Feb. 6th /34.

Dear Rupert,

Renee, spring day. Sun shining, chucks a - deo singing + its old gardiner out digging in the garden to coree things along. We seem to have had your sunshine this year but Eng. sunshine has a special quality all its own. Very soft + mellow - makes colours look perfectly lovely. I saw an old blue carnion one day that turns the heavenliest turquoise in sunshine. The skies are lonely too. Such
piles of murky floating clouds. Makes you want to paint just to look at them. I love the vistas down the streets with a sort of blue hazy between the buildings and behind the trees.

Of course when it rains the lights come on and it's just too pretty. The other day we had a heavy fog (mentioned earlier 28 degrees) and every little leaf in the hedges had a pull of white frost round its edge – all the things looked as if they had been dipped in powdered sugar - only so alive. I almost heard them talking.

Haven't been reading much - the exhaustion of my offending muscles being the first item of business. Three dairings now lie side by side in alcohol, revealing a hidden depravity that
has shocked even my dentist, who is not easily shocked. He is quite interesting, an M.D. as well as a D.L.S. with a whole string of letters. His father was a Harley St. Physician and he went through for medicine & surgery. Spent 14 years in the Navy during the war & has been pretty well round the globe. So that he has seen life. But he knows his business. I am sure, and he has excellent arm muscles and the way he reasons with my sternly resistant Gibralterans, is, as they say here, "a real treat." Only a few more & then I expect to start a new life and to make up for all the enforced self-demands of the past 10 months. I didn't see ndenmen in uniform but I
I have seen the actress in another play and like her very much. Her new play (film) is here now. “Anna and Elizabeth.” Play of a girl, a faith healer. They say she does it awfully well. Watch out for Elizabeth Bergner in “Katharina the Great.” She interests me very much.

Tony Garnier has had two new successes in “The Tempest” and Hilde’s “Importance of Being Earnest.” I hope to see the latter. London is just so full of good things it is impossible to see them all. As soon as I am better we intend to start on a Shakespeare dissertation. She goes regularly to the Shakespeare fellowship, which doesn’t believe in
wry of Shaffner, as 1 like you, Dr. Perry Allen, author of
Dr. A. has met some very interesting people:
Margy Rowen, the homeliest of a miss Evelyn, a
descendant of the famous diarist. She is coming to tea soon. Do you wonder I want
to get better. But already I feel lighter +
brighter than for weeks. Poor Dr. A. has a very
bad cold this week. On her chest, with Dr. in attendance. But she is much better to-day.
Blanche has been very sweet to us both + such a good nurse, in spite of her C.S.

You ask me about what one of the girls said as to modern life being bad for inner life. What did I think about it? It's almost
to big a question for a letter. But I came across a book of Powys', its title was "The Fruits of Solitude" which I thought might mean something to you. You know Jung's division of people into Extroverts and Introverts or more simply - the people that things happen to and the people that things happen in. Life nowadays tends to produce Extroverts. Things happen outside us. It's usually only when we are alone that they happen to us. Yet every one who compares the two experiences knows that there is a much greater sense of reality in inner experience than to outer. A feeling of being more alive - of greater happiness. In most ages this has been mixed up with religion. I think normally so - Powys lives to
re. State it without any religious terms. Undoubtedly it is a capacity that can be cultivated - or killed. Like an art sense. No doubt you have his book. See what you think.

Hope you like your poach. If you can save enough pieces for a hat. Think that would be very chic. Black furs + bag. New hats here either halos or "sailors." Like sailors very smart. Shall keep my eyes open for the mate. What sort of occasion does she need things for.

Long letter from Alison chiefly about family. Says Etta Farnham feels
and broke her hip. Thought you might write to her.

You Sunday light meals sound rather wonderful, but how calorie?

Tojours bon amour.

Tante.
MB Williams to her niece Ruth ("Rufus"), Feb 1934

Transcription / Additional Information

Feb. 6/34.

Dear Rufus,

Regular spring day. Sun shining chick-a-dees singing & the old gardener out digging in the garden to coax things along. We seem to have had your sunshine this year but Eng. sunshine has a special quality all its own. Very soft & mellow – makes colours look perfectly lovely. I saw an old blue awning one day that turned the heavenliest turquoise in sunshine. The skies are lovely too, such piles of juicy-looking clouds. Makes you want to paint just to look at them. I love the vistas down the streets with a sort of blue haze between the buildings & behind the trees & of course when it rains & the lights come out it’s just “too juicy.” The other day we had a hoar frost (terribly cold! 28°F) & every little leaf in the hedges had a frill of white frost round its edge & all the twigs looked as if they had been dipped in powdered sugar & only so alive. I almost heard them talking.

Haven’t been reading much - the extraction of my offending molars being the first item of business. Three darlings now lie side by side in alcohol, revealing a hidden depravity that has shocked even my dentist, who is not easily shocked. He is quite interesting, an M.D. as well as a D.L.S. with a whole string of letters. His father was a Harley St. physician & he went through for medicine & surgery - spent 4 years in the navy during the war & has been pretty well round the globe. So that he has “seen life.” But he knows his business, I am sure, and he has excellent arm muscles and the way he reasons with my sternly resistant Gibraltar’s, is, as they say here, “a fair treat.” Only 4 more & then I expect to start a new life and to make up for all the enforced self-denials of the past 10 months.

I didn’t see Mädchen in Uniform but I have seen the actress in another play & like her very much. Her new play (film) is here now “Anna & Elisabeth.” Story of a girl faith healer. They say she does it awfully well. Watch out for Elizabeth Bergner in “Katharine the Great.” She interests me very much.

Tony Guthrie has had two new successes in “The Tempest” & Wilde’s “Importance of Being Ernest.” I hope to see the latter. London is just so full of good things it is impossible to see them all. As soon as I am better we intend to start on a Shakespeare dissipation. She goes regularly to the Shakespeare fellowship, which doesn’t believe in Wm. of Stratford as I told you. M. Percy Allen, author of [[blank space]] is the leader & Mrs. H. has met some very interesting people. Marjory Bowen, the novelist & a Miss Evelyn, a descendant of the famous diarist. She [[Evelyn]] is coming to tea soon. Do you wonder I want to get better. But already I feel lighter & brighter than for weeks. Poor Mrs. H. has a very bad cold this week on her chest with
Dr. in attendance. But she is much better to-day. Blanche has been very sweet to us both & such a good nurse in spite of her C.S.

You asked me about what one of the girls said as to modern life being bad for [women] life. What did I think about it? It’s almost

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too big a question for a letter. But I came across a book of [Powys’?] the other day “The Fruits of Solitude” [Is she referring to “The Philosophies of Solitude” by John Cowper Powys?] which I thought might mean something to you. You know Jung’s division of people into Extraverts & Introverts or more simply - the people that things happen to and the people that things happen in. Life nowadays tends to produce Extraverts - things happen outside us. It’s usually only when we are alone that they happen in us. Yet every one who compares the two experiences knows that there is a much greater sense of reality to inner experience than to outer. A feeling of being more alive - of greater happiness. In most ages this has been mixed up with religion - think naturally so [Powys?] tries to

[pagebreak]
Re state it without any religious terms. Undoubtedly it is a capacity that can be cultivated - or killed. Like an art sense. No doubt you have his book. See what you think.

Hope you liked your frock. If you can save enough pieces for a hat, think that would be very chic. Black gloves & bag. New hats here either halos or “sailors”. Silk sailor very smart. Shall keep my eyes open for the mater. What sort of occasion does she need things for.

Long letter from Alison chiefly about family. Says Ethe Fairburn fell

[pagebreak]
and broke her hip. Thought you or G. might write to her.

Your Sunday light-meals sound rather wonderful. but low calorie!

Toujours bon amour

Tante