

La Vicentie.
July 28th 1914

Dearest Lois - Clare & Will left us last Thursday, no Friday, going for a little trip towards Brest. I thought she w^d stay on quietly here. Clare stopped off at Pau & a half to St. Brienc. - It is staying at Lannion until an all day motor trip, on Sat - intended being Monday for a day at Guingamp. & taking a second motor trip Tuesday, today returning Wed. night - & we have here post jersey on Friday morning closing our french parting. Of course we have done little active sightseeing - but that was not our object & we certainly have liked our day & had all the air of heaven circulating in our rooms at night & odd times when we were there. - Weather too, has been most favorable till the last 5 days when it rains 3 or 4 times a day & sometimes glazes - but what morning, & today it has also rained with little interval just enough for the rain to begin again with renewed violence. We are repairing our garments & generally preparing for our main

We only take handbags to Jersey
leaving on our trunks to South
hampton. There we have to fit in the
difficult schemes for each person.
Eva & I have been walking a
good deal - & when it rained
taking shelter in the houses of the
natives - have thus seen a good
many interiors, & made acquaint-
ance with their ways - All the
houses are well built of stone &
one is surprised on entering
to find usually, simply earth
floors not very even, but hard
as much tramping can make
it - A large fireplace - where
the cooking is mostly done in
one pot, either suspended over
the fire or standing on a little
tripod, the fire being fed with
branches the largest of which will
be about 3 in. in diameter.
Some have little stoves - which they
call "furnaces" & which must be
fed with charcoal or coal. This
usually stands at one side of the
hearth & is used for special oc-
casions when wheat is to be roasted.
Always the one down-stairs room
contains from one to 3 beds -
good solid wooden ones & high
with mattresses, & feather beds.
Need a chair to support them &
they look clean - white quilt & us-
ually curtains - If there is an up-

stairs. I suppose the larger & acid
people occupy this. & common iron
beds - are used. The water seems
to be drawn as far centuries from
deep wells, stone lined & covered
& the water hauled up in buckets
with a rope attached - a few
have spouts arranged so as to
catch the rain water - & if you
could see the washing pools you
would not forget them in a hurry
sometimes a cement-tank, & many
for a nasty little pool with a
very small trickling into & a still
less trickling out of. & then they
wash in cold water - & it is days
before the soapy lather passes away
& they slap the clothes with
slippers like this -



When it is by the side of
a recurring stream it is
not quite so bad - at Denau we
saw dozens of them merrily
washing, & fields of clothes & drying
drying clothes.

how my dearest it is
nice to think of you at times &
lovely to think of how well little
Abie is going on - he very careful
that she does not get chilled, that
her little legs & feet are always
kept warm - that is what causes
nearly all the indigestion & diarrhoea
that disturbs the little thing
it is hard, that she should be up so
early but it is quite natural

I had hoped that while yr. maid
had no cooking to do, that you
w^d turn the baby over to her as soon
as she awoke - Also. if you are
up too early, you must take our
hairs quiet after dinner, & sleep
if you can - It is nice for you to
play games, but don't get tired
out of it, that will do you no
good, only harm - Edward per-
haps does not realize that a
young mother cannot do
with too much exercise, it do
not refresh her as it does a
man & but quick journey
by train, tired, you do, or do
not feel - I w^d love to be
with you dear! & to help
with the dear little person.
I w^d love to have you here
too! our hair been very quiet
nearly Eva is very contented
with little & has done her
very best, to stay indoors and
has lived in the open air.
she slept - and in all possible
weather at Villa di San I hope
we have high up rooms & she
has two large windows & looks
of sun - she looks fairly well the
ground a few lbs. but she
likes being inquired about as
our speaking to any one about
our health. Now after seeing
we begin a new kind of life

more visits, & moving about - 3

I hope Meriel has really had
a restful time, & is feeling well
What is her expected time I do not
know more than late in Aug. Con
says he will Cable? I earnestly
hope that all will go well -

Another boy, I guess? Will grand
son stay on with you, or go to
St. Agatha - I am surprised
that you have not heard of Lavinia
where is she? surely the first place
she went to must be too hot long
before this - Eva has not heard of
Francis for a long time either -

Next time we go abroad I think
we must have you & Edward, we
have said so often - How Edward
w'd love this & that? We will leave
the family with - whom?

I hope you have room to
share the cottage with you when
Meriel goes. You might be a bit
lonely otherwise - I hope Edward
will take his holidays late & the
you can stay longer - once you
have started & have the longer
you live in it, the more econom-
ical it is.

I w'd like to know if you
has an idea of moving to a flat I
rather gathered that from aunt &
Clare still thinks of going to live
after Alice's wedding, i.e. if Alice
is still wanting her! & if she & Alice
were gone. Every w'd fit in with

while opening the boxes. I certainly
will not make any effort to improve
it, in that case.

Much love dear, I want to
say so many things - but must
hurry till next week, as Eva is
waiting around with her shovel
for a sketching trip -

Love to you all & if
writing to M. or C. - tell them the
news I don't think anyone is
writing to them.

Mother

Don't you see any others
you can't make it - it is a
very good thing with Emma like
a letter about 9 or 10 very pretty
on the writing it is given in very draft
hair like - it is not so good as
sketches in sketches