

Dec. 19

[18?].

Dearest

I am at home again. I got back soon after five and have been spending the evening talking over presents & playing with the children. And I have had a letter from you. I'd better tell you properly what I have been doing today. First I went to 10 Lancaster Place and found that Ka was out but was expected in to lunch so I said I would come in directly after lunch to see her & I left my bag & fur coat there.

Then I went to shop. Do you remember that shop we found in the street running parallel to Regent Street just east of Regent Street. I thought I might find a good but not expensive necklace there to give to Violet. I wanted the children to have something to give her. I got a great jade Indian necklace threaded on gold cord like the Indian things so often are. I think it will suit her very well. Then I went to the Russian shop in Duke Street & bought a little.

coloured basket that would do for a work basket
for Aunt Maud & an a coloured & black papier
mache bowl for Aunt Constance. I also bought
very pretty papier mache tray for Aunt Jessie
also a set of balls fitting one inside another
for Bessy but I dont think she is quite
old enough for it yet.

After that I had lunch with Basilget at
Marshall & Snelgrove. Then I went to see Ka.
They were both in when I got there but I
thought Will looking awfully tired. However
they seem to be proposing to go away for
a long holiday very soon and then he
will soon be better. I really had no time
to talk to him as another man was
there & he left very soon. But I had
a long & very happy talk with Ka. I
do like her so very very much. Its a great
happiness to see her. I ~~talk~~ told her all
about our disappointment at you not
getting back & she has promised to talk
to a man who has just left the Ministry
of Labour & find out if any thing can

be done, it seems just possible that you could be brought back to Ch'house still as a soldier in the army. I don't suppose any thing will come of it but I do want to do any thing I can. I am so afraid you will be rather miserable a Calais with nothing to do unless you can get at writing.

Ka told me that Will has legally made over Basset Down to his younger brother John who he considers more fitted for a country squire than himself. That also means that he has handed over a lot of money too because of course there would have been no good to give John the estate and leave him with no money, but

Ka said that although they won't be rich they will be quite comfortable & they don't either of them want to be rich. Oh they are nice people.

Ka has promised to come & stay here or at the Holt when they leave London unless Will is so tired that she feels she must take him straight to the country to rest. She told me

that Geoffrey Raynes is back in England now for good.
I'm very glad of that.

When I left Ka's house I could not get a bus
so I walked across the bridge after I had gone a
little way I saw a cart being driven by a
nice looking lad & so I asked for a lift
and rode on the front of the cart to Waterloo.
The cart was loaded with Gilbey's invalid wine.

The letter I had this evening from you said
you wanted me not to use this spare room
for the nursery. I will do my best to do
as you want I think there is a good deal
to be said for both ways I will talk
to Vi about it tomorrow, she ought to be
in a good mood because I am going to
give her a five pound war present, Marjorie is
doing the same for the maids here

I am very glad your eye headache is nearly
well and that you feel better I hope it will
stay better. Can you order more glasses?

Bridget & Ka both send their love to you.

I send you love & many kisses. I posted one
with my letter this morning. I hope it will arrive
somewhere in a little quiet of happiness your very loving
Ruth.