

Oct 25 Wednesday

My dearest George

Last night there was another of those meetings at the church room in Godalming. The subject was the ^{ideal} character of a christian and Mr Clutton Brock was there and spoke. He did it most awfully well. I think his speaking must have improved a lot dear, because the voice and way he spoke was delicious and arresting. I wished he could have gone on for three quarters of an hour. He began by saying that if you look at representations of christ in windows or pictures you are apt to feel that if you knew that man you would rather dislike him, because he is portrayed without character, and that is partly because we have never made our minds what the ideal christian character is. Then he went on to describe it. I could see he was largely taking Dostoyevski's Michkin as his model, in fact at the end he said it was a good thing to look among other literatures besides the bible to see christian character portrayed, and that *The Idiot* & *The Brothers Karamazof* were specially good.

I can't possibly tell you all he said I wish I

could; but I did ask him afterwards to write it down and he said he could not but I told him he could if he wanted to & that I would awfully like to have it and then he seemed to think that it might make a nice tract and he promised to give it to me if he ever does write it.

To go on to what he said. He said the christian would never be a dull person, but would be the person who you would delight to ^{be} with, because of his sympathy and enjoyment in your society. He would not go about trying hard to do good and telling people their faults, but he would go about liking them and being their friends. Whether he were rich or poor clever or not would make no difference, you would forget those things, because he would never remember them. He would have his influence for good less in word than anything. But when one who knew him had the impulse to do wrong, they would remember him and feel 'he would not do that & ^{they} ~~should~~ ^{would} not like him to know that ^{they} ~~did~~ it.

He said Judge not that ye be not judged, is not a theological saying but an every day truth. You actually do not judge those who do not judge you, and the christian

would not judge his fellows but love them.

He said you cannot love God by sitting in a corner and thinking about it but only through loving other people and the christians would like and love other people.

He said that when the christian was happy he was happy whole heartedly because he was happy with reason that his whole mind consented to and when he was sad he was ~~sad~~ whole heartedly in the same way. He said we waste so much inattention in unnecessary ~~moods~~ and unmeaning moods.

It seems to me very hard to be sure whether your mood has meaning or not. I get rather a lot of unhappy ones now because you are away from me and I am fearful for you. That mostly is not meaningless and yet I think I must try to combat them.

I think dearest by your letters you are getting very christian in trying as succeeding a good deal in liking people.

I don't think one ever ought to dwell on ones dislike of people. I don't think I ever feel nice if I do it. To take an instance I think we did it with the Kendalls. It was rather amusing but I think we can find plenty ^{of amusement} without it. It is one of the things

I particularly don't want Clara to hear. Children always pick up very quickly the habit of saying sharp and unkind things about people. The Kendells were very tempting people.

I was so surprised yesterday evening by a question of Mrs Fanshawe's. They have asked us to have a meeting here of educated women at which Mrs Talbot the bishop's wife will speak. We were asking how many people we were to expect. And then she asked us if there were any people we would rather she did not ask because we might have quarreled with some people and not want to have them to the house. It did surprise me that she should think it necessary to ask such a question. Doesn't it surprise you.

Dear I want to bring up Clara in a much more friendly way than we were brought up. Mother and Father when they went away for a holiday naturally did not want a crowded place and were apt to resent people, so we got to feel that other people were creatures to be avoided. If they got into your railway carriage you felt cross etc. We that is obviously not the Christian spirit, so

let's try to avoid it. We can and will go to quiet
places but lets try to welcome and make friends
with the people there if we can. You do see how
I mean, dont you?

I had a letter from Robert Graves yesterday and
he is coming on Friday evening for the weekend.
It will be the same one that Bill is here for, I
am a little sorry but things wont always be just
right.

I must stop now and take Clare out.

I had a letter from you this morning. I am glad
you have got the box with the Pot pourri in it. I
hope you like the cloth though you cant use it
till you get into your new dug out. Your life in
the mess room sounds pretty uncomfortable. I hope
you will get straight soon.

My dearest I do love you so very very much.

your loving

Ruth.

