

Tuesday Sept 28
[26]

My own darling

It is so nice to come and talk to you. I think about you much a lot of the day. Yesterday was tiring but then a day in London always is. I usually enjoy the first half of the shopping, then we get hurried and one gets tired and ceases to. On the whole I think I am very satisfied with what I bought & I think I have been sensibly encouraged. I wonder if you will think so. First Mill & I both bought long coats. ~~Cost~~^{Out} door coats for winter I mean to a little below our knees. Hers is grey and very pretty and mine is dark brown. I think I shall look well dressed in it but the question of course is whether you will think so. Anyway I don't think you can dislike it very much. It was rather expensive. Just under five pounds without alteration just over with it. I had to have few things done. I think it is rather more than one ought to have to give but then other people don't think so I suppose. It was one of their less expensive coats they had nothing at all nice for less. Of course stuffs have gone up a bit but I don't believe that affects those ready made things very much because I am sure they always make a vast profit on them. Then we hunted for dress stuffs for some time but could not get any thing we liked. So we went to Oxford Circus we had to be at the Kennington shops they are

better for ready made things, less expensive and less fashionable. The time went awfully fast and by lunch we had not got much more than the coats. We did rather a lot of useless hunting after that the next thing I bought was a brown hat that was twenty five shillings, too much rather but the hats are not shapes that suit me this winter so I had to get what I could. Its quite nice hat and ought to wear well. Then we went to Liberty and bought some soft blue stuff for a dress for Mildred, then up to the silk department where I got silk for those petticoats. a red & two greens. You remember we decided I might buy silk for petticoats as it was the only thing I could be comfortable in. I did buy silk & wool for a coat for Clara but it was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds and I wanted her to have it very much. Mildred bought a very pretty hat there, black with blue plaited silk underneath & a blue ribbon round the crown. After that as I had still not found the cheap hard wearing velveteen I wanted we went to a cheap shop in the Holborn direction & there & got it at once for $\frac{1}{6}$ a yds. 7 yds so that makes $10\frac{1}{6}$ for the dress stuff its also dark brown so it wont get dirty as the other one did. I am going to use red on it I think so that it shant be too dull. Well thats enough for clothes except that I bought you a long sleeved waistcoat which seems to me

very nice and must be warm I hope you will like it
and wont think it too thick. I expect I could change
it if you dont like it.

I have had a letter from you this morning dear it
is so nice getting them and I have had no long gaps
now for some time. You ask me what I shall do
about copying out what you wrote about Hell. My
dear I have found this frightfully difficult. The
fact that your friends would want your Mother
would not. Sometimes I have just sent on the
war part sometimes I have included parts for
your friends but never anything quite as much so
as what you wrote about Hell. I wish I had
time to manage two copies but I havent so its
no use. If you can tell me what you would like
me to do I will do it.

I had a letter from Mary yesterday and she said
they were bombed twice in the night ~~to~~ in the
last air raid and they saw the one come down in
flames. The other came down not so very far
from Manjorie, & Miss Constance the firemen went
to see it, it and said it stretched across two
fields and a lane & looked like the crystal palace
with the glass knocked out. Two down for one raid
is pretty good, it will spoil the silly German joy.

I am glad you have seen Mr Earl, you did not say anything nice or polite in your last letter only just that you expected to see him.

I don't like the idea of you going where you may get cut off. There is no real chance of you ever getting made a prisoner is there? So long as things go well I suppose if the Germans were to take the offensive and do well it would be a different matter.

I am going to send a cake & tea & soup & chocolate this afternoon.

I don't quite see why you should feel cynical because Mr Hogarth writes you a nice letter but seldom & because he then wants most to know how much danger you are in. I write to you every day but its what I'm most anxious about. Of course I know I can't keep saying it, we have just got to leave it in the hands of God I suppose if you said 'my chances are pretty cosy now thank you' it would be cynical, but I think it would be rather amusing.

I think I must finish answering your letter tomorrow.

It was a very nice one. I do like having them.

Yours very very loving
Ruth.