

Monday June 26 (51)

My own dearest

Again I am waiting before breakfast. Mildred is going fishing with Father so I have said that I will do the butter. I am not in the garden because it is very dull and grey looking. Yesterday was a lovely day, wasn't it lucky with Mary Anne here. I did want her to enjoy herself and I think she did. Until yesterday evening I don't think that Father was liking her very much, but yesterday evening they got going together on birds & Father must have found out that she knew a lot, and then she sang to us and altogether we had a very pleasant evening. I am very glad I specially wanted Mary Anne to get on with Father a bit before next weekend when she is bringing Owen.

Mary Anne and I were talking about religion last night. It began by her saying that she wanted to go to a conference about religious education for

children. She is anxious to bring Jane up so that religion may mean more to her than it has to Mary Anne herself. I think she is perhaps in a little the same position that I am myself. You see I do mind about religion a lot. It seems to me that it ought to be a great thing in life. And yet I can't believe in all the mass of doctrine that the Church has, so I can't very well be an ardent church woman. Well then about the future life she felt as I do that whether you look forward to that or not matters very very much because it colours this life so much. I would rather say that I look forward to a future life than that I believe in it because I think perhaps it is a more accurate description of my feelings. At any rate it seems to me that to look forward is sufficient. You may do so with differing quantities of Hope and Faith.

You see it ~~is~~ have a future life one feels sure that it must be one of fuller development and more & more work. You say, all that matters is a good

job worth doing and the right companions.
Well that seems to me to be at the good
and of the eternal. Why should one feel
that to do right & live well is the only
thing that really matters and the thing
that leads to the greatest happiness. Then
there is the other great thing of our lives;
love for our fellow creatures. Why ^{am} do I
who love you so much yet willing, ~~in a way,~~
that you should run into danger & possibly
for a cause that we think good. And why
are you willing to give up all you ever
will have of life and consciousness.

It is all so puzzling, but if we are to
go on from this life to another as I
look forward with hope & faith to doing, it
makes it a little plainer. Not that that
is a reason for believing it.

Well I did not really mean to say quite
so much about the future life as that
only it came.

What I do want to say specially is
this

I suppose every one who cares about making
the best of life would agree that we

must not waste our talents and that we must strive to develop ourselves as much as we can. I think ~~that~~ that when we get to the next life we shall only go on from this one in the same stage that we left this but with faest possibilities of development open to us.

Well dear I feel that since I have married you I have stopped to a great extent developing myself on my religious side and towards God and I want to begin doing so again. But I don't want to do it without you if I can help it. It is such a big and vastly important matter and dear I do so want to be close to you in every thing. At present what ever religion we each have we have separately. Do you think that must be so and cant we possibly join somehow it in talk of God or some form of worship.

You see I think you have already gone much further in religious thought than I have, and you seem to have come to the conclusion that you must

nearly leave it out. I cant do that
nearly because you have done it but I
must go on and see where I come to
and I hope it will be with me that
I get in some way closer to God.

I dont think I quite know how to set
about doing this but you may be able
to help me. But dearest do let us have
something together if we can.

We shall have presently to bring us close
& perhaps other children and it would
be nice if I knew a little more where
I was.

I have ~~not~~ put aside religious difficulties
from my mind though cowardice
because I so much want to think with
you. But perhaps circumstances have
stiffened me up a bit and made me
see more that one must not hang
back through fear because life is not
an easy flower garden existence but
something far finer and more difficult
and stern.

Dearest I do hope what I have
been saying does not go on and on

but is fairly clear and intelligible
I wonder if you will ever find time to
answer this.

Well I must go off now and finish the
letter its twelve and I think it will
take me nearly an hour

This old letter has come back from
Harfleus - It is the first I wrote to
you after you left. I am sending it
to you because I think you will like
it.

Enjoy so much love to you dear
and many kisses.

Yours very loving
Ruth.

