

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin)

[Oxford] Sunday Oct 5th [1915]

Dearest Sister, I suppose by the middle of November she will come over - her mother will probably take a house near Shorncliffe. Yesterday we started our Re-I often wonder if you say "Why doesn't Grace say - so & so - or why doesn't she tell me this or that" - You know my intentions are good but sometimes I forget. Thanks so much for the snaps of your grandson - he is splendid - I hope by now they have found a house and are nearly settled - how nice it will be for Margaret to have her own things about her. In my last I sent a list or a letter of what is needed. I have had a busy few days. Wednesday Mrs. Singer let her house and Willie thought Dr & Mrs. Singer should be relieved [of] the responsibility of the Merton so we decided to put them into the Persyn house - which had to be cleaned & scrubbed and boiled to get it clean in three days - Florence did it with my assistance and the people moved in Saturday and seem pleased. Willie was away from Thursday to last eve - lecturing at Leeds - then on to Manchester for some thing he wanted in the library - Sunday at the Bowens & home. Of course the Wrights fussed at my being alone but I held firm and had my dinner at home - they all dined here Saturday - With a Blake & Wrong boys from Toronto who are in camp at Bicester and Harry Wright's brother in law Lt Hollis Blake - convalescent from appendicitis - He came in his motor so the girls have liked it - Marion & Jean (darling!) work with the Thomsons in the morning at fruit & flowers. Otilie & her mother go out together. The chicks have a systematic nurse - English but demoralized in manners by Canadian independence - I think Otilie is afraid of her. The baby is a darling - of course I am pleased because she likes me & Palmer is indifferent - He is a miniature Campbell. Otilie is very changed I think - the result of her illness - & I am sure she is not well. Sometimes she seems her old self but she looks jaded. I would love to take care of her - have her a new creature when the war is over. Mrs W- is looking perfectly lovely and says she never expected to be living like a real princess - No care or responsibility. She will worry when Palmer goes I fear. She and Jean have gone to say good bye to him and to see Phoebe. It has been a great disappointment to Otilie, Campbells not coming. They are terribly busy - patients in & out - night & day. Revere has been happier since being so occupied but when he has leave I am sure he will apply to be transferred - The battle is raging - but no body expresses excitement. The losses are too terrible - I think there were 4 Oxford boys in the Times list today - I mean men who live here - Like the Williams son at Summerfields School & 2 Lynam Masters - There are 1040 wounded here now & the streets are full - Mrs Boyce Allen came back to the work room yesterday after weeks of absence - asked tenderly for you. Her son is safe still, I believe the Canadians have not been in this advance yet. Nadine (Jack Osler's wife) has a son born at Shorncliffe - She and her sister Mrs Harty - have a house together. So glad you like the Gwyn Bros I am afraid Campbell will be going out soon. Your letter written at the Glades on the 23rd has just come - & the lovely sketch - What a happy day it must have been. We haven't heard from Adele since before W.O. went to France - I am sure she is terrified in London with the Zepps. There are two Donald MacMaster girls taking 3 months training at the infirmary - cousins of Margaret I think. Mrs MacMaster was a Miss DeFord from Baltimore & he from Montreal. They came to live in England just as we did - Friday word came the only son was killed in France - The girls went home for the night & back Saturday p.m. to work. They came to see me this morning - pathetically brave. Mr & Mrs MacMaster gone to Scotland to fill his recruiting appointments in Glasgow. This may interest Mr DeFord. Later - a cable has come saying Harry Wrights wife has a daughter



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so that is a relief. I suppose by the Middle of November she will come over - her mother will probably take a house near Shorncliffe. Yesterday we started our Red cross Work at the workroom. I am sure I told you I had a grant of £100- from the Red Cross - All the tables are covered with White "American Cloth" Ladies in aprons & sleeves. All mending to be done downstairs under Miss Porter. I hope it is a success. Goodness what a letter.

W.O has just come from Cliveden - two weeks I have expected Miss Campbell & she hasn't been able to come. 800 patients there. Such a letter! Excuse the length. It might go to Sallie.

Good night

Grace -

Grace - is rented in the Library - Sunday at the Sewing & Home. Of course the Wrights fussed at my being alone but I held firm and had my dinner at home - they all dined here Saturday - With a Blake & Wrong boys from Toronto who are in Camp at Slough and Harry Wright's brother in law Lt Hollis Blake - convalescent from appendicitis - He came in his Motor so the girls have liked it - Marion & Jean (Marling?) work with the Thomsons in the morning at Fruit & flowers. Otilie & her Mother go out together. The chicks have a systematic Manner - English but demoralised in Manners by Canadian independence - I think Otilie is afraid of her. The baby is a darling - of course I am pleased because she likes to & Palmer is indifferent - He is a miniature Campbell. Otilie is very changed I think - the result of her illness - & I am sure she is not well. Sometimes she seems her old self but she looks jaded. I would love to take care of her - have her a new creature when the War is over. Mrs W- is looking perfectly lovely and says she never expected to be living like a real princess - No care or responsibility. She will worry when Palmer goes I fear. She and Jean have gone to say good bye to him and to see Phoebe. It has been a great disappointment to Otilie, Campbells not coming. They are terribly busy - patients in & out - night & day. Revere has been happier since being so occupied but when he has leave I am sure he will apply to be transferred - The battle is raging - but no body expresses excitement. The losses are too terrible - I think there were 4 Oxford boys in the Times list today - I saw one who lives here - like the Williams Gen at Summerfields School & 2 Lysons brothers - There are 1040 wounded here now - the streets are full - Mrs Lysons Allen came back to the work room yesterday after weeks of absence - asked tenderly for you. Her son is safe still. I believe the Canadians have not been in this advance yet... Madine (Jack Osler's wife) has a son born at Shorncliffe - she and her sister Mrs Harty - have a house together. So glad you like the Gray Bros I am afraid Campbell will be going out soon. Your letter written at the Glades on the 23rd has just come - & the lovely sketch - What a happy day it must have been. We haven't heard from Adele since before W.O. went to France - I am sure she is terrified in London with the Zepps. There are two Donald McMaster girls taking 3 months training at the Infirmary - cousins of Margaret I think. Mrs McMaster was a Miss DeFord from Baltimore & he from Montreal. They came to live in England just as we did - Friday week came the only son was killed in France - The girls went home for the night & back Saturday p.m to work. They came to see me this morning - pathetically brave. Mr & Mrs McMaster gone to Scotland to fill his recruiting appointments in Glasgow. This may interest Mr DeFord. Later - a cable has come saying Harry Wrights wife has a daughter