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Châtel-St<sup>e</sup> Anne  
St<sup>e</sup> Martin Verubie

28<sup>th</sup> Aug.

1914

Dearest-Mama

I am enclosing you a letter from M<sup>me</sup> Guicypse which I think is very interesting - though it is about a time we have almost-forgotten! When you have read it - will you send it on to Pernel as I think she would like to see it.

We spend our days - like every body else - in the most horrid suspense. We have got nothing to do but read the rickening papers

and try and make out between the lines how many lies the authorities - on one hand - and the correspondents on the other, are telling us. The lies of the authorities at any rate are meagre - one wishes the correspondents were too! And yet one can do nothing else but read and long for more.

We are very much pleased with the newly constituted French ministry. They seem to have got the best men in France. Millerand was considered to have done extremely well at the War Office before and is greatly respected as well as admired.

Delcasse' we imagine will be clever enough to nobble Italy who is in the very undignified and unsympathetic attitude of waiting for the biggest-bribe! Sembat & Guesde the most advanced among the Socialists are a very great acquisition to the Government - and their mere presence will be the most useful of guarantees to the extremists.

We have had no news of any one we know at the front so far. The husbands of two of Simon's sisters as well as the only son of one are there - but the old parents write with extreme spirit. I haven't seen the English casualty list yet but am looking forward to it

with dread to-morrow.

Danie is very cheerful. She does lessons every day which whiles away an hour and she is now engaged on laboriously penning - or rather pencilling a letter to you. The horrors (of which I sometimes think she must hear too much - but it's unavoidable) don't prey on her mind in the least - as far as I can make out - though one is never sure with children. At any rate she sleeps & eats very well. I am reading her Quentin Durward - which is strangely topical. Simon can't work here for many reasons - one is we are on a frontier, and not allowed to stir an inch with out the "laissez passer" and liable to be shot if seen with a pencil in our hands.

Give our love to Aunt Lell. Simon & Danie both send you theirs and

I am  
Your very loving  
Dorothy