

[Th 26 Oct 1916]

My dearest George

I had an interesting morning at the depot yesterday because I had a very good talk with Mr Brock. It began by talking over his lecture ~~speech~~ on Tuesday night, and then we got to the subject of prayer, she said that she had said to some eminent clergyman that she could not see how to make her children pray, the only thing she could do was to give them a little formal prayer and hope that from that real prayer would come some day. And he said he did not think any one ought to wrestle in prayer, and when you remember the awful stories of ^{religious} revivals, and children having fits & weeping it looks as though he is right and that all that highly emotional religion was not the right way. But then she went on to say that she was not sure that Mrs and Mr Brooks was quite right. She has been very much troubled lately because a nice girl who was their nobby maid came to them from a home, ~~has~~ gone wrong and she has been taken and sent to prison for behaving indecently in Godalming. These Canadians at the camp seem to be doing a lot of harm here, they have

a lot of money. Mrs Brock has tayed hard to get her to leave those ways and go back to a good life and she has failed. And I think she feels that the girl did not see much to help her in her life with them. Just a bright happy home, but religion never obtained its self. Mrs Brock had jeweloy and pretty daresses and he liked to give them to her and she is afraid it may have wakened a desire in the girl for these things. It is awfully difficult isn't it. But its so fearful when a woman goes to those bad ways because not only does she ruin herself & but she ruins many men with her and she may spread disease through the country. And its for money

Then afterwards at the depot, that part was on the way, she began to tell me about a lecture she had heard where a man seems to have said that every thing would be better if only people who had capital would be content with less interest and would lend their money for things such as housing schemes at say 3%, they wont because they all want as much money as they can get. And untill people will put other things before money its a good state will never come. Its frightfully difficult to know

and you would have to be very careful how you
lent your money on this small interest, but it
may be the right way.

Yesterday afternoon Violet was out and I had
class, just before I started out I had a telephone
message from Beagly to say he was up at the
Holt so I took baby up there and went and
talked to Beagly, he is going to dig over and
manure the two worst of the top beds, the
other two are better soil and also have
such a lot of manure in them that they
would be very hard to do. He has also
looked round to see that things are all right
and he found they had made a rubbish
heap in the hole by the green house stove,
that they had left the wheel barrow out
side full of coal rotting and that they had
left a door mat so long without taking it
up that the grass was growing through it.
Also, which I did not tell you at the time
because I knew it would annoy you, I found
one day our little brown Sung pot in the
green house so that decided me, and yesterday

I fetched all four away in the foam. Our little white one was again being used for flowers and if any one is too use it I would rather do so myself. I met Mr Gouin coming in just as I was going & I told him about the mat, wheel barrow & rubbish heap, and I also told him that I was painting a new scavie and so had fetched those mats. I'm afraid it was a lie but it was the only polite way I could think of for getting them.

Beagly is a blessing he looks after one like a Father. He has taken that bicycle. If he wanted it I would rather he had it than the road man, and it would have cost too much to go up by the time the war is over to make it worth while keeping it.

We are having some lovely weather now, beautifully sunny and not cold. I wish you were not having such a vile time as regards weather.

I want to know what Bell got his military cross for? Dont forget to answer this. And when he is made a temporary Captain will he stay in your battery or get moved away. Or will Captain

Lithgow by chance he moved.

I must not write this letter much longer because I have got to pack my things to go to London. Baby was so funny this morning after she had been put into her pram to go to sleep she got up kneeling. ~~in~~ Mrs Violet went out to put her down and as soon as baby saw Violet coming she giggled down in her pram as though she did not want to be seen, she knew quite well she ought not to have got up.

Violet says that Clara said 'ta' twice this morning after her when she wanted her rag cat to play with. That is the first time she has really said a word with meaning I think.

Dearest I do hope you don't find my letters dull, sometimes I am afraid they are a bit.

I love you so much I would like to write you the most brilliant letters if only I could. I do wish I was clever. But now I have married you most people think I am more to be intelligent, that is if they know you, and I find that rather a comfort. I think Mrs Boock is really clever. Those children ought to be pretty bright. I hate to think that Clara may inherit my brain. Some bits are all right but most won't do.
your loving Ruth