

April 28 1917

My dearest Ruth,

I had a very good letter from you last night - from which it appears that you have again had Owen for the week-end with Mary Anne. It must be very amusing to see him with your father.

The most glorious weather here to-day & it's an idle time.

I've been busy making a bath room! Of course the one important thing is a floor; but I've also devised what I should call wind screens rather than walls; it has no roof & is designed as a sun trap. I found some more grape hyacinths this morning - very fine ones & four little crops of shubert & some lilies - so life is smiling on us.

I've been reading Wells's book. It is very amusing & interesting in parts - I like particularly the chapter about "The Effigy" & Joffre - it's so true! How much we have all suffered from personages. But it's not only their fault - we manufacture personage out of people, a dreadful habit, & quite innocent simple people have the sole thrust upon them. And the chapters about the psychology of personification

• The Tanks interested me greatly, I'm afraid I have to plead guilty myself to some part of the 'Gentle Whip.' It's a way I try to correct in myself. 'The Western Front' as a whole didn't interest me much. He's right in saying that the offensive is the winning side at present provided it has command of the air; but it's a very slow way of winning & meanwhile no effective means have been invented for stopping submarines. In the last paper we have seen 40 over 160 tons are announced for one week's toll. It's too much. I quite agree with most of what Wells says about the army, though of course it's a one-sided statement. Our waste of men is amazing & to use less horses would be a great economy. But I'm sure he's wrong about German airmen - they're a very nimble lot. And you can't dispense with horses for field batteries without very seriously impairing their mobility.

I've been diligent also with the New Europe.  
In the Number for March there is a very  
interesting article quoting a speech of Dillon's  
in the House about Salonica - the Balkans.

I certainly think that the war can't  
end before we cut the railway to Constanti-  
nople & unless either the Salonica army  
is strong enough to undertake an effective  
offensive - Russia with Rumanians is  
able to recover Rumania I don't see how  
that is to be done. Germany may collapse  
this summer, but I don't believe she will  
if she doesn't every thing still depends on  
the Balkans.

I don't regard the news  
from the north as particularly encouraging  
or otherwise. The cost of Hun counter attack  
are good, but on the other hand they  
seem to be partly successful. We want the  
Russians to help.

It looks as though compulsory rationing will  
be the order in England. It's evident that

You ought to stop sending me cakes. I can't think there's much prospect as you seem to fear of your going seriously short of food - you'll have plenty of vegetables won't you in the garden?

My ankle is behaving very badly - I'm again more or less crooked. I'm going to try wearing shoes consistently for a time - that may help.

This is a very dull letter I'm afraid. I'm sun-dumbstruck. Oh! the sun is good!

How you must be enjoying it too.

I think ever so much about you with great love, & with a wonderful joy reading your letters. I had a great disappointment yesterday because I found I had read 3 sites when I thought I had only read 2!

Always love to you dearest

Your loving George.