

Dec 5

My dearest One

I am beginning this letter directly after breakfast. Thursday is always rather a busy day for me because Violet goes out and I have the children.

I have had another Paris letter from you this morning. I know you are suffering from loneliness and if only I were with you you would be much happier. You are enjoying yourself though quite a lot and your little encounters and of talk laughter & wit with French people must be great fun.

I am glad you have been hearing music. I wish I enjoyed and understood it as much as you do but I expect I shall get better in time at both. My capacity will grow as I hear more. Elsie & Beatrix must grow up with to hear much more music than ever I did. I have always enjoyed simple music quite keenly.

Violet had bad news yesterday. She heard that her father had fallen down and broken his leg, fortunately below the knee. What seems to distress her most is that he has been taken to hospital and that he will be miserable there. But I don't think she realises that he will be so thankful for the comfort of proper attention that he will hardly mind being in hospital at first though later he will hate it I expect.

Father has had a letter to say that Uncle Wilmot is coming here to tea today. It is ages since I have seen him. I am sure I have not seen him since I was married. Mary Anne is coming to lunch and the Clutton Brooks to dinner so it will be a sociable day won't it? I don't think that Mary Anne will stop long. I wish I could feel she had a more comfortable life but it seems one long mass of difficulties. I think that she must for some reason be unable to get the affection of her maids, I don't

think they understand one another. The had a fearful row with their cook the other night and Owen threatened to turn her out of the house after ten o'clock. She had stayed out talking to soldiers and had climbed in through the kitchen window. Oh but I do hate rows.

Mildred has written for me to ~~ask~~ a Soldiers & Sailors offer home that she know of and subscribes to in Devonport asking if they have any trained girls who might do for me, they bring them all up for domestic service and I think of might get a very nice girl who would make ones house her home and really stay with one. I dont expect they will have anyone but I thought it worth trying. One might get quite a nice little cook that way.

Mildred thinks they send them out at eighteen I would rather have older people but if eighteen were good I think it might be quite nice.

Have you ever received the box of apples that I sent you. If you have not I think I had better make enquiries at this end.

I dont know what to do about sending you

things for Christmas. I so hope you will be back by then I really think you ought to be. If I am to send anything it must go off by the 14<sup>th</sup>.

I have completed one Montessori alphabet of small letters, it looks rather nice. I must now do the capitals, and then I want to do one for Mary Anne if I have time. She wants one very much for Diana and I should not think she will ever have time to make one.

Clara has settled down in the last four or five weeks to being brighter and more even tempered than she was or so it seems to me. I think you will notice much less whining. I put the change down almost entirely to her health which has been very good. She is getting very sturdy and robust.

I sent yesterday's letter to OC Troop Paris as you told me but I fear you will have left Paris before you receive it. In it I told how eagerly M<sup>r</sup> Brock had asked when you would return & how he said we would have a feast together after Christmas as unfortunately they will be away for Christmas. Your very very loving  
Ruth.