

Nov. 8. 1918.

My dearest Ruth, I am lazy to-night beyond  
expression & I hate myself for it. However at  
about 11.30 pm I can generally get on to learning  
rather more lively. We never have breakfast  
before 9.0 & I am always first, so I can't afford  
to sit up late & in point of fact am seldom in  
bed before 12 & sometimes later. We are having  
very bad weather here now & it is rather depressing.  
I went into Arras this morning with Knibbs  
to shop for the mess. Incidentally we investigated  
the ruins of the cathedral - a debased imitation  
in the Greco-Roman style, the walls still  
standing; we found that it had been used as  
an observation post - quite a good one, though I  
would have enjoyed observing up there while  
it was being 'strafed'; I'm afraid their use for  
observation is a good excuse for many acts  
of destruction for which the enemy is anathematized.

I had 5 letters from you today & the contents  
My dear it is quite a lovely bit of stuff, &

will be admirably suitable - I haven't hung it  
yet, - I shall do so to-morrow. Thank you very  
much for all your trouble about the Mess. I'm  
glad to have the bill - in which however I notice  
the other curtains are not included; I believe  
you said in a previous letter that the stuff cost 22/6  
is that correct? As we really are remarkably  
cozy now; we can't boast of what you would  
dignify by the name 'hearth rug', but we do  
possess two rugs of the thinnest & meagrest  
description imaginable such as S.P.A. could  
produce & they serve to cover some of the  
worst chinks in the floor near the fireplace.

Our ideas about returning to the H.A.  
seem to agree very well. I shall be quite con-  
tent if I am released to go there a week or  
so before next term. But you mustn't count  
too absolutely on that very prospect.

I'm by no means tired of Montessori; it is  
very interesting that you should be learning

all about it. You seem to be leading a very active life all together & that's a good thing.

Oh: you were wanting to know what furniture we have besides the table - just chairs, three of them armchairs & our low deep shelves at the far end: it is not after all such a very vast apartment & we have no place for any thing more; we have just comfortable room to sit at table (about 3ft. broad) & have room to pass.

I'm glad you heard from Mr Reade; you are are summer over the Alpine Journal; I have been wondering for weeks whether it was ever coming out. But you are forgiven. It hasn't however reached me yet.

About a piano, the thought had occurred to me too. Something must be done; we shall have to seek advice. I expect we had better begin by getting a second hand one, though even that will be very expensive. Who shall know about pianos?

Yes, I'm glad to find I've been mostly right about the end of the war. I have seen a few quotations from the Times which have been simply idiotic - are they still talking of a Peace Trap? The M. G. has been quite good - a little cautious at first but gradually more optimistic. There was a good article a few days ago upbraiding people for not wanting peace now it is in sight; it has been very angry with the armistice terms to Turkey for not insisting on occupying Armenia - for the sake of the Armenians: but I can't see much point in that. It drew attention to the Austrian situation fairly early - I was rather pleased with myself for estimating that as the decisive factor about a week previous to that. With regard to punishing individual Germans I really haven't thought about it - I certainly don't think it would be worth fighting a day longer for that & I doubt if it's practical politics. What crime after all compares with the original murder

of plunging Europe into war? For that, whatever  
we may say about militarism the whole nation  
is ultimately responsible & has been & will be  
punished. If we begin punishing individuals it  
will be impossible to draw the line with a reasonable  
show of logic; ~~and~~ so many cases would hang upon  
interpretation of orders; if all links in the chain  
are guilty the members would be almost) large or  
if only one or two which be they?

29<sup>th</sup> A lovely morning, frosty & sunny. I  
shall probably go forth somewhere to-day - possibly  
to search for Geoffrey Keynes who is about 20  
miles from here. But the car will have to get  
beer for the men.

Please give Clare a kiss for her letter

Great love to you darling

Your loving

George.

