

July 13 Thursday

(66)

My own darling dear

Seven o'clock and I sit down at last to write to you. I spent all the morning waiting other letters and paying bills. I find it takes rather a lot of time making copies of your ^{letters} for Bickenhead. Yes I am going to send them on to you friends and David first. I had a post-card from him yesterday asking what you were doing. So I wrote and told him shortly about you and I shall send him your letters as soon as I get them back from Bickenhead, but they are very slow sending them. I have had a letter from you this evening telling just how your places lie and about your little dog and I am so glad to know that it makes it so much easier to picture you. What a queer life it must be. I am glad you have that one little rabbit hole to yourself. I certainly was not waiting

to you in the garden as you pictured
me, but probably trying to get Clara to
take her bath or washing her napkins.
I have to get up quite by seven to get
done by breakfast, and I am far too sleepy
to get up earlier than that to write to
you. But by the time you get this
Violet will be back I should think. She
is coming on Tuesday I believe. Then I
shall get up again and write to you
before breakfast and in the garden if the
weather is nice enough.

I too don't think of the Halt much, but
how nice it will be to be back there
with our own dear baby perhaps toddling
in the garden and me working there
till is nearly is nice. And the dear house
all straight again & full of ourselves
and you every day and all night. Well
that's really too good to think about
I tried to teach Clara to crawl this
evening but she was tired and would
only howl. The stand on her hands

and knees "when put there quite well.
I cant think why she does not try to
crawl I am sure she is heaps strong
enough. She has the most beautiful &
strong little body and such lovely face
movements. I do think she will have
energy and grace of body. I think she is
rather slim. Her body is much thinner
than Jean's and her legs longer. I am
sorry to keep comparing her with Jean, it
does not seem nice of me and yet it is
the only way to get any true idea of
what she is like.

I have enquired at the station about potatoes,
I mean parcels, and find that I can
send up to 56 pounds so I will try
to get them sent off soon also butter.
They say at the station that they get
through as quickly by train as post.
I hope so. Would you like me to send
you roots like carrots & turnips. I dont
think any others are going at this time
of year. I fear that green things would
hardly stay fresh.
I will send the butter off tomorrow. Does
it possible. I made it this week. I

think it will certainly keep all night. It
got a fair amount of salt in. If you
dont like is like that you must tell
me and I will try and get you some better
in God almsing.

Your pass book has come from the Capital &
Counties Bank. Without the £50 you have
lately put in you are five or six pounds
over drawn I think. Shall I put any in
for you. I think not because I expect
you have enough at Cox. You cant have
any vast expenses. I am paying all your
bills as they come in so as not to bother
you at all.

My dearest dont I wish I could sit with you
on the seat overlooking the golden valley, our
valley where we were so happy together those
good days of early summer. If I had you
now those would be better days I love you
so much more & know you so much
better & the more I know the beautiful
and ~~dear~~ dear you are.

[14 Jul 1916]

Friday

I have sent off $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of butter to you
Mrs Wooten says it will keep. We should
always be able to spare Westbrook
butter but I will do the best I
can and you must let me know how
much you want each week. 48 lbs of
potatoes are also being sent and a
few lbs of carrots. One cant send more
than 56 lbs by train ~~over~~ ~~to~~. I will
sent you some more as soon as you
like. I dont believe you like carrots very
much but they are very wholesome & they
are nice & young now, some of the other
officers may like them.
I have bought pencils & india rubber and
they shall go out in the next lot.
Clare's cold is better and so is the cough
but not well yet. I think the cough
is bound to take a week or fortnight
to work off. My new arrangement of
giving her bottles every four hours

seems to me to be working well. She
rather gets in more sleep + food I think.

The papers are wonderfully cheerful to
read now and at they, except for the
awful casualty lists. I am amused by
the parliamentary news, Asquith seems
to have been ragged. But doesn't the
parliamentary business seem small and petty
Not worthy of a great nation at war with
her whole strength + soul. I wish we could
manage our government better. I hope we
may after the war. I don't think one
ought to have to feel that one is very
glad ones husband is not in parliament
or mixed up in politics. As they are now
I should hate it.

I must go to class now and get her up
then I must write to Bridget. So this
letter will have to stop. I'm sorry but
I know I shan't get any more clear un-
interrupted time before the post goes.

Yours very very loving
Ruth.