

Nov 8 Wednesday

My dearest

I wish I might still expect you home before Christmas, leaving it till after makes it seem such a long way off. Do you really think that they don't give you leave because it would be dangerous for army to do so because you are wanted so badly, or is it that your special general does not believe in leave? If that's it he's a beast. I had a letter from Doris yesterday saying that Trafford has been made a Captain. Did I tell you this yesterday? I can't remember. I am very glad because it will make a difference to his pay 1 uppon and that will help them a good deal. He must be doing well.

I found that Robert Graves has a very strong dislike for Trafford he almost disliked me saying a good word for him. But I am sure he has improved a lot since he married and I did not know him much before he was engaged.

Do you remember the time at Barrow. It is hallowed in my mind because I know it was there that Clare began her existence. Oh it is wonderful that we should have made a person, no wonder

our hearts desire is that it shall be a good one.

M^{rs} Brock rang us up yesterday morning to ask if she could come to the meeting here. So of course we said yes with joy and ~~and~~ asked her to stay on afterwards. We had a busy morning. I went to the town first to take Clare out and to get some things we wanted. Then we arranged the drawing room a bit. We had been told to expect 39 and we had it all arranged for that number when M^{rs} Fanshawe rang up to tell us to expect ten more, so we had to fetch down more chairs and alter it. Then I unpacked four boxes of apples that had come from Uncle Charles, that took about a hour. Violet helped me to begin with them Clare woke so she had to go to her.

It was rather awful in the afternoon when the people began to arrive they just poured in and I thought we were never going to have enough chairs, but I bought in our reserve six and we managed all right. M^{rs} Fanshawe & M^{rs} Talbot were late. about ten minutes I gather that is the worst thing. The Bishop has been

late for every notice and meeting that I have been to during the mission.

It went off quite well. Mrs Talbuts talk was not fearfully good or thrilling but quite alright. She asked any of us who could to ask the officers from the camp over to tea she said she thought it helped them to have some where to go when they know no one about. So I expect we shall.

We gave the meeting a jolly good tea which they eat well, and that's always satisfactory. Mrs Brock stayed a little while afterwards. She says Kit is quite well again but kidney trouble did return a bit and so he may not go back to school. She also talked of Polly and said that she seemed to her rather queer, she wondered if her Matthea's death had been rather too much for her. I did not see any thing unusual about her but then I did not see her for long, but Mrs Radcliff said she thought her awfully staring up and nervous, and longed to say to her 'Now sit still and be quite quiet for a bit. Mrs Brock

and she talked incessantly and nearly drove Mr Brock
wild for the one night he was there with her.
She tried a great deal to point out to Kit how
foolish he had been in sitting on the damp wall
and he said. If you talk any more about that I
shall be tired of it. A course of Kit would be
rather good for Polly I think.

I have received some song books for you from
Lionela and will send them on soon.

Also the Castilian has come, I must look at it
because Johnston is wise to want to talk about
it when next I see him.

Mildred has had no letter since Sunday nor
have I, I expect the boats have been prevented
from running by the storm. I do want to
get another letter badly to hear how you
are getting on.

We are going to tea with Aunt Theodora this
afternoon and this letter must end.

I would like to kiss you and look at you just once.
I wish I could write letters as nicely as you do. There
being saluted many times & not once as in the Bible.

your very loving

Ruth.