

Sept. 20. 1916

Darling, Another letter from you let us  
- so the mails are not doing so badly. It is  
very kind of you to garden so diligently  
at the Holt; I suppose the Chase folk  
will all be back now just starting the  
new school year - but it seems that it is  
going to prevent your activities. Yes, I'm  
afraid too that the poplars will have to  
be lopped. I'm very glad the acacia has  
done so well after the amputation of  
last year. I wish the Wychesiana roses  
would do really well, & I want the  
creepers under the loggia to grow. I  
think you said one jessamine was alive  
there. It would be good thing to get  
something growing up the props below  
the landslipping bank. This talk  
makes me almost homesick.

I've had another quiet day in the  
map-room - the Captain has been away  
most of the day & I have been in charge.  
Much firing still goes on, of which I'm  
glad - it looks like business; but we're

p.s. By a new arrangement it seems likely that O.P. duty will only be about one day  
in ten! That's good news isn't it?

had more rain intermittently & the ground must still be very heavy where it has been recently cut up by shell fire; it ought to make a lot of difference that our men will have quite a considerable slope in their favour. I shan't be in the trenches either to-morrow or the next day.

Austin Earl came to dinner last night. I was glad to see him. But I'm afraid he's not enjoying life. I wouldn't expect it of him; I found myself listening to a good deal of talk about an offensive subaltern in his battery whom he evidently dislikes very much; he lets little things get on his nerves & that's a great pity. He is with G.2 now & thank God I'm not; his battery seems to be spending all its moments wrestling with their gigantic shells in a sea of mud; they have almost nothing in the way of dug-outs yet & they have endless trouble under these conditions in laying platforms & bringing the guns into action. Earl was evidently enormously impressed by our comparative

comfort; and indeed we really are very comfortable here. It will be leastly clearing out. The charm of Austin is greatly in his frankness; & then he's a high-souled creature & has a real vein of nobility; I'm sure he'll do anything to help a friend & would hate to act meanly more than almost anybody. I don't expect ever to get much out of him intellectually; he is unspeculative & I almost feel that his spiritual activities such as they are are only a part of being an educated gentleman — Rather an XVIII<sup>th</sup> Century type — a bit of the fine aristocrat. What different sorts one likes. I was glad to hear that he made up his quarrel with Leveson — he's a person I want to see again too. It also told me of the military career of one we called 'Bob' — the very confident little Scot — you must have heard us talk of him; — he was disturbed during the performance of his duty at the latrine by the whistle of an 'Archie' case (reckoned very harmless though of course it wouldn't be to be hit by one) which so frightened him that he attempted precipitate

book about Skatespeare's England - for you just now & later for me  
a best for our family! It may cost about £50. You won't mind with you  
God Night! I can't love in her charge.

flight, his trousers still festooned about his ankles, into a neighbouring shell-hole, and fell so violently that he had to be invalided home to England with a bad leg!

I believe Thomson & Willett are hereabouts though that's a vague phrase. The Capt. has this moment returned with a circumstantial rumour that the Tripoli garrison of 4000 has surrendered; great chess if it's true.

I've read to-day an article in the Round Table of June about Industrial Organisation which interested me quite a lot: I thought the main point so good - that it is a question not so much of imitating German way, as of developing our own. But it wasn't very well worked out - rather sketchy & at the same time heavy - don't you think that is rather characteristic of the R.T. Anyway I've got hold of the name of a book to send from it - <sup>the</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>English</sup> ~~English~~ <sup>Industrial</sup> ~~Industrial~~ <sup>Philanthropists</sup> by one Tressall a house-painter. I think it likely to interest me. I can see that I shall shortly be sending a large order to the bookseller. Incident! I'm going to order the Centenary