

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin] 14 - 2)

[Oxford] Monday - [Nov. 23, 1914]

My dear Sue

All my letters seem to contain some event - this isn't the right word but I don't know what else to say. Saturday a.m. I got a note from Mary Cabot to say her Mother had died at Headington - of course I thought they were in America. One day weeks ago someone called here in a cab and left a box of blankets - baby things made by Eugenia G - I stopped at Beaumont St and asked Bassington & he said Mrs G- had spent Sunday on her way from Islip where they had had a house and had gone to London - I was surprised of course at hearing of (her) death - so drove up at once & found Elliot Lee toasting his toes - Mary soon came in & seemed dazed & surprised you had not told me of her return after 28 days in Boston. Really they beat the Dutch - It seems Mrs G- was frightened about crossing & cabled Mary she had taken a house near Oxford & would spend the winter. So back came Mary - Caroline has not been well so Mary has her somewhere "in the North of here, with a nurse" and has been going back & forth. Mrs G- had an attack & died - I think the other Gardiner - engaged to Draper is with them - I really couldn't take in all Mary said - but enclose her letter. Elliot Lee handed me some money for Belgians & when I looked at it I found £40 - so I was pleased at that. I went back yesterday but they had all gone to church. Miss Howard, Bassington and I are going to the funeral tomorrow - Mrs G- is paying 8- a week for the house - a perfect scandal. Mary wants to sublet - I thought I could do it for her as Countess Bachgrove a Belgian refugee who was Ruth Sneider of Phila. had written me about a house but now has wired she has changed her mind - so Mary will have to pay up - perhaps E. Lee will - My - they are funny - She wrote as you see about her mother's clothes & I said I would come after the funeral. So much for the Cabots.

Julia is going on well. W.O saw her Saturday - You know more about Louis than I perhaps. I suppose they must trot back to America now - Really it is awful. Never shall I forget Adèle last week. She was a total wreck for about two hours. I feel such a fool with her & so helpless. Archie Malloch who is here to go with Amy Phipps Guest, is now in bed with fever from Typhoid inoculation - He had his first the day after he came - Last Sat she telephoned to be ready to leave Monday. He rushed to town - got his kit - his Red + registration - everything & came back at 6 - was inoculated at 9 - and has been in bed ever since with fever & pains all over - We sewed buttons & marked things Saturday p.m. & he is quite ready - He is a clever young surgeon. Amy G- has equipment for a small Hospital - Nurses, Ambulance & two doctors - Jay Phipps goes too & Mr Grace his father-in-law & Mr Phipps put up the money. Amy's town house is a Hospital and her country house as well - Cora has convalescents in Chandos House - I enclose a note from Hallie I have just had - so you see how worried she is - All residents are ordered 15 miles back from the East Coast. I suppose soon we shall have Norfolk refugees.

Word has just come that the Leyland people have the cases in the Docks so I have asked them to forward. It will take about a week. All goods trains are held up just now moving troops to the East Coast - We have about 3000 here now - from the camps training. Cathedral was packed yesterday with soldiers - They always sing "God Save the King" and yesterday all stood with arms flat on their sides while Chopin's funeral march was played for Gen Roberts. The poor wee Prince of Wales has gone. He sent Willie a nice inkstand & his photo with a kindly note from Mr Hansell. Isn't it splendid of the King to let him go. Jim Pearce writes of the horrors of the trenches now it is so cold - I have never known it so cold in November. Nothing settled about Revere yet.

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Professors. It was £172. I cannot get Belgian children for the Hemenways. It is impossible. I will write her tomorrow again.

I enclose Sallie's letter which shows the truth of what you said. I have fortunately kept register of my letters - & I have written her certainly 4 or 5 letters - & p.c. besides you have sent on letters. I really can't do more than I do - since writing a message has come asking if our work room will put flannel sleeves into 1000 waistcoats for Territorials & I said we would - of course Gov. pays. As I came home tonight there were 29 motor lorrie transports in front of St Johns Col. The 29th was open on one side & was an electric blacksmith shop - quite wonderful. About the town there are notices telling one what to do if messages are thrown from aeroplanes. I tell you all these things for I know you are interested.

Tuesday Eve Well - I have been to Mrs Gardiners funeral - a sad little funeral. Miss Howard lunched here and we motored out - and joined the little procession - Mary - Charlie Perkins (who is living in Camilla Short's house at Penn) - Geraldine and their friend Mrs Smith - Bishop Hall's sister, Elliot Lee and the other Gardiner girl - Miss Howard & Grace. Some village men and boy scouts walked by the coffin - There were nice hymns in the church & at the grave - A delicious robin sang hard all the time & I shut my eyes & could see Mrs Gardiner coming down the steps in a big cape, little Mary with white rosettes on her ears - Miss Louisa with birds in the window - and all Commonwealth Ave walking up and down looking happy. The world is all so upside down that it didn't seem odd to be putting Mrs G- away in Islip Church. Mr Perkins came back in the car with Miss H and me - He said he had no idea they were in this country. Elliott Lee nearly killed me. He looks about 80 and was arrayed in a green machintosh, light brown hat & rather blueish gloves. C. Perkins says that Camilla Short has retired to her holiday cottage in Kent - owing to her Austrian connection things are not very pleasant in London for her - And her income is cut very low - but of course that is heresay - I think I have told you all I know that is sad - so I'll stop - He had his first the day after he came - Last Sat she telephoned to be ready to leave Monday. He rushed to town - got his kit - his bed + registration - everything & came back ^{aff-ly} - was inoculated at 9 - and has been in bed ever since with fever & pains all over - He sewed buttons & mended things Saturday p.m. & he is quite ready - Grace a clever young surgeon. Amy G- has equipment for a small Hospital - Nurses, Ambulance & two doctors - Jay Phipps goes too & Mr Grace his father-in-law & Mr Phipps put up the money. Amy's town house is a Hospital and her country house as well - Gore has convalescents in Chandos House - I enclose a note from Hallie I have just had - so you see how worried she is - All residents are ordered 15 miles back from the East Coast. I suppose soon we shall have Norfolk refugees.

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