

Nov  
Oct 3

My own Dearest

I have just had your letter today saying that you like the curtains very much. I am so glad. I wish I could see your mess, it must look rather nice. It will look better still when you have got the the velvet curtain. I was very amused by your description of your pictures I expect if they look quite gay.

I have at last finished that blue dress that I bought the stuff for at Newcastle. I think it is quite nice though there are still a few small alterations to make

We want know two or three things about your mess. Marjorie is specially anxious to know if you have a hearth rug. Is your floor just bare wood, what furniture have you besides a table?

Your view of the War is very cheering & I think most probably right. The whole thing has come so suddenly that is partly why it is so hard to believe. Another thing is that



it does not seem as though our terms to Germany will be easy, but I suppose, in fact I am sure they will have to accept them. I imagine that Austria is on the <sup>very</sup> verge of collapsing, they are trying to make an armistice. The first article in this weeks new Europe is rather interesting. They want us to treat the different nationalities in Austria differently. The Slav peoples are to be treated as friends which I suppose they are and the Magyars as enemies. I'm sure if it was England's foreign office alone that was dealing with the situation that would not be done. But as it is perhaps it will be.

I am quite enjoying Justin MacCarthy's history of Our own Times. Some chapters much more than others. I'm especially interested in the Irish history because it bears so very much upon the present day problem in Ireland. Last night I was reading of the Irish potato famine and the attempt made to repeal the corn laws so that the Irish peasants might not



die of starvation. It was an awful thing opening that and letting all those people die. I can't think how they can have done it just to allow English farmers a bigger profit. Any way they might have taken off the duty for Ireland and sent the corn in there.

We have had a letter from Marjorie Waterhouse her hospital is very busy and her leave is put off for the present but she will get three weeks leave sometime this year. I suppose she means to stick it out now till she is wanted no more through the war ending. I suppose it will be three months after war before the hospital work will get so much lighter that they can close hospitals and dismiss nurses.

Did I tell you that I had had a letter from Mr Reacle just asking how you are. I say dearest one of the first things we must do after the War is to buy a piano. Will they be frightfully expensive? I suppose so but we must have one. Its too impossible not to and it must be a pretty good one that people will be pleased to play on.



It has been very wet today and we have spent rather a nice afternoon talking by the fire. We three don't often have a talk together.

Have you thought, or do you think it possible that we may just say to the Germans you must surrender unconditionally & then we will tell you our terms. I gather that is what a lot of people want. What would the Hun do then.

This letter has been written nearly all the time while people have been intercepting fairly often which I'm afraid will prevent it being interesting. I don't know that it would have been any way.

You don't know how glad I am you liked those curtains. I think they must look very fresh & nice. I say I do hope none of you looked closely at the machined hemis because I did some of them & I did them fearfully badly. I have never learned to use a sewing machine well.

Farewell dearest for today & very very much love to you. Oh when shall we be home at the Hall together again.

Your loving  
Ruth