

THE MEADOW,
GROSVENOR ROAD,
READING.

Jan 9^H 1912

My darling Mary, I am indeed
upset & grieved to hear what bad
times you have all been having, &
poor Isa: what a most trying thing
for her & you all: I am thankful to
hear she recovered so well from that
horrid operation, & am sure she was a
model patient, so plucky & good.
She must have felt horribly ill before
it all came to a climax - I expect
never complained about it as I know
her quiet plucky way. How anxious
you & her husband must have been all

that time. I am very glad to hear she
is safe with you now. I hope is stranger
~~now~~ I dare say she will feel much
better now than she has done for some
time. I am hoping to hear again from
you soon how she is, please give her my
dear love & sympathy. How tiring

having to turn out of the house! I suppose
you will be in the bother & worry of
packing & storing goods & selling some
off, & all the horrors of a move, when
you get this. I think you are very wise
not to have another house as it would
be only a worry & responsibility to you,
& rooms would be much nicer. You would
be more free when you want to go away.
Now is the time you could take a little
run to England if you felt like it; not
that England is a very pleasant spot at

present to live in, as what with the new
Insurance Acts, Lloyd George & his taxes
& the Democratic Craze we are all being
wornied into air grooves & decent folk
will soon have to clear out & take up
their abode elsewhere! Still the pictures
& art treasures still remain to us. tho' ~~these~~
even they are leaching away rapidly across
the Atlantic! Thank you dear for the
nice Calendar, quite the need I had, & it
is hanging in my bedroom at this minute.
We had a very nice Xmas on the whole as
we had plenty of children about which always
alleviates the tiring season. Mary & I had
Walter's wife & 3 babies to stay with us
here & had a Xmas Tree party & two
or three days of festivities, they enjoyed their
first English Xmas very much indeed.
Then we went up to the Great Western Hotel
in London for a week (M & J) & were able
to see a good deal of the family at the
flat & Tom & Kate & their children. The
latter are growing up such tall little monkeys &
are dears both of them, particularly Tony

who is a most interesting little drap of 10.
We did some theatres & concerts too & had a
good time altogether away from the worries
of College & housekeeping: our favorite Professor
came up & spent two days with us & we
rushed him round to theatres and Cinema
Shows & pictures & shops till he grew quite
giddy & forgot all about his work & his
wheat! When we came back we brought
the two children with us to stay a day or two,
to their great delight, as they look upon
the Cleadon as a place of huge joy, especially
after the restrictions of the flat & Granny.
Rit is busy working at the Royal College &
has just begun her 2nd term, she likes
Rewards very much & he thinks a great
deal of her & her work. poor Rit! she
is just beginning to find the world & men not
all her fancy painted them, & like ours to
suffer from the constant conflict between
the artist's life - home life. So impossible
to live them both without hurting the home
people's feelings as we have all found out

Well, I must stop
I wish you were
here to talk.

Term begins again
tomorrow so no
more nice late
mornings, but breakfast
at 8.15. & you don't
mornig together, to!

Love
dearest
write
again
soon, give
me news of
you & all of
you.
Always your friend
Heather

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in our turn haven't we? of course the
grandparents are getting old & these
constant engagements in the evening &
afternoons, playing at different places, &
the have occasionally been raided by
"musical geniuses" with large noses &
Chicago accents, is all very trying &
naïve to them: Fortunately Ruth is lucky
& having some very good & true friends
both women & men who are sincerely fond
of & interested in her, & to them she can
fly to pour out her woes at times & they
give her good counsel & prevent her doing
anything too rash. But how I do wish
the child was safely married to some really

ness man, as these musical
people ^{most of them} are all very well for her
to work with, but quite impossible
in other ways, although so clever.

Rita is such a charming child, so
gifted, I dread some hard little Jew
picking her up & then exploring her talent
for his own benefit. However luckily
she has a good big bump of caution,
which, I hope will come in handy.
Meanwhile one is anxious.

We have heard from Walter at Buenos
Ayres, & he is very delighted with his first
impression of the country, & as he had some very

good introductions he is very hopeful of
finding soon a good billet; all the business
men tell him he is just the kind of man
that is wanted there, as reliable
managers of Estancias are so difficult
to get hold of. So he is hoping soon to be
able to send for his family for the poor
boy misses them so frightfully, he is such
an affectionate boy, & is so wrapped up in
his little girls. I have just been sending
him some photos I took of them all on
Xmas Day. It was such a bright
sunny day one could actually do
snap shots! I have never yet seen
Bernard. tho' I have written to & heard
from him several times, he seems
so busy never has time to come over, when
his holidays come of course mine were
on too & we both were away on trips
but I do hope he will drop in some
day soon as I should love a talk with him.

we could put them up for the weekend,
he sent me a very nice photo of you at
Mayfield. It looks such a lovely garden.

Dad & Mother are wonderful well, Dad
goes to golf two or three times a week
but I thought he looked tired at Xmas time
and his poor hand is very bad & shaky
at times. It is such a terrible thing watching
anyone you love so much getting old isn't it?
he is so sweet & dear & I have never all my
life met a man who had such a lovely
character. It is so much to be thankful for
to have a father like him. However disappointing
life is I always feel I can't have been wanted
if one has had companionship with such a
man. It is very touching to watch Dad & Mother
together, now, they are seldom out of each other's
sight, they sit often for hours side by side reading
quietly & holding each other's hands & they are
such a noble looking pair still. Am I not
silly going on thus about my own parents?
but I know you appreciate them too!

Well I must stop
I wish you were
here to talk.

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mornings. but breakfast
at 8-15. very dark
mornings together to!

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