

Sunday Dec 10 + Monday 11

My dearest One

I have had a nice day today except the morning, and I did not get a letter from you and church was dull and cold. But this afternoon I went for a nice walk with Olive and Clare & got warm and then came home & fed the chickens and gave ~~her~~^{Clare} her tea & I had hardly finished that when Johnstone & John Graves came and Raymond which was very nice.

Pasting I was so sorry you could not be there you would have loved to see those boys playing with Clare; they were simply sweet to her and she played up and was very good & bright with them. Little John Graves could not keep away from her at all & lagged her all about the room & she did not seem to mind a bit how she was carried. After Raymond had left I took the two boys to explore the house I think they enjoyed that and it gave Clare a rest so I think was really rather exhausted by the play. I let them go

first and into any room they liked only
I told them whether they could go into
it or not first & saw that the curtains
were drawn. Johnston said to me Don't
you think Class is going to be very pretty.
It pleases me that she should strike him
like that. He was very thrilled by my
necklaces which he saw because I called
his attention to my jewel box in the
course of our explorations. I told him
he was just like Class & he did not
mind in the least. I think he is very
nice & I think you would like him.
I had to put Class to bed while
they were still here and very soon
after I went down they suddenly found
that it was a quarter to seven &
they would have to go or be late for
chappel, so I took them across the
bridge & if they were which I suggested
they had better do they ought to
have just been in time I think.
I should have to tell you about supper

with Mrs Brock tomorrow as its a
lot after eleven now & Olive has
to leave by the 8.30 so I must
be up fairly early tomorrow
I do wish you could have seen Clare
& the boys. You will love it when we
are at the Holt again.
Good night dearest.

Monday morning.

I bicycled to the Brocks it was so bright with
moonlight that it was a very easy ride & my
lamps stayed in. Coming back unfortunately it was
pouring with rain so I got rather wet. Its still
raining now I think

I told you I was going there to meet one of
Allans school masters didnt I? His name I
think is Nastor. I was interested in him &
I think you would have been. I should think
he is younger than I am but you its hard
to tell. He doesnt look perceptibly young. He is
good looking and reminds one of a little of Mr
Powys only he is slim and better build.
When he began to talk about his school work

I thought he seemed very jolly about it. He has started a sort of little Auto & Crafts club among the boys and they are going to have an exhibition at the Bucks house next Saturday of the things they have done. He seems to be great friends with the boys and to have been to stay with a lot of them at their homes. Mr Brock says that Allan has been happier this term and altogether easier ~~spring~~ to being so busy with this work.

All that's ever so jolly but I must say I rather doubted of Mr Norton's wisdom because he seems to imagine that he knows all the boys through and through far better than any of their parents know them or any one else. Directly a person claims to know any one through & through I always have my doubts of them, it's such a big claim to make. He seems to think that he for the first time has solved the problem of being a school master. He says that he has learned nearly every thing now except how to punish. At least he says he knows how but he

is not now get what are the right punishments.
Altogether I thought him nice & delightfully frank
& easy to talk to and seen but very young.
I'm getting older you see very fast.

I don't think he has any friends here that he
cares for and so he makes the boys into
his friends & up to a point that is usefully
jolly but unless he has the wisdom only
to give the boys sympathy & not to stay &
take sympathy in I think it would be too
forcing a friendship for children of that age.
I may be wrong about it but that is what
I feel at present.

He will almost surely leave humbly later on
but I am rather sorry for him because it's
sure to be pretty beastly when it comes.

Mrs Book & I talked about him and about
boys education a bit after he had gone. It was
very nice I do like having a talk with her
I have got so much more friends with her
lately

I have had a letter from you this morning,
dear, I am sorry you have an influenza cold.

I hope you really have got rid of the temperatures.
You have not got a thermometer I suppose.

I hope the cold part is not bad.

Are you feeling very much depressed by Bill going away. He is lucky & so is his wife. And so is Mr Eard's wife. I hope his kidney trouble is not very serious. It seems a waste that he should have come at all when he was probably doing very useful work at the war office.

I am very anxious about Greece and our army at Salonika. I can't tell you how thankful I am that you are not there.

I think it's rather wonderful how much love & letters can bring you into my life. I do hope you find I get into yours a lot. I do & think things with you in my mind & thoughts all the time the same as if you were at home. Because I can tell you every thing in my letters.

I have sent you a chocolate cake today iced with chocolate for Christmas & the second pair of stockings and I am going to send some mince pies & a pair of socks that I have knitted you for Christmas. I would have liked to have sent

you some thing more. interesting than rocks
but you can count Oliver Lodges back if you
are interested in it not other wise.

Recount I do hope you arent going to be very
lonely now that Bell has gone.

I must stop writing now & get on to other
things.

yours very loving
Ruth.