

My own Dearest

I had a very nice time with Mary Anne yesterday, she had no thrilling news of any sort but M<sup>rs</sup> Radcliffe came to tea and we discussed the teaching of small children. Mary Anne & I with the desire to learn from her as she seems to have been so successful with Susan. Of course I think Susan must easy to teach & pretty intelligent, as she is only six now & can read anything and write well. I am sure she is right in one thing, she says never go on if they begin to show any sign of boredom or dislike. She has not kept to lessons and play in the old way but has taught reading and ~~now~~ writing as a delightful game on any opportunity and has never called it lessons. I should be proud if I could teach Clare to read and write without ever having a tear. Clare is quite too young to begin to teach yet in any but the Montessori system. I have written to the Secretary of the Montessori Society today to ask about the apparatus. I expect I shall have to make the alphabet myself. Even

if I could get things I might not like the lettering. Mary Anne asked me quite seriously about leaving The Halt. Apparently they feel peace so near that they have begun looking out for another house. I said it hardly seemed sensible to me to begin bargaining till we have got peace. It may be quite a while yet before the Germans are ready to come in sufficiently. Are you very anxious that I should be established at The Halt when you get back. I think it would be the nicest but we can't throw them out at a moment's notice. On the other side they are very anxious not to stay in when we want to come back. I don't see what we can say about it because we don't in the least know when peace will come nor how long they will take to demobilise you. But you must answer something to this.

I spell Berry with two Rs because I think it would look so funny with one but I will use one if you would rather. Berry, it does look funny.

I have ordered a box of apples to be sent from Mrs Viago. They will go off one day this week.

They are very expensive and I think by the time you have used that box they will be so expensive that they really will be hardly obtainable. They looked excellent apples so I hope they will arrive in good condition.

I have sent you three and a half pounds of four and two small bought cakes. Next week I shall send a much bigger cake of the same mixture as the small one. Please tell me if you like it and if its worth continuing this line. You use to have a home made cake some times but I dont think we can manage it every week. If you are so short of bread I should like to send you a cake every week. I shall send another bag of four the same size next week. I dont think you will find them too much.

I hope the cakes will travel all right in ~~wooden~~ card-board boxes instead of wood. I dont think I could possibly get wood now, its fearfully expensive. I have addressed it to the O.C. but why not to you?

Father is down stairs now & I think its a great success. He only went down this morning and is sleeping now, it must have been tiring for him.

He can now come into the dining room for meals which is much nicer. He is using the morning room for his bedroom. I should think he would go out the next nice day we have.

The O'Malley's have for the present given up the idea of going abroad because they think it would come more expensive and they could not afford it. They mean to stay to get a quite small country house or cottage with a small garden. Something rather nearer London than Godalming if possible. Of course they want time to look about. Apparently the bus can't be moved except during the late winter. I hope we shall not have to keep them for them for some months, it would be a nuisance.

Dearest I am so happy in thought that peace is coming soon, it must come fairly soon. I am very glad our attack in Flanders is getting on so well I think it must be about the most important of all. It would be splendid if we could clear the Hun away from the Belgian coast before Christmas. and I quite think we may. If the Hun have got to surrender completely I don't think the war will end before Christmas, though I don't see what else they can do. It looks today as though Turkey is going out. I send you so much love dear and kisses. Your very loving Ruth.