

[Lady Osler to Mrs Chapin]

[Oxford] Tuesday March 9 [1915]

Dearest Sister

I am afraid this must be a hurried letter and I meant it to be a nice one - but goodness knows when it may reach you. There is a rumour that no steamers are leaving U.S. for England for 10 days but I cant believe it. The slippers came safely and are perfectly splendid and most acceptable. We are working hard making slippers for tender feet at our room. I have had a terrific three or four days with people & it is hard to do so many things - After this Persyn house is done I shall try to have some sense and not do more than two things at a time. Mrs Van Buren said she wanted to come to spend a few days so of course I wanted her - I asked Martin but he had a cold & wouldnt come - They are at Leamington until March 31st. She came Sat early - Pa Emmons got an attack Friday & Hamilton had to be telephoned for in the night & arrived at dawn by motor. Mrs V.B came & Marion came here to wait - He has rallied but is still very ill They have gone back - Then Nettie Osler Philip's mother - arrived on the Lusitania Saturday & telephoned she was coming - Revere walked in for the night - beaming, & Archie Malloch telegraphed from Lapame that he was coming - and just as every body arrived they telephoned from the Hospital to know if I would take a wounded soldier's wife - which I couldn't do as Mrs V.B has a maid (temporarily) It was all so funny that we had a good laugh. However we are now down to Archie - and enjoying his accounts of his life in Belgium - at least I am - Willie wont listen - Another nice person came - Bob Bacon - & spent all Sunday afternoon - wasn't that nice? Mrs V.B is so frisky - She & Willie had great jokes & she adored his calling her the "old girl." Last night Marion & I sat on her bed while she Mrs V.B undressed & she danced about like a four year old - She is 83.

I am grieved Cousin Mary is failing - Poor dear - she has so enjoyed life - hasnt she? News at present I cant talk about, it is all too complicated. Archie has just read me a letter from a cousin just out of the trenches - such experiences I have never believed until I heard of them from this good Presbyterian Gibson boy from Toronto.

Revere seemed so happy & looked too sweet. Is very busy - helping in many directions & arranging for enlargements of the Hospital. They have written from McGill to know how important a place he can fill, as they are increasing from 520 beds to 1040. Campbell is there & Otilie at Ottawa.

This must go

Much love

Grace

I like so much the Johns picture

Your boxes to Marion & me have never come but are in the Docks.

I nearly screamed when Revere stalked up to his seat at Ch Ch Cathedral in uniform -

The book plate he did before he left for a friend. How did you like his own?