

And
out?

1/10/57

5061
Coombe Bissett

Dearest Pippa

Salisbury

Your infinitely sympathetic &
too kind letter wonderfully soothed
my toils at Roland Gardens last
week which were in the end only
possible with the ministrations of
my Dorothy. I was so glad to hear
that she had been able to befriend you
also. After your amiable report
of this she asked with much diffidence
how she could show her appreciation
of such friendliness; for her stair-
case, being even taller (tho prettier,
cleaner & somehow gentler) than mine,
makes ^{her} feel uneasy about inviting
you to tea. What could I advise?
since I share the uneasiness.

I am glad to say that tho exhausted
I ended the week in some optimism.
One afternoon I managed to get
a visit from the man whose opinion

I most value & he allayed practically
all my fears & diffidencies about
recent efforts. About your ~~poor~~
picture in particular he seemed to
take your view & said there was
nothing more to be done. Even
praised the colour which I find so
dingy! So I now feel encouraged
to submit it to its commissioners.
But as for Janie - how am I to face
that? So much sensibility, so much
taste & intelligence & such a deep background
of artistic atmosphere, heredity & tradition!

Too intimidating. Of course it would
be cruel not to show it to her but I should
like never to be told what she thought!
Then what do you recommend? Should I
simply send the picture to Miss Fawcett?

By the way, I asked my friend for a
suggestion for a frame. When he quite sensibly
declined to prescribe, I asked "should its edges
be straight or curly?" He at once said "curly"
I was still unable to polish off Sir James

But he has given me a date for Oct 16th
morning, for which I am mustering
my feeble powers. The miracle men
are attacking my Frenchman's mistake
in a new way & I go in addition to
a masseur who seems a master man
& who did more good in one sitting than
the former team in a week, so I am optimistic

As a co-invalid I am lucky
to have here my adored Henrietta just
recovering from infective jaundice - such
a richly equipped & cosy companion -
so I spend my time in self-indulgent
rest, abandoning shame. The
indefatigable Pandy presides & manages
the whole hospital, invariably cheerful
& benign.

When I return to work in London - Oct 15th -
I shall put up at The Chelsea Arts Club, since
no chair has been to the studio for 10 or 12 weeks,
& its dirt & discomforts now dismay me.

Frosts & mobile blasts wither us. I do
hope you can keep warm tho' I remember

your assertion that, unlike us, you
dread heat much more than cold

With much love & messages

To all of you

Yrs affectionately

Henry

Fawcett Library
27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.1.

~~1008~~

1180