

Saturday July 22

(76)

Dearest George

M^r Arthur Brock's book *The Ultimate Belief* came yesterday at tea time from Curtis. I have read half, that is to the end of the chapter *The Philosophy of the Spirit*. I have not yet begun the one on morality. It most thrillingly interesting and I am enjoying it very very much. I think the clearness & understandableness of his writing is truly Christian, it means he opens himself to every one. I have thought, not definitely nor usefully as he has, but many times, that we ought to have something in our country to make us work better for things, as the Germans have their country- worship and organisation. If philosophy of the spirit could permeate through English education what a wonderful thing it would be. It entirely leaves out any attempt, as far as I have got, to bring God

into it. And quite rightly I should think
from the point of view of the book.
But for ourselves dear I want there to
be something more than philosophy
This ^{philosophy} is already the philosophy of Jesus
Christ. Only dear it seems to me that
He dwelt much more on the moral
side than on either of the others and
did he often touch the aesthetic
side at all definitely. There is 'Consider
the lilies of the field. I have always
liked that because it shows that
Christ felt their beauty.
The aesthetic side will be very difficult
to deal with in General education.
The moral side has been more or less
standardised. I mean in many ways
you can point to definite rights and
wrongs, although some points are still
controversial. Such as having babies with
our being legally married. The intellectual
side the search for truth, seems to me
fairly straightforward, it is more or less
scientific. But when we come to the
aesthetic it seem terribly difficult

It is true that we can point to the
God made things of nature as beautiful
Trees & flowers, mountains, sea & sky, but
when we come on to man made things,
every one says 'Well that is my taste'. And
yet if to find beauty is one of the
great activities of the spirit, it must
be as truth and goodness are.

That children have a very pronounced
aesthetic consciousness I am sure is true.
I think with myself the intellectual side
is the one that has been most neglected
so I suppose it is now the one that
I ought to make the most effort over.
Perhaps when I have read ~~his~~ Brook's
intellectual chapter I shall feel helped.
Don't you think one dislikes people
most often because they don't ^{please} ~~concern~~
& ones aesthetic side. I was going to
say - come up to ones aesthetic standard - can
I say that, I suppose so, we do have an
aesthetic standard don't we although not
at all a hard and fast one.
One says 'I'm sure she's very nice but I
don't take to her. Don't you think

that means. I expect she is morally and
intellectually good, but she does not seem
to be aesthetically so.

In choosing people to be with & teach
children I'm sure it is very necessary
that they should appeal to the aesthetic
side. I don't mean necessarily that they
should be pretty or ~~so~~ beautiful but that
they should at any rate by expression &
dress and above all in voice be pleasing.
I feel sure that is how all our governesses
failed so disastrously.

I'm sure Violet will please aesthetically, morally,
and more or less intellectually, though as
that is I think much my weakest side
I expect my judgement about it is
not as good as it should be.

Yesterday was very hot, I went to bed
with an idea down. I threw it off
because I felt it ought not to be there
not because I thought I should be uncomfort-
able under it. That was not a moral
judgement. I think it must have been
aesthetic what do you think?
Then now I have come down to trivialities

I shall stop this subject.

I made a mistake yesterday. It's not Toussaint Thompson that has been killed but the other one. Manjorie suggested that might be the explanation so I ran up Mrs. Trow and asked her. She also told me the latest about Mrs. Ivins baby. Yesterday was more hopeful he kept down a little food & slept three hours. But fancy three hours being a triumph. I would rather go through any thing before the baby was born than that awful anxiety afterwards.

Today is very damp and + still + warm. It must have rained most of the night I think. It was raining hard when I first woke about six, but when I got out at seven it has stopped. It's only drizzling now. It is much more satisfactory writing uninterrupted like this before breakfast. I'm now I leave out far fewer words. Yesterday evening was horrid. Clara woke

about half an hour after she had gone to sleep and kelled for three quarters of an hour. It wasnt stomach ache that was quite obvious. I think it ^{was} a pure fury that she was not taken up and played with or rocked. She has ~~done~~ ^{woken} it quite often lately. The first two times I thought she was in pain & rocked her off to sleep. But it must not be done any more. Still it is simply horrid to hear her cry so. I must go into breakfast.

Its now the end of the morning. I have been busy with flowers & faint all the time except for nearly half an hour which I spent with Clara. I shall just have time to finish this letter before lunch. Mr Cockeall & the two youngest children are coming today & Marjorie Waterhouse. Mrs Cockeall is too ill to come. I wote to her about what arrangements she wanted as to make for the children. She ~~also~~ said after business. 'I should much have liked to

make the acquaintance of you and your baby as I remember your husband as one of the very nicest of many well under graduates. I do like people to realise how nice you are. I think much most of them do.

I have heard again this morning of Mrs Lovines baby and it is getting on better and they are very hopeful.

I did quite a lot of dress painting yesterday afternoon & I hope to do more today. All those things that I did at New Romney will be ^{sent} ~~done~~ soon. Won't it be thrilling when they come back.

I wonder how well the war is going. I do wish we had strictly truthful news. They say we have pierced the third line at one place. Well is that the result of a little attack or of such a big one that only to have taken what we have is a disaster. The Russians still seem to be getting

on very well. Oh if it could only end
this autumn. So many people seem to think
it will. I wish I could really, of course
I think it may but I feel no certainty
I don't see how one can feel any. I don't
believe any one knows it all.

But I shall try to keep full of hope
and you must too. Hope can't be
untowardful can it?

Yours very loving

Ruth.



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