

Sunday Dec 22

My Dearest

I have this morning had your letter in which you say that you fear you will not be home for nine months. It really is crushing. But I cannot completely believe it. Surely its very ridiculous to put teachers so far down the list, of course if they are simply looking upon the whole question from an industrial money making stand point teachers are not specially valuable, but that then I thought that after the War the whole scale of education was going up and if that is so one would think they would want the teachers back.

Then you know there is great dissatisfaction with the slowness of demobilisation so it may be hurried a good deal more than we think when once they begin. But even then I fear it will be fearfully slow. Do you think that you will even get leave?

I believe that Mr Beveridge has left the ministry of Labour but I think if I were you I would write to him he may know

some thing about it or be able to help you in some way. Though I do ~~tho~~ not think it at all likely that you can get back through the intervention of any friend because so many people will be wanting to do the same. Do write to Mr Fletcher and get him to do some thing if possible.

I dont know what to do about The Holt. I dont think it would be any use for the O'Malley's to stay on unless they can stay till June or the end of May because they cant take a permanent house till then. I will if you like let agree to let them stay that long but I think I am against it because you may be back before then Owen said some days ago he thought it would be six months but I would not believe him. I will certainly offer to let them stay on till March when they have got the Lempfield cottage but I dont think they will because its an economy to stay at Denton. I think on the whole I would rather go back

to the Halt even if you dont come very soon  
but I am not sure I might find it rather  
dreary and of course we save much more if  
we live here. Please think it over & tell  
me what I had better do. I can of course  
pay the servants a months wages & tell them  
I dont want them.

I do feel that for you the great thing is to  
be able to work. I do hope that you will be  
able to make some arrangement so that it is  
possible. I know it is the only way to be  
happy.

Do you think the government are purposely  
going to make demobilisation slow because they  
fear revolution?

Dont mind about Christmas presents Dear. Clare  
wont forget you & Bessy is too little to  
know you.

Dearest if I could only be with you a little time  
to talk it all over I feel that it would take  
away the ache of disappointment & longing a  
bit. But oh how blessed I am that you are  
alive & that I can have letters from you & can  
hope for your return. What are the French

daring about demobers hation have you any idea.  
It will be easier for them because they have not  
got to get across the water in ships.

At the time when I was reading Studies in  
Christianity I thought that Nietzsche was rather  
a back number to be worrying about. No one  
believes him now in the least. I find what  
you say about thought and action rather hard  
to understand, but I am an utter fool. It interests  
me though so please say more about it sometime.  
I am sure action is far too much bound up  
with thought in me, and much less in you than  
in most people. I wish I could really think.  
Perhaps if I lived alone a bit I might get  
better at it. I think it might be good for  
me to live alone or rather with only the  
children. But I do hope you will any way be  
back for the summer term.

I would like to write more to you today my  
own Dearest but I think I must write some  
Christmas letters.

Your very very loving

Ruth.