

Tuesday Aug 15 (91)

My own dearest George

I was reading your dear letters last night and I read one you wrote me a day or two ago. And darling you say that I don't wobble in goodness. Well I can't help it I like you to think so, but Oh how much more would I like it if it were true. * When you think I am good it makes me want all the more to be so. But I'm not always very nice. I'm horribly impatient with people and judge them much too quickly. Look what I said to you about Mr Allen, I'm afraid that was not very kind. Then I don't always do things from pure motives. You see I have just said that ~~I have just said that~~ I want to be good for your approval partly. That's not a pure motive. I do want people to like me, not only you dearest, though that matters so much above the rest. And that desire for people to like me does throw into a secondary motive in a way it ought not to do some times. This is quite true. I wonder if you know it is so from your own knowledge of me. I do think that

I am rather better about it than I used to be. But oh when I come to think motives over I think they are very seldom just. I believe yours are far juster.

Dear Sir I have been meaning to say that I think I judged Mr Allen rather hastily and unnecessarily. ^{I think, and} I am sure & I thought so then, that when once Eleanor loved him it was much better they should be married. I don't know the circumstances, because it chafains me really wanted badly he is very likely right to go. Only there is such a general impatience and unrest in England. Every one is wanting to do something that is not their own work. I am imbued with the feeling too.

To go back to the old question of labour that ~~was~~ were discussing before. I'm afraid things are frightfully bad here. Men are so scarce that there is no difficulty in getting a job and the result is that they simply want work. Father has been & is still having great trouble with goodness. Of course he is not trying to have the full number, but two that he had got really badly wanted to

work. Father talked to Beugly about it and he said 'It's no use none of the men will work now. That seems to me a very disgraceful state of affairs. Look at all the people who are struggling to help the nation by doing voluntary work. Look the desperate need that every one should do their bit as well as they can. It makes one feel inclined to say Ought we to win this war. If they go on like this when the war is over ~~they~~ the Germans may still win ^{our trade}. But I expect that we here are looking at the blackest side here. We have only the older men and on the whole probably the women ones. They are too old to change their cotton lacy habits. But the younger ones who have fought in Flanders may realize the need of their country when the war is over and may really work so well that England can compete with Germany and get the trade she ought. If we don't I'm afraid we shall be in a very bad way with taxes so high and such a debt to pay off.

How can the need be brought vividly before
the men. Do you think your soldiers out with
you realize it. It's not as though they
were being asked to do any thing unpleasant
for their country. It's much ^{more} pleasant to work
hard than to slack when once you have
become accustomed to it. Beagly says that
soldiers always make slack work men.

We have had no rain worth speaking
of yet although it is much cooler.

I did a lot of china painting yesterday
and really got on with the bowl.

I am doing the quicker just now so
that I seem to get on quite quickly. When
I come to the borders it will be
slower work and less fun I think.

We are going over to Guild food this morning.

I don't yet know what day Violet will go
home. She is still waiting to hear from
her Father. She ~~so~~ may go to morrow. I am
glad I can let her go home for his

leave. My address will be 670 M^o Cooper

It's after eight, so I must stop.

I hope to send off a chocolate cake

today. Love very loving
Ruth

Jasmine Villa
Lee Road
Aldborough on Sea.