

51 Gordon Square
W.C.1

March 6th 1956

4986

Dearest P

I was very glad to hear that things are going well with you. But do be careful & don't climb too many mountains - Let the Touraca suffice - Your tea on the terrace makes me green with envy. Though the weather here is technically mild there is still a biting wind, & though the relief from Arctic life is immense the Square does not really tempt me for tea.

Elizabeth is back! She slipped like a gold fish into the house on Saturday & I am now in clover. She looks very well & I think the chilblains have passed away.

I went to see Oliver last week, and he seemed much as usual. He really has no complaints, though he did his best to squeeze some out. He reluctantly admitted that he was well treated & that the house is warm. I think the chief trouble is boredom, but I don't see how that can be avoided. By the way, I enclose Rita's answer to my letter - as I feared the news is all over London.

I have just had an embarrassing & unnerwing experience. I was rung up by an unknown voice who asked after you & announced herself - I thought - as Miss Cullis. She Matt said we had not met for a long time & asked me to go & see her at Chelsea. I was much flattered & delighted, & hurried off. The door bell was answered, not as I had expected, by a huge feather-bed, but by queer looking diminutive dwarf; who

gradually melted away into Miss²-
Pallis! The shock to me was terrible,
but I think the situation passed
off unperceived by her, & we spent
a - really not bad - two hours
drinking claret & looking at her
sketches of Cyprus

Sisson's book is out, in two volumes,
at a fabulous price, but I felt I must
get it. The Lady of the Strachy turns
out to be rather disappointing. She
cannot have married Mr. Geomani
when Twelfth Night was performed, as
W. Str. did not die till 1621. Sisson
suggests it is either a Post-Shakespearean
interpolation, or that the two had an
illicit affair & the word "married" is a
euphemism. It is an interesting book,
& Sisson seems sound on most things, as
far as I have gone.

I am terribly sorry about the stamps.
You did leave a packet, & I would
have gone into a law court & sworn
I had put them on all letters. I will
make a strong effort in future.

Your account of Roquebrune village
is really horrifying. I suppose they got
no help from helicopters.

Take care of yourself, beloved
creature, & give my love to all.

MCS.