

I play baguet - with  
Mama every evening  
& have told her about  
all the younger sons  
wandering penniless  
in Europe because they  
wouldn't discard their  
scards! She is enraged  
& says it is a most silly  
tale quite impossible &  
nothing will induce her to  
comply!

4952  
La Souco  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. 1915

Dearest Pippa

Hodge's announcement was utterly unexpected by me - but I certainly agree that we must take his advice and all he says sounds very plausible. It seems however most extraordinary that prices for luxuries & antiquities should not have gone down yet - I have heard it however from other quarters. We must also take into consideration that in selling at once we take advantage of our capital which would otherwise remain locked up and ~~the~~ counteract considerably any ulterior rise - if we had to wait several years for it. What about reserve prices? A horrid problem. But I suppose we must take his advice there too. I shall desperately long to be present at the sale but don't imagine for a moment that I shall be able to. When the catalogues are ready I should

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Forrest Library  
22 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.

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like one or two.

It is sad to think you are still in bed - but a mercy the pain is over. All goes on here as usual.

Mama seems to me quite remarkably well only she has been having a bother with one of her eyes which has developed curious symptoms. <sup>(no pain)</sup> She has been twice to the oculist who has examined her with great care & can find nothing the matter so we hope it will shortly pass off - but it is rather a nuisance as she has to moderate her reading. But she is extraordinarily active, full of spirits, and doesn't seem really in the least depressed by any honors. Zoum has recovered her health and begun lessons. Her parents are well but slightly gloomy & nervous about money which is ebbing fast - and it seems quite impossible to get any more from Belgium. Jean's brother in Brussels has twice been up before a court martial (once for exporting money) and severely warned that his name was on their black books - which makes every one feel very jumpy. Janie is very well & Simon gradually reviving. I wish I had seen Raudale Davis about your portrait but I missed it. Farewell, dearest love.

Your loving  
Dorothy.