

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin] - 2)

[Oxford], June 9th, [1915]

Dearest Sue

He feels that the Allies will win but he is not sure except by absolute exhaustion. Fancy the days that have passed since I wrote - or began a letter. And I don't know how I can catch up - At this moment I am so excited about Bryan and the note I hardly know what to do - Ordinarily I should not believe it possible for America to go to War but now I am prepared for anything and it seems more than probable - I believe I am stunned - Nothing seems to make an impression - After 24 hours with Jack McCrae I felt really exhausted - I suppose tomorrow morning the Times will tell why Bryan resigned really. I must turn back to Friday and see what happened. Revere appeared Sunday which was an important event and joy - he looked so well and talked most wisely about his work. The system of it seems to appeal to him. I was amused at his saying "The doctors expect to start in with patients at once - they little realize what the work of organization is". To my disgust I found that most of the kits I had sent Revere had gone astray in his moves and he seemed quite unconcerned - however after telegrams & telephones galore - I think he has everything complete and wrote yesterday he was much pleased with it all. The grandees from McGill are not allowed to take their trunks so many are being stored here and they are meekly taking leather kits. Willie went off in a hurry to Chester Friday & missed one day of Revere's visit - but he and Bob went to Bladon to sketch & fish & had a glorious time. Saturday was our Red + Flag Day - it was an immense success. We hope to make £2000 - & much in the County. The weather was superb - Miss Temple had her stand at the corner of Norham Gardens & Banbury Rd - starting at 7.45 - I fitted her out with tables & decorations - a wee lunch at 11 o'clock - She had 6 girls to help - then at 12.30 o'clock - she came with one set to lunch - And at 1.15 the other - Early in the morning Adèle telephoned that she was motoring with Mrs Page for the day and they would lunch here - so they arrived - also Archie Malloch came back and Bill arrived from Aldershot - so you can imagine - William gone, but all went well. As the Chairman of the Red Cross Com. I had to be on the rampage all the morning, but when I found Mrs Page & Adèle had come to sit and return by twilight - I let Red Cross go and sat too. We had a great pow wow. I never saw two people so unlike as Adèle & Mrs Page.

[The Buller]

The Red + Workers returned in batches for tea. The Londoners left at 6 taking Wanda with them as she was here for the day Belgianizing. Sunday was another glorious day - Revere and I were out early & he and Campbell lunched at the Somervilles - There was a crowd in the afternoon, including Mrs Bliss from the Paris legation & two men from there - Paul & Dodge - They had been to Torquay Saturday to help marry Bessie Wells & Mr Stabler of the London Legation. That was a sudden affair - only knew each other 5 weeks. Edgar Wells has gone to pieces again and could not appear at the wedding. Mr Page & Kathleen went & Mrs Page came here. Archie went to town Sat P.M. He is working at 26 Park Lane while their Surgeon is having a holiday. Amy Guest is coming on the Philadelphia - Sunday afternoon Jack McCrae came - I am glad & sorry you did not hear him. He looked thin & worn - but was intensely interesting - 31 days in the trenches with 8 days rest - After Ypres they have been at La Bassée - fighting hard - he came from there last Thursday - His clothes were awful - I have sent everything to the Cleaners. He says the British hatred for the German increases daily since the Lusitania - and that he wouldn't touch the hand of any of the men he knew so well in London two years ago -

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He feels that the Allies will win but Nothing can be Ended except by absolute exhaustion - The nerve strain he says is beyond any sensation possible to describe. When they had to stand on the roadside waiting for orders And saw the French Colonials & Civilians rushing away from the Gas when it was first turned on - he says it was Hades absolutely & they stood fast expecting the Germans on top - After that orders came to push ahead & attack - and they were at it day & night - saving the situation as we know. Really I felt sick when he left Monday night - Monday a.m. Willie & Revere left for Cliveden & I felt really that I was deserted. Revere said good bye cheerily to all the servants filled his pockets with books - hugged his Muz And fled in the car - Whenever will he be back? I feel more than thankful for the way in which he is able to go - but it is pathetic to see Willie pretending. They had a gala reception at Cliveden & Revere left there at 2.30 and on to Shorncliffe. Jack lay in the garden all day - we repacked him & off to town at 9.30 & Bill to Aldershot - Goodness I forgot to tell you the Jim Putnam boy & young Houston from Troy arrived from Liverpool Sunday Eve and stayed until Tuesday p.m. - on their way to Neuilly - Medical Students Mr Davidson took them in charge and Bobbie too - so I was free of them - yesterday was the hottest day I ever felt in Oxford - today is better - but we haven't had a drop of rain yet And we have to Water the garden daily much to Henry's fury - Even Campbell admits he is provoking. Did I tell you Bob's Servian Scheme fell through? W.O. has managed for them to go to Neuilly - which will make Marion much happier. Marions friend & fellow sufferer Mrs Sanford Wills has been in town at the Randolph - a week consulting W.O. and Keeping Bob fussing with the daughter - who likes books & pictures. Peasley the Chauffeur is most satisfactory. Benning is visiting his wife's relations before he takes the final step - As I expected he has always been grouchy and unpleasant in the Servants hall - Isn't it wonderful about the young airman who Killed the Zeppelin? Jack Slessor has his orders & goes to work on Monday - Jim Pearce is at home for 70 hours - Mary King is still there. What shall we do if U.S. joins in?

Good night - excuse this long letter.

We all miss you still -

Affly

Grace

Finishing 700 more holdals & housewives tomorrow And huge mending - Kathleen went to the Aero. Archie went to the Aero. working at 26 William calls Every Evening & has his socks washed - poor dear! coming on the Philadelphia - Sunday afternoon Jack McCreane came - I am glad & sorry you did not hear him. He looked thin & worn - but was intensely interesting - 51 days in the trenches with 8 days rest - After Ypres they have been at La Bassée - fighting hard - he came from there last Thursday - His clothes were awful - I have sent everything to the Cleaners. He says the British hatred for the German increases daily since the Lusitania - and that he wouldn't touch the hand of any of the men he knew so well in London two years ago -