

[Th 16 Nov 1916]

My own dearest

Violet has just come in to say that baby has been dreadfully sick in the night. First about eleven, and Violet had to get up and change every thing and bathe her and then half an hour after she had her back in her cot she was sick again. I don't for a moment think there is anything much the matter, Bessie Musson has a tummy like this last week.

Perhaps she has over eaten a bit, she has been eating ever so much better lately, or perhaps something in her food upset her.

I'm afraid poor Violet is tired.

Dearest I saw in the paper yesterday H G Foster RGA killed. I suppose that is Harold. I am so sorry. And it makes me frightened. I had been feeling rather nervous about you since we have had so little fighting. My dear you won't relax your care when you can be careful will you I will send those copied letters along to you soon. Most of them you can throw away after you have finished with them because I have a typed copy of them. These that I have

no copy of I shall want back.

I rang Mrs Brook up last night to get them to come to dinner, they are coming on Thursday in next week and I am looking forward to it very much. Mrs Brook said she had had a letter from you that morning and she was evidently very pleased to have had it. She would have come over to the depot only Alan has had a bilious attack with sickness & she had been up most of the night with him. He was sick too. I think I shall put down nothing but boiled water, I don't trust it a bit. I have just asked Violet and she says she hardly drinks any water and what she has in her food is boiled.

I had a troublesome time yesterday afternoon trying to dye some white shoes dark brown. I think they are going to be very successful but they have been through some vicissitudes. They got rained on one night a little while ago and one has shrank a bit so I have put them on some nice big trees belonging to Majorie and I hope that will stretch them enough if not

They must go back to the shop and be stitched.
I think its going to end in me having a very
nice pair of dark brown made shoes which I
have wanted for a long time.

I did not realise how awfully bad the Headmaster
had been till M^{rs} Radcliffe told me about him
yesterday. He seems to have been on the point
of death for ten days. It must have been awful
for her. And then afterwards there seems to
have been a great fear that he was tuberculous
He had a good many doctors to see him. And
presently one came from Madhanga who said
he knew his constitution so well that he
felt sure he would know. And he said he
saw no signs of wasting. So they are
now very hopeful that there is no trouble of
that kind.

I am afraid I did not get much Chaotiahouse news
from M^{rs} Radcliffe, she said there was not any.
The Queens dont seem to be deeply popular in
any quarter. M^{rs} Fletcher does not sound as
though she loves them, nor does any one else
that I have heard of, I half wish we had

not got them there. They have lately got an awful
gial for garrons to the little gial & companion
to Mrs Green. Mrs Radcliff said that Mrs Evans
said she was a disgrace to the hill & its
Tone. I cant tell you what she looks like except
that she looks as though she powders & paints
and every thing to match.

I suppose you wouldnt like to suggest to Mary
that she should have the house rent free, if
she payed the rates, we should only lose £1
a week and it would be awfully nice to have
her close. She is looking for a house but
I expect she really want some where to put
her own furniture. Still they havent much &
could put it in the top rooms and not use
them.

I had another letter this morning written on
the 12th, the one I had yesterday was written on
the 8th. Dont the vary in the time they take.
I expect I shall have a gap now that this
one has been so quick.

It sounds as though you must have had some
good exercise that day at the O.P. Why did

The men never come who you were waiting for
I wonder. And why if you cant find your way
about cant the infantry. I am glad you too had
a lovely sunset we have had some beauties.
To day its horribly cold with an east wind, a
real winter day, beauty. Ursa has not been
out at all and wont go. She is not miserable
but she's not very well. She was sick again
this morning when we gave her some milk
and water at once, so she has had nothing
but albumen water since. I dare say a little
starvation will do her no harm, pass mite.

It must have been rather thrilling going over
that village and finding just the timber you
wanted. I should enjoy taking German stuff
like that

You ask about rent I have had that up to
August. The were very late in paying it but
I had it by the beginning of Oct. I will write
and ask for the coal money. It was 17 tons
not £17. It was more the £1 per ton. Father
bought some at the same time & can find
out what it cost.

Dearest I may have given you the wrong impression
of Johnston. I did like him and think him
unusually bright and interesting but I do think
him rather over confident or conceited I am not
sure which. I dont know that I am specially
good at judging ~~you~~ boys at short notice, but
I am sure he is mostly very nice. So dont let
me impress you unfavorably

I must stop now & go and see baby.

I kissed her for you on a smooth plump pink
cheek. I thought it was the nicest place

your very loving

Ruth.

