

Monday Oct 9

Dearest George

I hope you are having some bright sunny mornings as we are now, it must make such a difference to you. Sometimes I don't see how we can go on like this for another year, living apart and in the horror of war and yet I think most people expect it will go on another year, and some I believe think that longer is possible. I doubt if it is. The war has lasted just over two years now and a year out of two years makes a vast difference. In the last months it seems to have grown into such a much more heavy burden not for us alone but every one seems to feel it so, I think. What will another year do! It must increase the burden for us immensely and for the enemy still more for they will not even have the hope of winning the war left.

Marjorie Waterhouse was telling me yesterday about a man who has come back from being interned at Ruhleben and he says the Germans do not in the least realize yet that they are being beaten, I mean the general mass of the people. They say of our offensive on the Somme that a few miles and few villages make no difference and that if we chose to spend our men in that way so much the better. Just the same of course as we have said when they have attacked us. The man also according to Marjorie seemed to think that they

hoped very much that Russia would presently make a separate peace. When one thinks of peace it seems almost impossible to understand how it can come about.

Enough of war. We just went to church in the morning and talked for the rest of the day and I had class of course. In many ways she is easier to look after than she was because she is so happy just crawling round the room and trying to pull herself up by the chairs and tables and then you can play a lot of little games with her, like holding something in your hands and letting her pull them open and get it out, and she simply loves being swung in a rug. But in the nursery she is more trouble because she needs an eye on her much more. There is no doubt that a healthy baby under a year old is the least trouble to its nurse. I think I shall raise Violet's wages from £24 to £26 this year. She has been very good with baby I don't think we could have had a better nurse for her.

Did I ever tell you that the headmaster has so far been too ill to come back this term. Pneumonia I think. A funny time of year to get it, isn't it. Mr Parry is doing his work. All that has to be done.

Yesterday evening the electric light seems very bad & dull so Father went out after dinner to look at it and he found that instead of the pressure being 55 it was

only 46 so he knew the main must be leaking pretty badly. We sat in the drawing room a bit and it got worse and worse so Father said that he must turn it off at the engine house and we had to get lamps and candles. I expect we shall have no light for ages now. It's the big main that is leaking we think, but some thing else must be wrong too because we tried to drive the engine this morning and it did not generate at all. Father has telephoned to Fred Carlings to send a man over soon. What a pity it is that these troubles can't wait till the war is over.

I wish you could have seen Elsie just now <sup>was</sup> trying to <sup>stand</sup> up with the help of a chair and the <sup>chair</sup> slipped further away from her and she wobbled & did not know what to do. It looked so absurd when she was a few inches from having her hands on the floor. She gets very angry now when she can't do what she wants. I suppose we shall have some troublesome times with the little temper.

Dearest this is not a long letter but I want to get a good bit of china painting done this afternoon.

I send you all my love dear and it is a lot, the more it is

your very loving  
Ruth.