

The Meadow. Grosvenor Rd Reading
20-7-18

Beloved Mary,

How are you getting on? I so often think of you & long to see you again & have some real good old-time talks - life is so strained and queer and strenuous now a days - will leisure ever be ours again I wonder? Leisure is such a lovely thing & only the people who work I suppose truly value it - Well - it's the long vac: now, but I have still my vac: course of lectures to give, and lots of wheats to reap in our pedigree cages - so I am still here, but the Professor & almost all Staff have departed, which makes it somewhat peaceful. Mary & I went for a few days to Westcliff on Sea immediately term ended & sandviched on a very nice time tho' short. Pat's two daughters are luxury in nice rooms there, ~~and~~ she is expecting the "baby bugger" any day now, poor little Pat is having a very uncomfortable time this time, she can't walk now at all & says it is certainly a boy as he's so troublesome & rough & fidgety: Beryl is such a dear little girl, so awfully like Pat in the Carnarvon days. do you remember a photo I took of her sitting on the steps up to the front door with a bucket by her? well Beryl is just like that now & has the same little character, quick & with stubborn too & full of games & play, with a funny little dignity built all.

Very strictly - I would rather be shot of food than worms it would't you. The Mummy and pausing - such a darts heavy day alas for my poor wheat!

Rita is lucky in having a very nice sensible nurse for her, who teaches her excellent manners & morals & is very strict which is rather a blessing on these slack days. Westchiff is such a pretty place, tho' it is quite near Southend (that resort of the Codrney Trippers) it is not a bit common or crowded, because there is no pier, no pubs or cinemas or anything to attract the tripper. It is very pretty laid out planted with pretty shrubs down the middle of the road & the gardens are glorious, & each house quite a nice bit of land crammed with roses & flowers. It is not a very sea breezy place as of course it is just where the Thames runs but so that it is modified sea. but the bathing is quite good. Great bombing & going on the air, as the German raiders generally pass over it on their way to London but as they don't consider it worth while to drop bombs on W'chiff but save them all for London no one minds much & there are always lots of our own planes up in the looz out & to barrage the enemy ones, which gives one a safe feeling.

We are all feeling very bucked up by this push & flank attack near Soissons. Foch has done absolutely the right thing all the authorities seem to think & we are expecting to hear the Germans inside that Salient have had to surrender, as we are shelling their communication railway from two sides! Horrah! Walter was here for one night yesterday as he had been taking a draft of men to Sutton near Graydon, & he quite thinks now the war may get over

This year, if nothing unforeseen happens, it seems too good even to think of. The Austrians surely must go to pieces soon. But Russia is a terrific problem, & if we supinely allow Germany to control the immense forces there, & be supported by corn oil etc taken from there, it may again lengthen the war indefinitely. We are so fearfully short-sighted, and have no state craft or foreign policy at all. Everyone is perfectly fed up with our present government & the poor vacillating weak-kneed House of Commons!

Have you read Benj. Kidd's Science of Power? It is such a wonderful book? I also read his Social Evolution which was written 25 years ago ~~but~~ which in some way is a better book, but the Power one is just splendidly inspiring.

Mother & Anne are up in Hamcarth, or rather at Hatton just now, staying with Aunt Sara. The months June are full of sad anniversaries for our family & Mother was anxious to be near her dear ones graves so as to put flowers on them for the days when we lost them. She finds a great deal of comfort in that. She is particularly great at keeping such anniversaries - I don't think I do like to do so too much. It makes life so burdened with sad thoughts & in a way I don't think that is right. I don't feel these we love who are gone on would really

Many loving thoughts dearest & love as ever & lots to do for you Always your loving friend Heather

wasn't or like us to do it - they are part of us & we are part of them so it is needless to remember them on any one particular day - and grieve all that day again for them. Not to quite upset herself each time, & as life goes on & one gets older there is hardly a day on which something sad did not happen. Why not keep the happy ones too? but she does it care about these at all!

We have thought so often about our dear old B, and feel we have lost such a friend. Somehow I always hoped she wd come home to England for her old age - she always wanted to. I sent some good seeds of old Eng: flowers she loved, for her grave. May Woodlough was so kind & good to her & wrote us such sweet letters about her.

I've been doing some water-colour sketching on Sat: afternoons this term - a few of us got up a little class & used to bicycle out to various places. how difficult it is? I did want you to help me, but it's so charming & enjoyable - I hadn't done anything in art for ages. I did enjoy it.

George Lambert is back from Egypt & is now going to paint a big official oil painting for Australia. I haven't seen him yet - but I believe he's done hundreds of lovely sketches. Do you take Colour I only get it sometimes - it is so good isn't it? The food question in Eng: is rather better since the summer. Vegs & potatoes come in - but I believe we are going to suffer in winter dreadfully as coal & coke & gas are all to be rationed.

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and pouring - such a
heavy day
also for
my poor
wheat!

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Heather

Many loving thoughts dearer - love as ever & lots to Diggie too Always your loving friend

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