

C547/55.21

G.R.O.

(Lady Osler to Mr. Revere)

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford.
Oct. 30th [1914]

Dear Bill

I hardly think this will reach you for a long time - nearly all the ships have been taken off and the Cunard will have only the Franconia left - They have chartered some poky old thing to go tomorrow. Things are getting to a pretty pass on the high seas. Every one seems to feel satisfied that the Germans are not making progress, in the mean time all these splendid men are being hewn down and one can hardly hope for any change. Every day brings some excitement - The resignation of Prince Louis of Battenberg is a shock for he has lived here ever since he was 14 - The newspapers have done this and every one is sorry.

I wrote Sue this morning and Marian to tell them of the arrival of the Case and its wonderful contents. It is perfectly splendid & already garments are being made and feet are being covered. You will be interested to hear about Revere - He is drilling every day in the Park - Either all morning or all afternoon & military lectures during the evening. I think he hates it all - It does not appeal to him in the least but of course he will do his duty when the time comes. Every spare moment from work he is in libraries or outsketching with Bobbie Emmons - None of the Emmons men have become British subjects although they have taken up abode here for 50 years so they are no use to the country. Wednesday I went to London for the first time & stayed the night. It is such a changed place you would not know it - Many people in the streets but all in dark clothes or black - almost every other man in uniform - Taxis empty - Buses reduced in numbers as many have been taken abroad. Every now and then one sees Red Cross Ambulances - 6 at a time driving to the station - Troops training in the Parks - Barracks & Hospitals put up in the private squares - Shop windows full of Kahki clothes or wool for socks. I had two meetings to go to and Tea with the Canadian Commissioners wife to meet the nurses who have come with the Contingent - It was most interesting - They have outlay for 2 Base Hospitals - and are full of energy and enthusiasm to be off & at work. Today our big Town Hall has been commandeered for a Hospital which will increase the possibilities enormously - The Belgian patients are all doing well. Germans all gone - and interned somewhere.

Willie keeps very busy - so many people want his advice - It is astonishing the number of people who are getting ambulances with Hospitals attached, for France - mostly Americans. Mr Phipps is giving his daughter Mrs Guest a full equipment She has a big House near Paris all arranged and starts soon with motor ambulances - surgeons & nurses. Isn't it glorious? I am grumbling at being old - & poor - but Willie says I am doing enough. Our Belgian Professors are being settled. Sue's collection was splendid and one from the Rockefeller Foundation of \$5000 has saved the situation - We can help them so well and now they are weeping for joy. I am afraid you cant read any more - We have not seen the Canadians yet. Sunday is the only day allowed and we hope to go Sunday.

Good night - Love to everybody.

Yours Grace.

London is very dark at night & terrific search lights shooting in all directions You might send this to Sallie - although it is a poor letter but I cant write again. I get a letter from Joe almost every week asking questions - I have to answer them systematically in numbers - 1 - 2 - 3 -