

Oct 26

My own Dearest

Such a catastrophe has interrupted the beginning of this letter; baby has had her under lip stung by a wasp, she must have picked up one of those dying ones that lie about the floor and tried to suck it. Her lip has swelled up very big and must be very uncomfortable but it has stopped swelling now. I suppose it will go down in a few hours. I think what I have said sounds as though we had heaps a dying wasps about. That is not the case but there are some sometimes and we always try to be very careful to pick them up for fear one of the children should be stung. I collected money in the town ^{this morning} yesterday for the Red Cross. It is not a job I like. I have never done it before in the street. Mary Anne was doing it at the same time which was nice. I was able to talk to her in snatches. Its rather amusing to see the different way people take being asked for money. Most give cheerfully, the rest most refuse cheerfully. Some refuse with a ground and

some give with a groan. Its not the sort of job that makes the least shy & I dont mind asking or being refused, but I should be loath to go on very long. I only did it from 11-30 till 1-0. The people I like are the girls from 10 to 16, I like them as much I think as you like boys of the same ages. & probably for much the same reasons. The best of the girls of that age are so frank & & keenly interested and responsive to a feeling of sympathy and fellowship. Do you remember those two jolly girls we met in the boat going across to Sky?

I told Mary Anne what you said about going back to the Halt and it will I think result in them looking out for a house more energetically than before. Suppose they find the right house before we get to an alternative they would not let it slip by and would have to take it and leave the Halt. Do you think the best plan would be for me to go then back to the Halt. It would be that or leaving it empty. I think I must try and get up there soon and see about the garden.

The War news continues to be very good, but nothing smashing happens & I dont think

any thing smashing will happen so long as the
Germans continue to fight so well. I must say I
do wonder that they do. I see that the Italians
have begun an offensive. It does not sound so far
very large or wonderful but it may develop.

The news from Germany of Herr Haase saying in the
Reichstag that the ~~E~~ Emperor should have abdicated
a fortnight ago & would certainly have to is
interesting, and still more interesting that Germany
is full of socialist meetings demanding a republic
and that the meetings are packed. The military
party has not got Germany in hand in the
way it had.

My dearest One you dont know, unless you know by
your own feeling how tremendously I am longing
to have you back and to live again together in
our own house. I shall enjoy it and try very
very hard to run it smoothly & well & economically.
I expect it will be an awful job moving back
and arranging about the coal ration etc.

I do hope our first days there together will be
unmitigatedly nice and that one of the children
won't go and get ill or some thing of that sort.
Priors Field has got about half the girls
down with influenza but fortunately not the bad
kind. I heard Mr's Langton say today that a boy in

her house had nearly died of pneumonia, a boy who had
sift but had come down to stay I think it was.
I wonder very much if you will find M^r Fletcher
improved. Did he write you a nice letter?

I have just seen baby again and the swelling
has gone down a bit and it obviously does
not hurt her now.

I am going to do some more at the Baby
Welfare presently. M^{rs} Irvine has taken over
the weighing of the babies & I am going to
help her and go when she cant. It is nice to
have two people to a job because it might
be so inconvenient to have to go.

I dont feel inspired to write a very long
letter today so I think I had better stop
and write to your Mother. She says she has
been in bed nearly a week with a cold.

Thank you so much for one instant that
I am not perfectly happy with you. I would far
rather have you to love & live with than any one
else.

your very loving
Ruth.