

Gillian
loved
your
letter
of the
Owl

The Vicarage, Poughill
Cornwall.

My dear Darling One

Sunday May 1.

I'm wondering what news you have from Bath. It will come in time - meanwhile let me tell you our news & cheer you up.

I think this holiday is being a great success - already I believe Gillian's cough is gone - and my tongue so clean I can fully enjoy the flavours of tea. - Emma who was perfectly well when we came is as bonny & rosy as can be - and losing the last remnant of shyness and growing so independent in all her little affairs - she will thoroughly enjoy school when she goes - Gillian is sun-browned & very freckly and so happy she is making up poetry as it!! this sort of thing -

"When I'm very good I'm happy happy happy
And Mummy is happy too

When I'm moderately good I'm rather happy & Mamma is moderately happy too
Oh I'm so happy happy happy and I will always be good!"

"This" she says is the first Chapter -

We've discovered M^{rs} Russell but her little girl Jean has had middle ear trouble 3 times

this winter and has just had her tonsils out - her nose so running all the time & her mother thinks she may be infectious - so perhaps we'd better avoid them a bit -

This morning we went for a walk - found a lovely farm & enquired if we could at anytime stay there - We found that the farm was run by a Mrs Edmead who has girl twins age 12 & a boy somewhat near the same age - Her husband in some Govt job - It costs her £1000 a year to run it - she sells nothing - simply runs it for her children - However she let us spend the whole morning in it & gave us each a glass of just milked milk - warm by the cow - and bottled & drank it!! Every animal on the farm was

~~We saw~~ a pet - and showed it by rubbing against us in a delightful way.

We saw - The cow and its dear little calf - a pony - and Gillian & Pema had a bareback ride - The twins Mary & Ann were jolly - dressed in riding clothes but Harry particularly you would have liked There were ducks on a pond - two families of ducklings - some only just hatched

Geese & goslings - the gander was the only
 price thing - Turkey - the great
 Turkey cock put up his tail & got
 purple in the face to Gilkins delight
 but was not really fierce -

A sow & lots of the dearest little
 piglets - The sow ran around us like
 a happy dog & wiggled up to us -
 We helped catch the little piglets & put
 them in a sack to be taken into the
 barn as they were getting sunburned. They
 were lovely & hold - reminded me of your
 baby rats - A sheep had twin lambs
 only two days old - we nursed one of
 these - There were cats and a very
 friendly dog - rather a pup -

I never knew an old sow could be
 so intelligent - lively & really seemed
 to be affectionate - she was herself not
 quite a year old -

Well we stayed there the whole
 morning with all these creatures in
 a glorious orchard in full bloom -
 There were plenty of fowls - It did
 the children a world of good - I loved
 to see them with all these animals

round them and such friendly animals
 Mrs Burgess tells me they are rich
 people who think money will buy
 everything - but she has worn herself
 out and is badly needing rest - is very
 nervous and goes away who serve
 her a very bad time - Had a tutor
 for her children etc - but can't get another
 I am very comfortable here at the
 vicarage and in the afternoon we do
 weeding with Mrs B of her own ^{rather} wild
 garden - High tea at 5.30 - Cocoa
 & sandwiches at 9 p.m.

Sat May 2.

Tonight a "mock invasion" starts here
 Mrs Burgess says that in one place
 all the "civilians" were lined up in
 front of their own houses for ages -
 so just in case I don't have a
 chance to post - or even write to you
 on Sunday I've decided to finish this
 letter and post it today -

Oh the views from the vicarage window
 you must certainly come and see them
 one day. You need not fear that I'll

get too involved with these folk as the
 Bude Vicar will not let M^{rs} B visit in
 his Parish! Still they are giving me
 so many extra cups of tea - as they say
 they are only too pleased to have an extra
 in-between meals cup themselves so I've
 invited them to pop in and have one
 with me any time they are in Bude -
 She is a very energetic little woman - quiet
 & capable - and quite intelligent. He is rather
 a softy - The Radio is only put on for news
 and that 3 times a day & so loud that no
 one need move from the room or work they
 are doing. As breakfast is at 8.15 we are
 dressing (rather wisely) at that time & don't hear
 it - Dinner is at 1 p.m. - and the booming
 news is not even turned off for grace!!!
 I have two rooms - and with all the fresh
 air the children go off & sleep at once
 & sleep till 7 a.m. But I can't sit in
 either room in the evenings as I'd disturb
 them with the light. So go down to the
 dining room with M^{rs} B. during the
 evenings where we sit & do needle work &
 talk. So letter writing is a little difficult
 I began this letter in the dining room

last night as I got their first - but when Mrs B. came in she simply could not refrain from offering me the local paper & discussing her own article (Dora Bangers) in it - no more writing - Now this morning Gillian & Penma are pasting in a scrap book while I write - it is just a little distracting - but you'll understand if I miss telling you the things you Mr Bangers just lives in his study - He said to me yesterday "your holiday is beginning to do you good." So I must look better - I've had two whole nights sleep - 8 hrs each and feel ever so much better for them -

I'm going to look out for a farm for the purpose of a holiday - and Mrs B has told me of one between Wickhamthorpe bay & us - But I shall not need any more this year and once I've caught up with my health as I'm doing very quickly now I'll be far happier in my own home - which owing to the long care and forethought of my darling one is really the most comfortable and comfortable little home I've ever seen - The servant question is acute - I suppose & Bude being overrun with rich ex-