

Nov 27 18th

My dearest George

I have had a letter from you this morning in which you tell me that you are going to move. I hope you will move to a nice place and that you won't get any trunks taken away. It would be very nice for you to go to Paris if you can't come home, you ought to enjoy yourself there a good deal.

I did not know that Figaro had been written as a play before it was set to music by Mozart and made into an opera. What about the Magic Flute, how did he get that, do you know? How much does the musician touch and arrange the words when he writes an opera? Have they ever got a writer to collaborate with them to ^{for} help with the words? I know so very little about musicians I should like to read a good life of one very much. Do you know any good lives because I might get one from the London Library, I must

send back War & Peace.

So far when I have spoken of Dr Montessori's book that I am now reading I have done so with interest, because there is a lot in it that is good and that has interested me. But as a whole I do not think it is good. It is fearfully & unnecessarily long winded. It touches on a multitude of subjects all too slightly to be really interesting and instructive. It aims at being more or less psychological but is not consistently worked out. One thing does not lead on to another. I was prepared to be most interested in the last long chapter on imagination and I have been completely disappointed by it. Its nature is silly and does not in any way solve the difficulty of the imaginative child who is given the unimaginative Montessori education. I am disappointed that I think it so bad because it disturbs one's faith, but perhaps that may really be a good thing for me. Still I really am disappointed that it is not better.

Much of the beginning of the book really was interesting and I have learned quite a lot from it.

Evidently Mr Clutton-Brock has not sent you his book so I shall send you the copy I have been reading. I have nearly finished it. Please send it back as soon as you have finished it if you cannot bring it back because Marjorie & Mildred have not read it and they want to. I have just read the chapter on the Grace of God. To me it is the most interesting or perhaps I should say enlightening and inspired, but I have not heard any one else say they like it best.

The Grace of God is the gift from God that we should all passively accept. We should open ourselves to it as the flower opens to the sun. Then God will fill us with a love of beauty & of truth. We shall see the ~~the~~ goodness in every body & their struggle towards good & so we shall like them and be able to do them ^{good} if an opportunity comes. You will not reach

goodness by setting your teeth & saying 'I will be good' because you will make mistakes with your own Will. You must open yourself to God and the goodness & understanding will come, his Grace will enter into you.

I don't think its easy, although I'm sure it ought to be. I don't quite know how to stop my Will acting against God. I think it partly comes back again to prayer and meditation. If I knew how to do that I should know how to open myself to God and how passively to receive his grace.

I suppose I have got to try and find out how to meditate and pray, but I'm afraid I'm some way from knowing and yet I am not sure. I may all the time be trying to will something too definite. Its what you call spiritual experiences that I want. I get it some times but not often enough & I want to learn some way in which I can have it when I want, that is why I want to pray and meditate.

There is some satisfaction in finding that

I do seem to come against the same need every time I think hard or read about a religious subjects, because it probably means that is the real need.

The beauty of the end of the chapter on Grace almost moved me to tears. Its so splendidly ideal. No one can completely have the Grace of God till every one has got it, therefore it does not make people ideally happy. And when man has a great measure of it he like Christ becomes unhappy because he sees so many people have not got it. He is ready to throw away his own in the struggle that others may gain it.

I have not put this well but you will read the book and see.

I shall send the next lot of flour addressed to the O.C. in case you are away. Will you be able to get your letters forwarded if you go to Paris?

Your very loving
Ruth