

Rosemary Cottage  
7 Granville Ice -  
Dudley Haven ..  
Jan Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 1940

My own dear One

Your lovely letter of Sunday is before me - I posted the one I wrote this morning in case <sup>this</sup> did not reach you by Sunday - but perhaps letters are going better now - I'll post this Thursday a.m. as I used to - So glad you had such a "hot" day Sunday - we must have got that weather on Monday - and I can tell you we made the most of it - Yes, I must have misunderstood about the warmth of the new rooms - It's quite clear now - and so glad you can and do get them sunny for the week ends - I'm longing to see it all - What fun we shall have when we do "visit" you - Tom is looking forward to it too - Glad my accounts - or rather estimates were clear - Hope they will work out all right - They should do -

The "Devonshire Cream" play was broadcast once before and we listened to it together I think - Yes the "lion monkey" was very funny - Tom lent me a book about Cornwall & Wreckers - called "Jamaica Inn" by ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~author~~ <sup>author</sup> Oh I forget - a woman Daphne du - something beginning with M. I think - The country was all right - the Tons - etc - all the places we have been to together and it was a terrible story - how much founded on the fact of those terrible wrecking days I don't know - but the people did not speak Cornish - so I did not enjoy the Character as I always enjoy all Eden Philpotts Character - If only he wrote other than murder stories you'd enjoy them too - The Devonshire Cream was very true to his Character studies -

Shall think of you listening to the Armstrongs tomorrow.

We continue to prepare for eventualities. Today have put the long bench (I had made to widen our bed) under the stairs - it and the settee make a nice wide bed - 6 in wider than the stairs - it was 6 in narrower <sup>without the bench</sup> before - You see Penna is getting too long to sleep across ways - her feet might get chaffed off. Now there is a nice wide ledge where Tom & Penna could sleep comfortably all night - if 'all clear' did not sound - Penna had a gymnast practice today. She looks so quaint running round in her micky mouse mask. The 12 cases of measles has increased to 17 now.

I was reckoning today - 5 weeks - and you'd be here in another 5 - but you say April 12 - that is 8 weeks - Well probably the weather will be better then. Wasn't Easter earlier last year? Yes, I too got quite a thrill seeing Gillian coming to meet me from school. Re-venture - she will venture anything - Would do all my shuffly and everything else that relates to any intercourse with the outside world - if only I'd let her. Well, I will <sup>as far as I can</sup> - and as a matter of fact do - even bills that involve a whole pound note - She said the other day she'd like some pound notes - could I spare her a few!!!

The receipt of the school bill has come - I'll file it. I agree with you - We'll see if Gillian gets any more of this term - if not - in courtesy they may reduce the next - <sup>but we won't say anything about it.</sup> I'm sorry about Miss Woodruff - she put down "C. of E" in her application - Gillian mourns the lack of her at school and I'm

sorry & say does not seem to mind a bit not going back to school just now. Re religion - Gilhian's prayers are quaint. She rather boasts that she is the "cleverest person in the world" - like the elf "green toe" in one of her story books. I tried to explain to her about not boasting - so she, as she puts it, "boasts to Jesus because He loves to hear her boast." Tonight I read to her the parable of the two men who went into the Temple & pray. etc. - She loves me to read the things Jesus says and enjoyed it tonight - but did not take the lesson to heart a bit.

What do you think she said to her dolls the other night? "Now goodnight dears, your mother is dead but I'm here."

Tonight she claims to be the mother of her dolls but their Daddy is dead so she wants you to be their Daddy. Is this the way the idea of adoption is dawning on her. She doesn't give the dolls an atom of pity <sup>as Gilhian</sup> and takes the substitute parent as for granted.

Hazel saw a man with one leg & said "If he had to have one leg why did Jesus not put it in the middle?" Gilhian saw a man with one leg. She said "What might have happened to the other?" The abnormality of being born with one leg only did not enter Gilhian's head. - she is too true to nature -

All that you say about our mistake in treating people as nature is very helpful - and I think that is our mistake - Yes, we must

came down to their level. Your word "mature" is just what I've been  
thinking in M<sup>rs</sup> Metcalf's words re Joan "You can't put old heads  
on young shoulders - I've got to be patient with her - she will  
in time - and only "in time" reach much that I need her to  
be. But there is more to it than that - the question will  
some people ever be "mature"? Will Rossiter? of instance -  
I expect it is a matter of grey matter (puni!!) And in  
this we have reason to rejoice in both both and children  
- they have 3 times the grey matter that poor old Joan  
has - or are already more "mature" - Joan has many  
invaluable qualities - she is loyal, hardworking and I believe  
really loves us all - but I've simply got to accept the fact that  
she hasn't got a great deal of grey matter. There was a  
man on the "Shensi Relief Expedition" with Buller. I may  
have been M<sup>r</sup> Keyte even - who said "The trouble is, Saverly, that  
you are so clever and you expect us to act as you do and when  
we don't you see red - when actually we haven't the brain to do it".  
But to get back to your metaphor - I'll try and handle the tree  
gently and look for the fruit only in its season. As for the  
"under gardeners" I'll try and keep her to the jobs she can do  
without damaging the plants - but as a matter of fact she  
is one of the plants as well and my mistake has been to look  
for fruit long before the season for it - and not only that but looking  
for the kind of fruit that it is not her nature to produce -  
I'll try to come down to their level - The children will "pull Joan's leg"  
when they are a little older!

Thank you for what you say re the husband-Children complex.  
The bother is that I want to give both you and them more  
than I will ever have to give - Of course we will not give  
them their due - But with Gilman I feel I have given to  
the point of being harmful - and now circumstances again  
have thrown her on to me - She needs her school for the sake  
of the other children and having to share the teacher with  
many - However she really is doing much more by herself  
than ever before - Also I always send her to visit Mrs. Pa  
the Baker's wife, Miss Picketts & Mrs. Bullen whether there  
is any message or not - so as to not depend so much on me  
Gilman & I are so close that I doubt if I can think anything  
she doesn't sense - and no matter how happily she may be  
occupied in playing by herself or even with others, the ve  
movement I concentrate on something other than herself she  
conscious of it (unconsciously I mean if that is not to say  
a paradox) and then she simply has to come to me and  
all my attention - This is surely bad - sometimes I feel we ought  
be separated for her sake - yet with her nature as it is I feel  
repressions would be very bad and now she avoids trouble by tell  
me everything - sooner or later - and I can help her - just some  
remark - that others might not even notice, show me that her  
mind is working on something - and we can generally clear  
up - or label the question to be sorted out later by so  
It is very hard for me not to be able to take care of

through these dark days. Of course I want to give you all I  
can when you come. Gillian I expect senses this and feels she  
is not the centre of my thoughts - so . . . .

But she loves you so. She said the other day "I love Daddy  
so much I will even let him go to sleep".

The other night I crept softly into Pennas room to cover her in  
her sleep (as I thought) - all so quiet. then just as I covered her  
"Bo!" she says - making me jump and then roaring with  
laughter. She is a quaint child - and so affectionate.

Have stuffed of news. One of our planes crashed in  
Cambridge - 3 civilians killed - Who? I wonder.

And this morning I rang you up because it said  
bombs had been dropped on two towns in East England.

- Well - it is no good ringing you up every time there is  
anything in the East - I had not heard for Chris

for some time - Today I had such a nice letter  
- so sane & sensible - will send it on to you when

answered - Now I'll make myself a cup of  
 cocoa & go to bed - Do you give yourself nightcaps?

- What do you have - Cherry? is it? or a warm  
drink - How do you sleep. I've been sleeping much

better since I put on a thick woollen vest - I never  
get new writing now - and seem to need so much warmth or I get

stuff - How is your side - God keep you - All my love my  
own darling one - your Aida!

Thurs - a.m.

Saw a most interesting  
sight as I unblocked  
the bedroom - A tidal  
bore - it looked 2 ft  
high and rolled up  
the river and looked  
as though the strand  
would be flooded -

Peaceful night -