

Monday, Nov 25

My own Dearest

Kentrelay's letter was written rather under difficulties, at least I find it rather difficult <sup>too</sup> to write while people are talking.

I am learning but more about the Montessori ideas and principles from the book I am now reading. Her idea of giving children liberty and freedom is only so that they may use it well which she says they do with the right helps which her apparatus gives. # The apparatus is to help them to classify and put in order their ideas about the world so that when they look at an object instead of having a hazy idea of what it is like they ~~not~~ instantly realise that it is blue square & hard, and they are interested as they go about to understand the shapes of things and to have names for them. Of course the great thing is that it teaches them to concentrate and work. No one really does their best work unless they are interested and enjoying it, it is only then that they lose themselves in the intensity of

of their ~~own~~ concentration; so the only way to teach  
or to let children learn that concentration is by  
giving them occupations that they enjoy, and  
that do at the same time lead on to further  
knowledge so that the child has the splendid  
feeling of growing knowledge and power.

I have just been talking to Violet about servant  
for the Hall she thinks it quite time that  
I advertised, so then I said I did not know  
what to do about Maggy and I have decided  
to write her a note saying when I am going  
back to the Hall and what the work will be  
now and that I should be delighted to have  
her and that also there is the cooks place &  
is it possible that Gesty might contemplate  
it. It would be so awfully nice to get Gesty  
as cook. I dont think it at all likely that  
we shall but I think it worth trying. She is  
doing temporary work now at the Vicarage.  
Then if that is no good ~~at~~ as I think  
probable I must advertise.  
I do want to get nice maids most awfully it

makes such an immense difference to our happiness. Yesterday afternoon Clara tried to climb up the mantle piece in the drawingroom with her feet on the sofa. It was extraordinarily the real climber in miniature, the way she felt up for the next hold and then exclaimed 'Got it'. She is going to learn a tremendous lot of balancing. You will have to get some narrow planks for her when we get back to the Hall and we must arrange a method by which we can gradually raise them from the ground.

Letters from you <sup>are</sup> irregular I have not had one since Saturday morning, it's now Monday evening. I know it's not long but it seems quite long when one is waiting. I think very likely your return will be delayed because so many people will have been applied for at the consulate that it will take some time to get the application through the War Office, very likely longer than it took for those masters who were asked for earlier. It's very hard to be patient isn't it. I don't know how I am going

to manage to get to London to a Montessori school  
even for a week before Christmas. If I am going  
to advertise for servants I must be ready to  
interview them, You may be coming back any  
time and there are only four weeks left  
before Christmas. I fear I may have to put it  
off till after we are settled at the Halt.  
You see I can't go this week I am not quite  
well enough. Never mind I expect things will  
fit in somehow. My great anxiety now is to  
be able to get servants. I am afraid it will be  
very difficult, specially the cook and it would  
be nice to have a fairly good one.  
What a job it will be moving back to the Halt  
and how nice when we get there. I hope it won't  
be marred by too many difficulties.

I do want you, my dear, dear one, so much. I shake with  
excitement when I think of you coming back. Won't  
it be thrilling!

Your very very loving

Ruth.