

April 19 1917

My dearest love, I've just read over again your last six letters - four of which I found waiting for me on my return from the O.P. last night. They are a nice lot - I can't tell you how much I like reading them & love you as I read them. I could only tell you one way of doing it & you would feel it on your lips & eyes.

I'm glad to hear about Mary Anne & Owen & Diana, & M.A. has written too telling me very nice things about you & Clara. Owen's view of friendship! I take it as a confession that he's not interested in what he talks of at dinner parties. Of course friends must jostle in the nest together, but they must fly together too. Most friends are so seldom met that there's only time for flying & that's so much the worse for friendships I agree: but if dinner parties are like my talk with Mary Ann so much the better for them. I am interested & somewhat amazed to hear that Owen finds himself in a position to criticize anyone for 'dogging up' behavior! The Reader would have something to say about that. I hope you don't feel very much pained when I tell you that you have discouraged people - I always want to

Go out of the room a still like to hear what he
would say if I weren't there - but it's very
difficult to arrange. I'm very glad
Clare can walk so well now & shows herself
so active & enterprising. I quite agree with
her about toys. To be unselfish about a thing
before you've begun to use it is one thing - but to
have off in the middle is against the divine law
of concentration. You might ask your father to
witness whether he would like giving up his
billiard table to someone else in the middle of a
game, or whether indeed under any circum-
stances he would. Children's play with toys
is mainly experimental - they are making them
out & to have that process suddenly arrested -
well I think it's very much to her credit that
she can't bear it. I began this discussion
in a half serious mood, but now I have con-
vinced myself & really feel that what I have
said is perfectly true. You will probably find
that some toys are willingly shared & some not,
and when there is one supremely desired by
which won't be shared, or more than one child
they ought to take it on alternate evenings
rather than interrupt the game.

I was not in luck yesterday. It was snowing when I started out & rained later until about 2:0 pm, & even then remained misty & disagreeable. I found an infantry officer occupying the dug-out where I arrived. He had been out two nights before in that drenching rain & had been in wet clothes ever since; he was shivering with cold; we messed together during the day, to our mutual advantage & I left him there in the evening; he had to remain in those parts another 24 hrs. Poor people they do undoubtedly have some bad times - much worse than any we have to endure. The colonel came up yesterday morning & I showed him the country. He said that I had done very well two nights before when I was in liaison with the infantry, & that he would tell the general. I don't quite see what I did that was meritorious; but he's a silly old fuss-pot. Wood has come back to-day so we shall have one more to share the O.P.; & as Dumber is going off to a course (a treat which I refused) somewhere in the back area with his knee still frozzy we shall lose nothing but his delectable face & shall be 5 again for

the O.P. when he comes back.

I had a letter from Lieut. Bonneau, of whom I must have told you when I was with the French - it is settled we are to visit him & his young wife in Paris after the war; & he has said that he would like to come & see us.

I don't think I will write you any more this year just at present. I very much want to get one or two other letters written.

As you are interested in the habits of this beast you might like to know that I yesterday wore a thick vest, two flannel shirts, a woollen waistcoat, a thin tunic & a mackintosh - & kept moderately warm.

Farewell sweet mistress mine

Yours loving George

