

Monday Aug 14

90

My own dearest

I had a nice day yesterday. Along play with Clara in the afternoon and she was very sweet and quite ready to laugh and to be amused. We sat up in the circle at the end of the new walks for a long time after tea. Before tea she sat on the school room floor and played with the contents of the waste paper basket. She loves picking out the difficult bits and fingering & possibly marking them then throwing them down. The marking is the great trouble I was trying to cherish paint but it did not get on very fast after she came in as I had to keep looking up to see that she did not get any thing right in her mouth.

Today I think we really shall have rain it looks as though it can't help it.

There evidently has been a little already.

The sky is very grey with light ~~red~~ clouds blowing across it and the wind is South West. Now if only you were here we would go off for a walk across the commons and not care how wet we get.

I am looking forward to going to Aldenburgh

I think the change of place & companions  
will be very nice for a little.  
I will send you my address and on about  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> you had better begin to send letters  
there. It is raining now furiously. I have  
had to put my legs up along the seat  
to keep dry and even that is not altogether  
successful. I shall go into the next pines  
we get. These sheltered seats are an advantage  
We stayed to communion yesterday. When  
I am at the Alter rail taking communion  
I always pray for the things I want most.  
It's an extra solemn time and one ought to  
pray well. I was praying for your life much  
the most but also that I may have a  
son. And it seemed strange that now I should  
be praying for those two things that women  
have prayed for hardest & most since  
prayer began. This war does put us right  
back out of our civilization and makes  
<sup>our</sup> ~~our~~ greatest desires for the most elemental  
things, that before we took for granted.  
We are not thinking now of how rich  
we are, how nice or inconvenient our house  
is, we do not gossip about servants, and  
gumble at the trades people far less than

before. Every thing is concentrated in whether  
our loved ones who are fighting are all right.  
I don't think though that baby talk has  
diminished one jot in its deep interest & I  
should not think it ever will.

I don't know if you want me to send on  
book catalogues to you, I have sent a  
few ones. But I can easily send them if  
you would like them.

I've come to the conclusion that Clara is not  
so pretty as she was. She looks very robust  
& healthy, but I think she is a little too robust  
and fat. Of course when she starts to crawl  
and walk she will quickly lose her fat.

It is all floppy fat - its beautifully firm & strong.  
Every one takes her for a baby now. That annoys  
Violet very much. She is now playing on  
the floor with the waste paper basket again &  
she found a cherry stone which she liked  
very much and wanted to suck, she has  
just lost it in the folds of her frock  
and it was very amusing to see her  
travelling over the paper very solemnly &  
earnestly hunting for it.

I wonder how much approval generally  
Mr Clutton Barks book will meet with.

Mr Cookrell did not like it. Perhaps it was  
too christian for him. Father does not much  
like it because its not christian enough  
Also he objects to the title as pretentious  
It seems to me that even if you do think it  
to be christian or not christian enough, you might  
still think it very useful & good philosophy  
for every day life. I am sure it is  
that. The Books are away now for a  
month so I shant see them till we get  
back. And I dont really see them in the  
same way when they come here as when  
you and I went down there as they  
came to the Hall. You see he does not  
talk to Father as he does to you. They  
are not in sympathy on to many subjects.  
Still I should like to hear how the  
book is getting on in the world.  
When the war is over darling we will have  
a nice time. So many of our friends shall  
come and stay with us. I am sure all  
friends will try to see a lot of  
one another after such a long gap as it  
has been in many cases.  
Dearest I send you as nice a kiss as ever I can  
yours very loving Ruth.