

Nov. 7. 1918.

My dearest Ruth, I had two good letters from you yesterday & meant to have answered them last night - but somehow the time before dinner was filled - partly in writing to Mary Ann; & after two guests had departed (even before I might say) I was overcome by a great sleepiness.

I had a letter from M.A. asking when I was likely to be back; they are evidently greatly surprised by so near prospect & apparently were counting six months after an armistice for my demobilisation - which was silly I think, for surely quite a large number will be released gradually as soon as an armistice is fixed & before demobilisation on the grand scale begins. But anyway as I explained to her the prospects are uncertain because we don't know for certain what reply the A.C. may make to Fletcher's application - they may say that since fighting is over they no longer regard the release of schoolmasters for the training of officers a matter of importance, & that I must just take my chance in the

demobilisation scheme. That is why I find it so difficult to restrain myself even now from writing to ask F.F. to make application at once. With reasonable luck I ought to be back for the beginning of next term. One can say no more - but we have also to consider whether with the present difficulties it is a practical proposition to live at the Holt this winter - the difficulty I mean chiefly about coal; we can neither turn the O'Malley's nor ourselves into the cold; so that the first thing must be to find exactly what are the conditions with regard to coal - how much would be required & how much could be obtained. Of course I would infinitely prefer living at the Holt next term; but it wouldn't ruin us to stay at Westbrook for 10 weeks or a little more & it's really more important for me to be at the Holt for writing than for teaching.

I'm sorry you weren't successful in seeing the desired exponent of Montessori; but you seem to have been very successful altogether especially about getting the apparatus.

I'm glad my letters are arriving more regularly now chez toi. I wonder if any have definitely gone astray; there was one in which I asked for a plane & chisel; you have made no reply about that: but if you haven't already taken steps I think we needn't bother about them.

I like very much what you say of Will & Ra; they're a lovely couple. Poor Will he seems to have been properly in mediocrity this time. I hope he will get over all his ills. What a joy it will be knitting up friendships after the war - not that they have altogether lapsed during it, but they have been rather joyless, & difficult. Mary Ann says you are looking years younger. I'm wondering what your apparent age is now? I'm sure we shall have a sense of wonderful freedom from a depressing load. I already begin to feel as I wrote to David the other day that the sum of all the springs is bursting upon us. The only possible jar to our happiness after the

was will be my personal ~~at~~ ambitions - so you
must help me to keep them in order.

I will write no more now - it is almost
post-time

Much love to you & Denis as for Clara
& Beridge

Your loving

George.

