

Tebel - Vos

Seunen.

3. 2. 33.

My dearest Aunt.

I have so much to say to you - I will try to get a little of it done to night.

(Don't think that you & Camilla are over-attentive of my thoughts, but I am working very hard; also, for the last few days Gabriel has been in bed with a very bad cold. So I've had him to nurse as well as

everything else.) My new book 'The Macedonians', a brief of life of Alexander the Great, comes out, soon, with Heibermann. It is, I think, the best thing I have ever done. I want you to read it. May I send you a copy? That ought to begin to establish my reputation - it's a book I'm really satisfied with,

rather proud of, in fact. The result of years of classical reading about that period; & certainly no one has done anything like it before. (Please remember, if you

read it, that I'm really satisfied with, for everything I say - that

however given some of it sounds, as far as I can make
out, even at that time did feel & think like that.)

About Nolle. Well, my dear Aunt, I'm going
to say again what I've always thought, & very rarely said
anything about; & which, now, I feel I know, & am
justified in setting down to you only.

When I was a young girl, it was a great
sorrow to me, a trouble I hadn't enough understanding to
express, that I did not love my Nolle, nor was able to
give her the love I wanted. I somehow felt that she was
going to do our family, of which I am very proud, some
irreparable harm. I feared this, 'sensed' it coming. I
also disliked & disliked Mr. Park. But I was very
young for my age, & the war & my first attempts to
become a writer, took up all my energies. Besides, then, I
had love as well as love for Tay.

Before Camille was born, my solicitor, (our
family was, ^{Nolle} into her left) warned me that she was making
foolish investments. (That was why she left them, because
they refused to act for her.) They asked me to warn Tay. I
did, but it was too good.

Nearly three years ago, the crash began to
come, at the same time as the discovery of the Holleris.
I was living with her at Quebec Street, & went

through all the papers with a business man. I understand such things fairly well; & with his help, was not at all in the dark. (A lot of this, you know, of course. The only thing to make things quite clear.)

~~ideas, which were desirable & practical & dependent on each other & on each other & on each other.~~

There was no thing I learned during that time, learned without doubt, from every quarter & as the plainest evidence, that the loss of the Bulls & the Hyde money was due to the most idiotic folly, the most unnecessary & brazen, ~~and~~ gullibility & caprice as ever threw a decent fortune away, & brought an ancient family to the verge of beggary.

There was no probable night when Notter almost acknowledged it. I don't know how much she has lost, as let ^{them, just before my marriage to Bahup.} the whole was done folly came at with a look ~~at the time~~.

The 'business man' I spoke of, her friend, Egas Weddell, could hardly believe it - that any one, let alone a woman he admires, could have done such things. (When he went through her paper with me, he begged me to stand by her; said that Tany was too good, ~~and~~ & that I had the brains & the capacity to save as all, if I'd the will. A thing which may be true. T- on my family I'd do anything, for you & the child, & more for Tany. But for her - ?) Huxley, to cut a story short, he told Notter, among other things, not to quarrel with me;

that she had never treated me fairly, & because he has ⁴
great influence over her — he is a very wonderful man —
she agreed ^{with what he said.}. I think she had a bad conscience. I was
supposed to inherit at least a part of my step-father's money
& I didn't, & I believe she had had ^{Tison-Tison} ^{J. J. Lovell} ^{Hyde} ~~it~~ out of it.

However, in my marriage with Bahad, which
happened about this time, she promised (i) to make me an
allowance for as long as she could. This by way of paying
back the money. Just that of £1000 I gave her ~~allowance~~ at
& in the few years after, my majority. Is this clear? Then,
(2) in addition, she promised me, the night before my marriage,
that, whatever happened, she would always continue to
pay what she was already paying for Camilla. I cannot
over-emphasise how solemn a promise that was.

The allowance to me petered out last summer. But
up that December, when our things came up at Solihull,
she wrote to me, more than once, saying that she was
selling them in order, in part at least, to be able to pay
her share towards Camilla's education. I have those letters,
(one from Tony, saying the same thing) — nothing could be
clearer. More than once she repeats: 'Camilla must be
educated. The young ^{come fact.} ^{solvent} ^{with our things} ^{things} I cannot keep up those
payments without ready money. Now they cleared by
that sale over £600. — Comment is hardly necessary.
I have written to her & to Tony, very temperately,

reminding ^{them} ~~her~~ this, a less or less most solemn promise. 5

But now, my dearest Aunt, don't you see how I feel that my fears & mistrusts, life-long ones, are being justified? My Father's fortune, my step-father's, our pictures, our home & land, our leisures & objects d'art - all gone. Gone in investments a child would not have made; gone in trusting men who flattered her, sentimentalised over & with her, while feathering their own nests. Gone, till there is nothing left but the hollow; & that has been so misbanded & so pledged in advance that I doubt if anything considerable will ever come of it. (Tany, of course, is partly to blame; but if ever there lived a young man a foolish mother put in the wrong way of living & thinking, it is he. The last ten years has been the greatest sorrow I have ever known.

This is what she has brought us to - Tany may have the talents, but I doubt if he has the will to help us. A wise & good friend told me ^{again} the other day that I have the will, certainly. We'll see.

But now Mother has broken her most solemn word & deserted the child. (It is more than doubtful, as you know, that Tany will ever have one.) I feel that we've come to some sort of an end; that there is only left you & Camilla & me. While in a year ago, I know, unless something utterly unforeseen occurs, that Bahad & I will be making enough to keep her all right, & be of any use to you that we can.

Besides, ^{Bahad} ~~it~~ will ^{we have next morning} ~~in~~ ^{money} ~~be~~ ^{sure} ~~to~~ ^{do} ~~so~~ ^{any} ~~day~~.
It's at the moment. As to that, we'll see just if she
gets the scholarship. I had a charming letter from her
headmistress.

Well, darling Aunt, I've written to you,
more or for all, what I feel & what I know about our
affairs. There is not a word in this letter which is not
true to the best of my ability; certainly not a fact.

Next time I want to talk to you about Camilla, & her
character, & what's best to be done about that.

Good night -

Ever your most loving -

Jane