

Oct. 19. 1918.

My dearest Ruth, I had a letter by to-day's mail from Fletcher asking me to take advantage of an Army Council order & come back to C'house - a question of his applying for his release. I wish it could have come a fortnight earlier because then I should have had no temptation to say anything but No. But as I expect the war to end within a few weeks the case is now very different. I have found it very hard not to assure myself of a quick return. However I didn't feel like gambling with a chance like that & I have asked him to make the application as soon as an armistice is arranged - I think the A.C. order will still hold good then as territorialisation will not have begun; - and in that case my darling we shan't have long to wait after the armistice. I can't think we shall have long to wait in any case, because the A.C. order shows that the importance of schoolmasters is recognised & if J.D. can't get me back that way

he will surely be able to manage it in some other
All of which has a bearing on the Holt. Will you
tell the O'Malleys about this. I agree with you
that it is no use making any definite arrange-
ment before we have an armistice; but I think
it is quite reasonable that the O'Malleys should
look round now. It is certainly quite on the
cards that I shall want to occupy the Holt next
quarter. The idea of the O'Malleys' exit with
all their wonderful possessions - several crates
of hens I suppose - amuses me vastly; but I shall
feel quite sorry in a way that they should be
leaving - however that's not an immediate
prospect.

I had another letter from
you to-day & a splendid parcel, thank you. I think
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of flour a week will be quite adequate.
The smaller cake arrived in a somewhat battered
condition & wasn't anyway so good as the other
- I don't really think it is worth while sending
out a large edition of that weekly. An occasional
one of the other sort would be better & better still
of course an occasional home made one - but

please don't press that - I realise the difficulties -
it's not as though we are badly off for food, especially
now we have the flour.

I like the photo of you with Berry (I adopt your
spelling) - you looks very much the proud mother
& she most attractive & sweet. You speak
in your last letter of the different appearances
I make in your mind; and I'm afraid from
what you say they are not all very agreeable - do I
appear as a domestic tyrant irritable & unkind?
From what you say afterwards I think that
must be the case - not always, I hope. But
my dear that does exist perhaps, I mean a
wrong relation sometimes and I feel very sorry that
it should ever be; it's a fly in the ointment;
however the ointment is a large pot & we mustn't
make too much of the fly when we consider the
rest. And my dear one how different all our
circumstances will be when we are living perma-
nently together again in our own house. I don't
think you need have many fears for the future.
I look forward to a life with you & the children at

the Holt or wheresoever it may be as a wonderful thing.
As regards your appearances to me I don't greatly
worry about their corporeal form - You appear more
as an atmosphere with which I have a tender
relation & a beautiful presence.

This must now go to the post.

Yours hopefully & lovingly

George.

