

Dec 1

My Dearest

It about half past three and Father is asleep, Alison and Marjorie have just gone out and so we are quiet. I have been spending the afternoon so far in cutting out card board squares and pasting my letters on to them. They look quite neat but I wish the card board were rather thicker.

I had a letter from Avie this morning; she is very proud and pleased with the last arrival. He weighed 9 lbs 6 oz when he was born and is very pretty & very strong so that is a good thing. I am glad. She had a very easy quick confinement and felt well afterwards. They call him Ben.

I haven't had a letter from you since Friday that is an unusually long gap I have been having them pretty regularly

lately.

I shall soon be getting a letter saying what sort of a time you have been having in Paris.

I really think I am feeling perfectly well again now. I am full of that feeling a bustling energy again and I eat a huge dinner. I went up to see Mrs Philip Fletcher this morning and expounded my Montessori scheme to her. She is going to read the book when Mrs Tow has finished with it and talk to her husband about it but she says she thinks its just what she wants for Allen the eldest. Richard is not quite old enough yet.

I am going at it very gently at present and not trying to persuade Mrs Fletcher to send him because I should hate someone to try and rush me into doing any thing with my children. I have told her that I think it we must give it a good long experiment because Signora Montessori says herself

that is after takes months to get a child into it. She asked if I wanted her to pay anything towards the outfit and I said no because the whole thing was much too experimental for any one to pay anything for it. I would rather too have the apparatus for my own because I may want it for other children after Clare & Berry. For those two boys that I want next. I wish we could know whether we shall get them because if its to be girls always I think two is enough.

I have not read much the last day or two because we have had so many people about I cant read a book and think about it while people are talking and I cant go into another room because there is no fire. I wonder if one had always lived in these conditions if one would have learned to cut ones self off by concentration from all that was going on around.

I can read a word that holds my attention while people are talking but I cannot hold my attention to a book that needs thought and careful reading

When you come back if you have any time before the term begins you must sometimes take Clara out with you for an hour and let her chatter away to you, following her line of thought rather than directing it, though one may well give her a start sometimes as one does in ordinary conversation with a grown up. I think you would find her quite interesting now, she is so keen to know about things and to really understand them. You want find out her intelligence if you know her at all. To day we were standing down by the bridge & she had climbed onto some logs, then she asked me what they were for & I told her they were to mend the bridge, then she looked sometime longer & pointed underneath the bridge & said 'whats that' I suggested the river or

or some brambles ~~the~~ but that was no good then I said 'do you mean that black beam. Clave at once said 'beam' with great satisfaction and said 'This wood is to mend the beam. It was really rather quick of her and quite right, the logs were very thick & tarred. Like the beam & probably were there to make new beams. I did like the way she pounced on the new word although I am pretty sure she did not know it before

When I am out with her we always talk all the time and I think she will learn quite a lot like that. I take no trouble not to use long words, in fact unless I am trying to explain anything to her I constantly use words that I know she will not understand because only in that way will she get to understand them. Children who have been brought up constantly with unoses know so little of general life and do seem stupid &

backward. I can teach her nearly all I know  
just in conversation. I only wish I knew far  
more to pass on. However you will be able  
to do a lot too and as they get older they  
will listen quietly to conversation that you  
are having with other clever men & women  
& that is one of the very best educations  
there is.

I have run on a long time here w<sup>t</sup> I, about  
Clare and her education, but its all for wee  
Benidge too. I hope it does not bore you.  
Berry can so nearly take her first step it  
might come any day. Its great fun watching  
her progress. She has got on so much  
better lately since she consented to eat.  
Vi & I both knew she would.

Very much love to you my dearest. I wish  
I could put my arms round you & give  
you many many kisses.

Your very loving  
Ruth.