

Monday Oct 21

My dearest George

I have had rather a busy morning sending off old clothes to your Mother and going to the dentist. I have had a long letter from her this morning, her chief news is of Avie and Doris, but she says that she has got three servants now. One is not going to stay but she says she can get on very well with the other two.

Avie has had a false alarm and had a doctor from Manchester & a nurse & her own nurse was telegraphed for and arrived in the milk cart in the early ones of the morning and in the end nothing happened. Rather annoying. Avie must have felt such a fool.

~~The~~ You Mother's news of Doris is bad. She has ^{had} two clots in her legs and has to lie up altogether and the doctor has told her that they will probably go on after her confinement so that she may have to lie up for a long time. I think it sounds rather nasty. I must go and see her whenever I go to London. I shall write to ^{her} and I shall hope to hear more from her as to how she is. I did enjoy having Olive for the week end, its such a very long time since I have seen anything of

her and it really is very nice to find that we at once drop back into our old confident friendship I must always go on seeing something of her. I hope you will like her if ever you get to know her much. I want to try and tell you something of that book that I am reading 'Natural Law in the Spiritual World' It has interested me more as I have got on with it. Specially a chapter on Everlasting Life. As well as I can tell you this is what it says.

Here in this world we live a larger or smaller life according to the amount of our environment that we can correspond with. A worm for instance corresponds with very little of the world, a bird with a great deal more a human beings correspond with more than any other creature. Then the length of life depends on the amount a creature can adapt itself to changing environment. Death is ceasing to correspond with our environment. If we go blind or deaf that piece of us dies in a sense. A scientific expression of everlasting existence would be an environment that did not change and a creature that perfectly corresponded with it. The only indeluctable part of us is our spirits but if our spirits do not correspond with their environment which is

God they do not ~~let~~ live, but if they do open themselves to God and learn to know him then they correspond with him & as he is ~~under~~ everlasting and unchanging you have a correspondence that can go on for ever, and it would not be an everlasting existence but an everlasting life of the fullest because the spirit would be one with God.

I would like you to tell me what you think of this. Of course I have put it very shortly & probably I have done it very badly but it's not really very easy to give the argument of a long chapter that needs some attention to understand. You see I am not content with my religious life. Not at all content. I have learnt a lot from you but I think I have not been going on because I don't want to go away from you and I'm afraid I might. That I know is a hopelessly weak condition and one which you would despise. What I think I must try hard to do is to get closer to God through the words of Jesus and by prayer; and through life and ~~contact~~^{act} with other people, but I put that quite last for myself because I have failed less badly in that way than in the other ways. I believe that some people have a feeling of God's

definite help and presence close to them. I think it would be a lovely thing to have. Even if I can't get that I might improve by thinking more of the life of Jesus.

I don't think its saving my own soul that I am after, but just goodness because it is so much the most beautiful thing. If I were sure there were to be no future life I should still want goodness to make this life beautiful and happy for us all. But I can't help recurring frequently to the future life because I do so much believe in it and consequently it seems so big and important to me.

I am glad I never think of people as dead but always of them as more living than ever. I think dying will be as Browning says 'A peace of our pain.

Then thy voice. I expect it will be something like the first few minutes after a baby is born.

I was rather hoping to get your custom stuff today but it hasnt come. I'm afraid you will be thinking me a very long time. I have not found any velvet yet that pleases me.

I am often most awfully pleased with Clara. I think she has unusually attractive manners, she is so very friendly. I took her with me to the

goods station this morning. And one of the men said to her shall I help you~~s~~ up the steps my fairy, and Clare turned to him at once and began conversation without the least shyness. I think she is very self centred and will have trouble to learn to put herself second instead of first but I don't call her altogether selfish because she always wants people to share with her. I must own she doesn't always want baby to but she is still a little jealous of her. I am afraid we shall have some difficulty before they learn to get on quite happily together.

I wonder if Clare will always go on being keen on books or if her passion for her nursery rhyme books is only a phase. She simply loves that one you gave her. Baby has not visibly got on much lately but baby's always got on in burst and then have long pauses. Violet is distressed because she can't get her to feed from a spoon and stop her rattles.

It is a joy to see the way Belgium is being cleared. I do love to see the line going back and back. The whole map looks

completely different. I wonder what answer the
Opereans will give to President Wilson. The fact
that they are being driven out of Belgium won't
encourage them to be defiant.

Dearest I do send you so much love and I hope you
will be home very soon to enjoy peace and your
home & friends.

Your very loving

Ruth.

Maggie
Dore
Aurora
Walter
John

