this evening I stood still with the darkness round me & thought of God & peace came to me. I wonder if that is the right sort of prayer, its makes me feel happy anyway. Mary Anne believes as firmly in a future life as I do. She also never looks upon her life here as one & her life there as possibly another but they are to her as to me one continuous whole & constantly thought of as such; and she finds any other idea impossible & unreasonable.

unreasonable in this way. That some writer  
I think she said Melchi said that the  
highest common sense is to believe what  
you ~~know~~<sup>feel</sup> to be true.

It is now Saturday morning & I am writing  
in bed because I have woken up.

Yesterday was the warmest day we have had  
for a long time, there was a blustering West  
wind and misty rain. Mary Anne was not  
wanting a long walk so she met me at  
Hardsmea in her Aunt's carriage and we  
drove to the house it was only about a  
mile from the station then we stayed indoors  
and talked ~~most~~<sup>the rest</sup> of the morning. I saw  
Diana at lunch time, she is an attractive  
little person and can talk an immense lot  
~~to~~ now. Mary Anne thinks she does not give  
her brain enough rest and is too precocious.  
I don't believe it will hurt her so long as  
they avoid working her too hard later on.  
After lunch we had a lovely walk up a valley  
onto Blackdown. When we were on the top  
the mist and rain were doing across too

much for us to see any think so we came  
down another valley into ours.

We were talking about peace on our way  
back and she says she does not think  
that England ought to pretend she is  
ready to carry on the war for years if  
necessary, for one thing we are not  
ready to and for another we ought to  
to be ready too. England ought to say  
definitely you must give back Belgium her  
territory + so much money, Serbia her  
territory + so much + Rumania the same  
+ France + Alsace + Lorraine + for us we  
want certain of your high officials hung.  
I suppose the difficulty about it is our  
allies, many of them want things they  
wont get like Russia wanting Constantinople  
ople

Mary Anne says she is feeling better  
than she has felt for a long time  
now and she hopes to give up work  
in June + take a rest and then  
begin Patrick, who is to be the little

son. I do hope she will get a little son  
and not another girl it would be so  
hard after saving for a boy.

Her fathers death does not seem to have  
made much difference to her in the  
money way, her spent his last years  
in silly speculation that ran away  
with a lot of money.

I have had a letter from you this morning.

I am glad you had a quiet safe voyage, and very  
glad you went to Winchester and heard music  
in the Cathedral it must have been lovely.

I do love hearing music in beautiful places  
Your letter made me imagine it very well.

I am sorry you lost your mit case I  
hope will recapture it, but hunting round  
rest camps sounds an awful job. I suppose  
the rest camp means that you will have  
to go by the slow military train.

Violet is going out this afternoon so I must  
finish this letter off now before lunch.

Your very very loving

Ruth.