

Dec 20

My dearest George

No letter today but as I had two yesterday I could not expect it. Clara went to her party at the Holt this afternoon and she & Violet seem to have enjoyed it very much. Violet said she was the best behaved child there especially as regards table manners. Beatrix did not go this time because she is a little out of sorts with her teeth and we thought she would be unhappy among so many strangers. But Violet said that she was just as good when she went out to tea. We have got a lot to thank Violet for. More than we can ever repay I think. I gave her five pounds today & Marjorie gave the same to her maids they were very pleased all of them. Violet was so utterly surprised that she had not much to say.

Mildred and I threaded Marjorie's necklace today and it looked splendid. Some of the beads were very difficult I was more successful with those than Mill but then I think I

have had more experience in threading difficult beads. The trouble is that the bone the whole from both ends & let it meet in the middle and it does not always meet straight.

Far from the 'Maddening Crowd' I shall certainly read when you send it back but I want you to tell me some more books to read I don't think I was at all successful when I went to the London Library to get books to read. I should like to read more about the French Revolution or Napoleon & also I want as I said before to read the life of a musician. For novels the ones you send home will do. I shan't do much reading now till the Christmas visitors have come and gone but when I am living at the Hall till you come home I shall have a good bit of time. So please do try and make suggestions for me.

I quite agree with you that one does not want unichally to part with a book one has enjoyed very much, its so nice to read the best bits again.

I think its very bad that you did not receive

your voting paper, but had I been in your place I should have been distinctly relieved because I don't know which way I should have voted. I could 'nt vote because I am not yet 30 years old and women don't begin till they are 30. Do remember to tell me what you think of Mr Clutton Brock's book when you have read it.

It's most frightfully cold here today and I expect it is with you. I hope you manage somehow to keep warm but it must be difficult.

How far outside Calais are you? If you are far away you could not get a room, and I wonder if you could get a room whether you could get any coal. Oh but I hope you will be home pretty soon. My greatest fear is that you will be taken and kept to teach the army. That would indeed be an awful fate for goodness knows when you would get back then.

I do so agree with you in hating party politicians I have hated them intensely ever since I was

If this letter arrives on Christmas day I send you a special kiss & embrace. You must have it in imagination whenever it comes.

old enough to think about the question at all Politics ought to be noble and are debased and degrading to most people who have any thing to do with them.

Its very much the fashion now I think for people to talk very openly of their private affairs but I think it can easily be done too much. Bridget and Stephen seem to me to throw open the private side of their married life too much and Owen & Mary Anne, or rather Owen throws open the whole thing. Not only does he discuss how fond he is of Mary Anne but also he discusses ways & means & money difficulties ^{season} inside and out. I think its somehow better manners to keep those things more to ones self though I would not mind discussing money difficulties with ones best friends, sometimes.

There is one small economy I have decided on, I shall always take the children to the Baby Welfare for doctors advice in all their minor ills.

Its paid for by the rates & so I think we have just as much right to use it as any one else and if rates & taxes are so high, using what the provide is a most reasonable & proper economy.

Your very very loving
Ruth.