

Nov. 2 morning.

My dearest Ruth, I had two good letters from you yesterday - the 25th & 27th, one of them you see rather old. I am much interested in all your London plans & shall be still more so to hear the sequel. I hope you'll see all the people you mean to & give my love to all of them. I suppose you'll be swanking in your fur coat? I rather hope you may see Doris though as you say your visit will not be so opportune as it might have been; I should like to know what is the matter.


I'm very glad you're making such progress with Montessori; it makes seem so much more a real practical proposal that Clare should have taken to the buttoning-frame. I think you'll have to consider, ~~now~~ now she has started on the Montessori sort of toy, the exclusion of other types; not total exclusion, but sufficient to prevent her 'running after strange gods' & choosing the more strikingly amusing. Mrs Irvine will be an excellent person to work with I should say. She has always been friendly

to us - I wish I could say the same of him; he has
too much of the proud-conventional; but I think he
must be a good chap all the same. I liked that little
picture of him sitting out on the side of the hill
reading up his part in 'Love's Labour's Lost' wasn't it?
It makes a great difference having congenial
neighbours.

About the war - my views
have been much the same as Owen's, only more
optimistic. I have thought the chances of an
immediate acceptance of our terms - without an
intermediate period of pan-German leading - a
good deal better than even; - that partly through
an idea of mental reactions which makes it
almost impossible for me to conceive of the Germans
bracing themselves again for war after so much
disillusionment. The fact that public opinion was
at last really functioning appeared at once from
the sudden release of pent up feelings in the press.
I think now that unless we alter the whole character
of our terms - that's impossible - Germany will
accept them at once. The surrender of Austria
- Turkey is very opportune. But it must have

been plain to all informed Germans & even to the general public that nothing more was to be expected from either of those quarters. I was half hoping for the excellent joke of seeing the Turk, just because he moves slowly, the last to give in.

I had an amusing day yesterday making the shelves for the curtain (this is really the right order). They are like this in section; -

 very simple you see, about 20" deep.

There was a certain amount of fitting to be done owing to various irregularities, but by universal consent I made a v. good job of it. The rest are all delighted by the result. The curtain looks lovely there and it's much the best plan for the room.

I've quite fallen in love with the curtains & am wondering whether there is no place in the Holt where we could use them - By the bye we want curtains for our bedroom don't we - I'm not sure they wouldn't do for that.

I must stop now. Ever so much love to you & rest & kisses for Clare & Beatrix.

Yours loving George.