

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford] Monday Eve Jan 5th [1915]

Dear Sister

Your Christmas Eve letter came this morning and was so nice - it seemed to have come very quickly. Now I want to hear about the luncheon. It was nice having Joe I am sure. I hope Sue went back with him to see her grandmother.

John McLennan has written me of his engagement. Do you know Mrs Tytus? I hope the children are all right about it, he says they are. I thought I should see Hugh at the Camp but it has been impossible to go - The weather is beyond anything. It pours nearly all the time. The floods are awful - out everywhere. Tonight there is a list of roads all over the Country where it is dangerous to pass. It is simply awful on Salisbury Plain and is the same in France -

I am feeling happier in a way ^{now} that Revere ~~has~~ made up his mind about the first step to take. He has had his 19th birthday & then talked wisely, oh so wisely with me - He simply can't talk with Willie. The responsibility is awful - for me - At first Revere said he would try for some ambulance work - but of course that means only stretcher carrying - unless there is training. He has a friend, Montgomery an Irish boy - who was at Winchester and now at Christ Church - literary & artistic - & they have mutual interests. Montgomery's father is abroad - on some Generals Staff - and advises the boys to join the Public School Corps - This was started in Oct - from all the schools - Eton - Winchester & many others - old & young - Doris Somervilles husband is in it & many, many men we know - They are in camp at Epsom - from that many of the men have got commissions. The advantage to Revere is that he gets a strict training as a private with the camp life and not the responsibility so soon as a junior officer - In the mean time we can find out - watch out, for a good regiment for him to join. If possible he may be able to get some ambulance instruction - I should like him to do that with the view perhaps to his joining the McGill College Hospital and be with Campbell. That may not be possible but I am comforting myself with that idea - He has as you know been in the Officers Training Corps & at Christ Church. It would be hard for him to stay on another Term doing that - all his friends except 2 medically unfit ones are leaving - and one might as well face it now as later. He is much happier and so dear & wonderful that it only makes it harder. I fancy he will join the Camp about the middle of the month. Today he brought home his books from Christ Church and his lovely room must be dismantled. What a strange fate after our fear that he might never get in! If he stayed another Term at Christ Church he would have a stiff examination & they cant do well both things - so that is done for - & the only hope is the War may be over & he can come back to College. It is I know dear sister useless to say "dont worry for us" - because I know you will feel it all terribly - but with you to look up to and the women I was brought up among I shall do my utmost to hold out and have a cheerful face for the poor dear unselfish angel who is just breaking his heart over giving up his boy to this awful risk - That's all -

Good night -

Grace