

[? Tu 10 Oct 1916].

My own dearest

Can you bear really to think of war. It makes so awfully miserable when I do. I don't want the Germans to be cruelly killed or to be very watched at all. Except that I know it must be for the war to end. I was reading last night of the exploits of our air men. They do seem fearfully good. I read how they bombed the airbases behind the German lines and then swooped down and smashed up two troop trains and when the frightened men got out and ran away they shot & bombed them. It is all so awful; because they must know that these men have wives & sweethearts and children at home waiting for them. I suppose when people fight they just have not to think of that part of it. I am so glad you are not in the infantry and don't have to do it with your own hands.

Violet's cousin came back on leave from the Somme because his father died and he said they had to attack dawn. They gave them all rum on an empty stomach.

Do you think that when the war is over we can

begin loving the Germans again? Most people seem to think not, but it would be nice to be able to be friends with the nice ones again.

I was reading another article in the Round table yesterday. I must be quick and finish it and send it on to you. I think its an extra interesting number this time. I cant read a thing like that while people are talking which makes it very difficult to read in the evening because Father likes to talk.

Dearest I hope this wont be a shock to you but when a child shows such a very marked dislike and tendency a class does I dont see much use fighting against it, and I expect by the time she is grown up there will be nothing very odd in it. Her choice will be that of a lady dentist. Its useful work you know and it must be very interesting. From six months old she has taken a marked interest in teeth. Is it a shock to you?

I was up in our garden yesterday morning and I did quite a good bit of work in digging up and dividing some low growing campanulas that

Harry brought up for us. They had grown into a great mat. Now that I have decided them it looks much better for the winter and it will make a splendid lot for the summer.

In the afternoon I did miles of outlining on my haul. Altogether a pleasant day if was depression had not got hold of me rather badly.

Oh darling I am longing for you to come back so much. I dreamed about it last night but it never goes quite right in a dream you will always spend your time talking to someone else instead of to me, and when you have only just come back too. I am excited at the thought of you coming back I wish I knew when it would be.

That garden of ours at the Holt is nice. Even in the autumn with the flowers just bare and unkept it's awfully nice.

I've got a new scheme for the colouring of those beds. You know that the tree next to the seat we supposed to have red flowers. And as you sit on the seat the further one to the right used to be yellow. Harry advised me

to make it blue because he thought the want
of sun and light in the left hand bed was
not good for the blue things. I am now
making that change, and then for the shady
bed which is always so difficult to manage
I think of putting evening primroses ~~at~~ at
the back and trying to get some pale blue
delphiniums to grow there. They would look
lovely together. They dont really come out
at the same time the delphiniums are a
good bit earlier still we want something
earlier and if they did overlap it would
be very pretty. Then I can have white or
pale yellow deliacs and other lower things
for the front in more or less the same
row of columns. Do you think it sounds
a good plan. I wish the two left hand
beds were not so shady it it will make
them very difficult.

Father does so wish you were here now because
there is trouble on with Mr Benson & Mr
Gimson & the S.P.A.B. I will try and explain
it. Mr Cockrill suggested to Mr Gimson that

he should give some chairs to the Senate house and he apparently agreed and was told that M^r Gimson was the right man to make them. M^r Gimson made a lot of designs and M^r Benson did not like any of them and they seem to have corresponded but unfortunately not seen one another. And M^r Gimson has come to the conclusion the M^r Benson wants a period design in other words more or less of a copy of an old one. Now they both belong to the committee of the SPAB and M^r Gimson says that is against their morals. The evidently troubled M^r Benson who wrote to Father I think to say that he did not want to belong to the committee on false pretences and perhaps he had better resign. Father brought it up before the committee and Lord Ferrars said he would see M^r Gimson & Father wrote to M^r Benson to say what he had done.

Now this morning Father has received a really very nice letter from M^r Benson saying he had not intended his letter to be brought up before the committee but he had only been writing to Father for

help, but that never the less he was very grateful for the careful attention that had been given to him and that he would not resign his membership on those grounds. But the trouble between him and Gimpson is not over. So Father has got to sit down and write and he wishes he had you to help him. So do I.

Darling I do want you back to much.

I am going over to Guildford now and I don't think I shall have any time to write afterwards, so I must stop.

Your very loving
Ruth

