

Sunday Dec 29

Dearest

The letters are being very slow the last I had was yesterday & it was dated the 23<sup>rd</sup>. This slowness makes me fear that my letter to you with the precious War Office enclosure may be slow. I do hope you have got it by now. I am longing for a letter to say you have but still more for you yourself to come.

Do you know that cow has not calved yet I don't know how Mrs Wooten & Marjorie are managing, the children are having Cow & Gates doid milk which seems to work very well. My writing is so bad because I am writing on my lap. The table and the only chairs are being used by Helen and Aunt Maude. Father has played billiards a little but he cannot

manage more than 50 up or he gets too tired. Mr Radcliff was here yesterday afternoon to billiards. I think he is a very charming man.

Clara and I and some of the others have been to tea with the Williams and now she is in bed. I wonder if you will think she is good when you come home. She is dreadful about contradicting still and I don't seem to be able to make her understand that she mustn't do it. I know it will come presently that she does understand & that she will stop but it does not sound very nice. Anyway bad as she is in many ways I do not think that she is worse than other children of her age

There is an article I have not yet read in the New Europe about Germany. They do seem awfully unsettled, I hope very much

that they will soon settle down to having a decent orderly government. I don't see how we can make peace with anything else. What a time we shall have when you come back. All the work and interest of going back to the Holt, the garden to get flowers in to for the summer. I wish I had been able to do ~~more~~ <sup>anything</sup> this autumn but influenza quite stopped it. However we really have a good lot of perennials in the top beds enough to make a very good start.

Then we shall have all our friends to see specially the Bracks who will be so pleased when you are home. Also we shall have jolly boys tea parties again. I wonder if you will have the same form you had before, they were such jolly little people. I rather expect you won't have a form because they

will not have known in time that you were coming. I hope the boys won't get any infectious disease so that we have to keep the children away from them because I am sure Clare would enjoy playing with them. Dearest I am so longing to have you and talk to you that I can't write. I don't know why it is but the more near your coming is and the more excited I am about it the more ~~imposs~~ difficult it is to write. I think it seems so unsatisfactory when I want to talk to and be near you. Nothing seems worth saying because I so hope to have you to say it to soon. Even if this letter is thoroughly dull & send you all my love with it. Very passionate true & tender love because you are to me the dearest, nicest most understanding & interesting person in the world.

Your very loving  
Ruth.