

Jan 5

My dearest George

Last Sunday I was full of hope that you might come back any time now my hope is withering rather. I fear you will not be back by the beginning of the term even, still I do not think it will be very long and after all you may be back any time and that is a great thing. But I did think when the headmaster's letter came that you would be back very soon. I wish I knew if you had done any thing, or rather if your CO. has. If the W.O. cant be poked up they may never do any thing more. There are constant letters in the papers now from people saying how bad the demobalisation is and that it is chiefly the fault of the W.O. The subject for our study circle this week is largely the one of humility. We are doing the second chapter of Pauls epistol to the Philippians and he is exhorting them to not to quarrel but to have greater humility and to ~~see~~ to look at the good qualities of

the others and to think them more good than themselves. I do think that question of humility is difficult. Every one has a natural judgement of their own and therefore can see that other people are not always good and they may really think, if they think about it at all, that they themselves are better.

It seems to me the only way must be to look at other peoples good points ~~rather~~ as much as possible & to love them, to look candidly at ones own fault and to try and improve without thinking so much about the faults that one becomes depressed and miserable, but just humble and cheerful. If you think a great deal about yourself you are likely to begin to make excuses for yourself & to build up an imaginary idea of what you are like because the real one is not good enough, but if you just take a good clear look at yourself & say to yourself in truth & humility this is not very good I will do my best to improve and then leave yourself alone & think of other things and people your humility would not be having

and tiresome. We've just had a good spell of the
wordy sort of humility from Aunt Maud and it
really is very irritating. I don't know any
one who irritates me and makes me hate myself
as much as Aunt Maud. I always see my own
faults ^{or tendencies} exaggerated & made ridiculous in her and
consequently she specially annoys me. I have
never yet had sufficient self control not to
be sarcastic to her and unchristian, she doesn't
understand sarcasm so one feels it does not hurt
her but it always ends in hurting me very
much and making me feel low and miserable
about myself. I have even got so far as to
feel thankful you were not there to hear
what I had said. Being nasty to someone
does bring its own punishment quickly.
This is Sunday and I have not gone to church
because I shall have the children all the
afternoon and I wanted time to prepare my
study circle questions for tomorrow and to
write to you. Mr. Raworth is coming to
tea and to supper so I may not get time
later on without being unsociable. Mary Hussen

is coming over this afternoon to play with Cleve. I dont think I shall take her out as its a damp chilly day & her tummy is not quite right yet. She is quite gay and good tempered today but I do wish she would settle down & do something some times instead of running round the room & going from one thing to another in such an apparently aimless way.

Uncle Hawes went and called on the Headmaster today to have a talk about Marlborough. They met just before Church and the Headmaster took him for Father that is what put it into his head to go. He told the him the state of affairs as far as we know it is that your C.O. has had not order that he may send you back so the Headmaster said he should write to the W.O. again, this time I think to an individual he knows so I hope that may have some effect. I am awfully glad it came through Uncle Hawes rather than coming straight from me its much more likely to be effective. I am very pleased that he has been stood up to fresh effort because I think you

have a much better chance of getting back if he pushes than you have in any other way.

It was jolly good of Uncle Haves to bring up the subject he said he thought he would feel round as it might do some good.

M^r Raxworthy told us a nice story about M^r Fletcher this evening. He said that he brought one of the divisional generals up to Charterhouse and introduced him to M^r Fletcher and M^r Fletcher said how do you do and turned his back on him and talked to some one else & the general was very angry. Some little time later M^r Raxworthy had some one else he wanted to introduce to M^r Fletcher & he asked M^r Fletcher if he would like he to be introduced to him and he said he would as he thought he would be very interesting. Then M^r Raxworthy said 'Well I hope you won't be as rude to him as you were to general so & so' M^r Fletcher said 'Rude! I did not know I had been rude to any one.' M^r Raxworthy said 'when I introduced him General so & so to you you almost immediately turned your back upon him

Mr Fletcher said he had forgotten the introduction and every thing and was very sorry but he said 'Dont tell my wife what ever you do.'

I like the 'Dont tell my wife' dont you? I think its really rather a nice story, not an unkind one because every one knows that Mr Fletcher is often rude & it shows he at any rate often does not mean it.

I think I must end this rather long letter now.

I feel a little more hopeful that you will be home before so very long.

Your very very loving
Ruth.

