

Dec 11

My own Dearest

I have had such an interesting letter from you today about your last days in Paris. I am glad you enjoyed them. I am very interested in the picture and the artist, you have not told me his name, unless its Jasot, but I'm not sure if that is the ship woman or the artist.

The picture sounds as though I shall like it very much but of course I can't tell. Its quite small, I would have liked to have a rather bigger one from the decorative point of view but as you say one must buy when one finds something nice. I think you had better buy it ^{as} if you feel so sure of it. I think we can afford it now + we may not be able to later. I am thrilled at the suggestion that he should come and paint Clare, I hope he really will. Do you think it would be fearfully expensive? I don't think you were a bit to precipitate, how

can one make friends otherwise when there do
so short a time after. I think its great fun
tumbling into friendship with people.

I do hope you will keep up your friendship with
these French folk, I am sure it is tremendously
worth while.

I want very much to go to France after the war,
I mean after peace, and learn to talk a little
fairly fluent French even if its not very good.
You could help me in England if you would.
I hope I have been friendly enough to the pro
plan of buying the picture. I really agree only
I feel we must keep a strict eye on expenses
~~not~~. Income tax will go up rather than down
after the war. That is only a casual expense
not a permanent one, but we do have rather
a lot of casual expenses. Still lets have
this one.

Harry Farr is back on leave looking very well
and happy far better than last year when
he seemed to me to have been spoiled by the
war.

Last night I went to the labour members meeting
because Mr Clutton Brock was taking the chair

and speaking. He talked about the League of Nations and of its paramount importance for us all. He said that if we do not have it we shall soon be having another armament race but with America this time. They are now fast building a large navy. We can't afford to go on with the armament race after the war. He also said he thought free trade an essential of a League of Nations.

His speech was good but I do not think he said much that you and I do not already feel strongly.

The labour member Mr Bennet who spoke for the rest of the time began badly, as I thought, with decaying the other side. The usual sort of political stuff, but when he had finished that he spoke very earnestly and well of the aims of the labour party and I am bound to say they seemed to me on the whole just and reasonable as he put them forward. ~~It~~ I feel inclined to hope that before very long there may be a small labour majority and another election, provided that the moderate labour councils may be supreme. I can see that

M^r Clutton Brock is transfixed that ^{if} labour is kept out so long that it grows ever restless and a revolution and Bolsorist councils ensue. That would be an awful disaster for us all as M^r Bennett very wisely pointed out.

I had a long letter from Mary yesterday. Ralph has been or is in the near future to be sent to the Staff College at Camberley for some job, he is afraid that will knock on the head his fortnight Christmas leave which is rather annoying for them. Mary says she will leave the children at B'head and stay in rooms at Camberley with him. I never knew any one who objected so much to being based for a week or two as Mary.

Little Beony walked alone for the first time yesterday evening. It was a funny little sideways walk but she managed quite a number of steps without losing her balance. She is a dear little thing she has such a lovely smile.

Tell me what I am to do with your package of books when it arrives.

Oh I see that Jaoot is the name of the artist.

Your very loving
Ruth.