

Dec 21

My dear One

It is sad that we have to spend this Christmas apart. But truly I am being quite cheerful about it and I know you will be too because you always are now. Though it's much worse for you because you have not got your friends and children with you as I have. I do wish I could be with you dear just for one good talk and to see you. It seems a long time since September doesn't it. So very much has happened ~~and~~ the war has turned from being hopeful to victory and from victory to peace.

I wish it was not all so very difficult to follow now. Every thing seems in a great muddle. I seem to get most idea of what's happening from the New Europe. I am glad to see that they say that America will certainly refuse to have any thing to do with our ~~secret~~ secret treaty with Italy. I can't think why the Italians are so silly as to try to stick to it. I'm afraid they are a very greedily selfish people.

(Have enjoyed her party at The Hall very much

yesterday. Mary Anne rang me up afterwards to know if they could stay at The Hall till the 7th instead of going on the god as we had arranged. As it seems so unlikely that you will be back by then I said she could.

That means that the house ought to be ready for us by the 14th. Violet said that the paint struck her as very dirty and every thing looked much less fresh than when we were there before. I'm afraid that is the case. The house has not been improved by three years wear from other people. However later on we can have the paint touched up where it wants it and we can have a new stair carpet. I shall have the present one moved when the house is cleaned this time, and that ought to make it look decent for another year at any rate very likely longer.

I'm afraid you are right in saying that we shall have to wait for a piano, but I hope we shan't have to wait very long. I shall

want one badly for my Montessori class. I'm rather alarmed to hear from Violet that the manners of the two P. Fletcher boys at the party's was disgraceful. Allen Fletcher will either have to behave himself or not come to the class, I can't have Patricia's & Clare's manners roughened they both have good manners at present.

I expect I am letting myself in for a troublesome time. One of the most important things is to be sure I don't offend the children's Mothers. I hate having quarrels with people.

I had a very busy morning this morning sending off parcels and shopping. I send Mary a liberty remnant of 2 yds of very pretty & bright red silk for a frock for Barbara & I sent Aric $2\frac{1}{2}$ yds of white silk for Mally and I have offered to embroider the frock for Aric if she likes to send it when it is made. That & the goose are all I have done for your family.

I am making Clare a cloak & bonnet and a winter frock for her doll & a night gown. Marjorie & Mildred are giving her a lovely doll's bed and they are making sheets and blankets

for it. The Christmas tree will be fun we shall have it in Father's study. The Williams^r are sharing it with us for Mary & Nancy Mussen.

It will be so splendidly lovely when you are home again and we can spend afternoon together in the garden and evenings in our own house by our own fire reading & talking. We shant have to make constant plans to enjoy ourselves, we shall just make plans to have visitors down to stay with us.

Stephen says that the sugar ration will increase in February and probably the coal ration but that is less certain. I dont think housekeeping is going to present any very great terrors, except perhaps having Chester house boys in. I have already been thinking what I could manage to give them to make a good tea without using much butter or sugar.

I must end now my dearest One

Your very very loving
Ruth.