

THE MEADOW,

GROSVENOR ROAD,

READING.

Sunday May 4^H 1912

My dearest Mary.

I was so sorry to hear from

Anne that you had been having such
a horrible time, were cast on the
world homeless as it were! poor girl
how simply horrid for you! I am sending
this letter to Summerhouse hoping they
will forward it to you wherever you are.
You ought to come to England now for
a trip - look round - see all your
friends on this side. This Ages since
you wrote to me but I expect they have
got in the way. How queer life is isn't it?
I must have been watching for you selling

Account: They
chucked both
of Willie Reedie's
my efforts, sole
sons slightly
we must be
beyond them
is serious so
is want to do a
medal of Dad,
Mother this year
for their Golden
Wedding which is
is April of next year
I want to 2 heads
on a plaque but
I will be difficult to
know.

• Stoney - looking up all the old
things. I do sympathize, I often
wishes I had the courage to burn all
my possessions every six months.
They do accumulate so you are really
only a chain on one's freedom of action.
We have just got back from a most
lovely holiday of 3 weeks, we went to
Nice & stayed at a very nice hotel there
then went for days by train or tram
to nearly all the other places on the
Riviera on the coast as well as to
many little inland towns perched on the
tops of hills - the most picturesque
way. We went to Bordighera (which is
Italy really just over the frontier) & to

Ventimille, that lovely garden there La
Montola said to be the most beautiful garden
in the world - laid out by Sir Thomas Hudson
a friend & a great Botanist. We went
several times to Monaco & Monte Carlo &
were very much interested watching the
Hydro-plane contests at Monaco which
were just going on while we were there.
Of course we visited the gambling room at
the Casino a most wonderful place &
fascinating to watch the people. We went
to the Prince of Monaco's Oceanographic
Museum, Deep Sea Aquarium most
interesting bolt. We also went to Mentone,
Cannes, La Napoule, Antibes, died other
places. I never dreamt the Riviera was
so beautiful, always had a prejudice against it
because I thought I was swarmed over by such a
rotten class of people. I never wanted to go a
bit, but it is quite different to what I thought
so beautiful that nothing could spoil it, as
for the people they are very keenly interested to

watch, - in fact it is a whole side of existence
one had not come in contact with before which
is most interesting & entertaining. The colours
of the vegetation we saw were just like ones ideas
of Paradise, perfectly ideal. The lovely curves
of the coast. The mountains. The way the
towns are set just in right places just the
right colour. (creamy white & red roofs) is too
enchanting for words. It was lovely, breezy by
eucalyptus trees all in flower again, & palms
& oranges & lemons on the trees. The most lovely
fields of carnations & roses & jasmine, & every other
sweet-smelling flower. We went to Grasse one day
& saw the seed factories & the flowers being picked
in the fields. The shops in Nice were wonderful
- I never saw such frocks & hats as the people
wore in the shops too. far nicer & more taste
than even Paris: awfully dear of course.
The clothes made one hate ones own, & to feel
hopeless of ever getting anything one would care
to wear again. We greed to go to the Casino
& feel very freedom playing about a little at
the roulette tables. thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.
it was such a splendid change from reading life.

2) I really hated coming back to work again at first but I have tackled it again now & feel all right. We are ever so much better for a holiday. We had our Professor with us & he was so ~~entertaining~~ delighted with everything we saw & did abroad. It was all so absolutely new to him as he has been brought up so very strictly in the North of Yorkshire, & one of a Deakins family! It was very amusing to see the other side of his character (long suppressed) breaking out, & he became quite a boy of about 23 again & most gay & charming. It was so good for him to be able to forget all his worries for a time.

We came home to the end of the Coal Strike, & then this awful tragedy of the Titanic which is truly appalling. The English enquiry is going on now but really the poor survivors have suffered enough already in the hands of that idiot Cameron

I trust that one hopes they will soon be allowed to go home to their friends & try to get the horrors out of their minds. I must have been such a terrible experience altogether. England is getting a very queer place to live in, all social conditions are changing very rapidly & no one feels very secure nowadays.

We have had Dad Motherday with us since we came home, & now Kit Anne. Kit is very well & is busy with all kinds of musical engagements, she leads such a full & interesting life. & I must say the most interesting life too dear old Anne is just the same who has just finished the play she has written for Halton. It will be given as a kind of Pageant this summer. It is very pretty. The songs are so nice. Kit is a great favourite & has a number of youths around, she has such a strong personality she is very attractive. I hope she will marry soon, yet in some way it would be a pity to limit her in any way. She seems so full of possibility & to be so young yet in many ways.

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Solo de la dearest - writes com. Always your loving friend Heather P.S. Save from Mary B. Anne, 12t.

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Soleas
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