

CUS417/55.11

G.R.O

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin)

[Oxford] Sunday Eve 23rd [Aug., 1914]

Dear Sue

Finish this later - Billy B went into Brown Shipley & when the clerk heard he was I am sending this independent of the other letter - You can send it to Sallie please and tell her to destroy it. Willie told me on my arrival that Loulie Bullitt was at Harrogate taking the cure & to be near Hallie & Ronnie - that Billie was paying Cora a visit as she did not go to Carlsbad. I had written Loulie Friday a.m. - I came home late Friday 7 pm and found a wire from Florence at Dinard on the French Coast - saying "Mother apoplexy - no hope". I telegraphed Harrogate & found Loulie had left for Carlton Hotel London en route to Dinard, telephoned Carlton & found them - so I changed and went to town reaching Carlton at 11.30 - found Loulie & Billy - Orville just arrived from Munich - 8 days on the way. We talked until 2 o'clock. Loulie has had the most ghastly time She & Billy went to Russia and enjoyed that - They were all to rendezvous at Aix Aug 1st - Puss & Florence going from Paris - When the Bullitts got to Berlin July 30th the American Ambassador said to leave at once - so they started the next morning and reached London via the Hook about 12 hours late - Bank Holiday - trunks lost - no money & Banks closed 4 days Telephoned here, we were away. Fortunately Billy saw Cora in the St. driving and Loulie telephoned her - She helped & Loulie got some clothes & went to Harrogate - where she found Ronnie Brooke had sent his name in & been ordered to his old Regiment at Newcastle & gone. Loulie decided to stay there, rest & take the Baths - Her maid was near Pau for a holiday & did not go to Russia - She was to bring Loulie's trunks to Aix as she had only what was necessary for travelling. Puss was at Fontainebleau & when they found they could not go to Aix Florence got a villa at Dinard & made ready for her mother - but all motors were taken & trains only for soldiers - Finally Puss telegraphed the Hotel was closing - so Florence found a motor & sent it for her mother who came with 2 maids through to Dinard - 24 hours - & it has killed her - at least she will not recover. Loulie found that yesterday a freight boat was leaving for St. Malo near Dinard & would take passengers & they left at 10.30 from London - She only wanted Orville to go as Willie was not well & Orville is the executive one - but Orville could not go without a permit from [the] French Embassy & passport for France. I was able to help them a bit - each went in different directions - & met at the Station but Orville could not get his passport until 12 - so Loulie & Willie started I saw Orville off on a train they put on at 12.30 - these being the first trains to Southampton except soldiers for 3 weeks. I came home feeling they were all right & that Billy would come here in the evening from Southampton. Fancy my horror at 7 pm when a police Sergeant appeared here to say a telephone message had come from Southampton to say Orville had been arrested as a German spy & could I verify him. Of course I said yes - and was just recovering from that when Billy B- called me up from Southampton saying their train was 3 hours late & they lost the boat - & Orville was arrested - The 'phone was very indistinct & then cut off. I have not heard today - I telephoned the only Hotel & found it was turned into Army Headquarters - I could not motor there as Southampton is not entered except by Military permission & I couldn't get that - so I am waiting for the morning post. Poor Loulie said "I came exhausted & heartbroken - to be petted & cared for & this has been my summer". Ronnie has been changed to Aldershot & Hallie gone with him. He wired & Hallie was ill in bed & could not go to Dinard - So there - what do you think of this? It was useless for me to try to go to Florence - Billy said they could not reach there before Wednesday - I shall



