

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford], Dec. 1st [1915]

Dearest Sister

I am thinking perhaps you may have been deserted by your little family And it makes me think more than ever of you. I feel I have been so selfish lately in all the worrying things I have put upon you but you know the bursting feeling that one has - And I can't worry Willie. You ask how he looks - very well I think - except just lately perhaps, because I know his heart aches about the new danger to Revere but as I said yesterday we have not heard yet where he is. Every one says W O looks well but why he is not worn out I do not know. His letters alone are too dreadful. If he would let me I could give up everything & help him a lot - but he won't. The thing that wearies me & him too, - but he won't say so, - is the continual strain of talking. Every day for weeks there has been an extra person at luncheon, someone wanting something. Today a female Dr Spaulding from Boston, who came for a letter to a Swiss Doctor as she is going to work in Zurich. - Yesterday it was a Canadian Nurse wanting a job. - Tomorrow it will be a parson wanting to go to France & Friday it will be all the Harvard Unit at luncheon in Christ Church Hall & Tea here at 4.30. The demands on him never stop. At Cliveden if he doesn't go every Monday they are dreadfully annoyed & Nancy telephones to know why - & says her children are weeping for him. Nancy is having a baby in February - at the Shorncliffe Hospital they have to get a Matron - Lady Markham is exhausted & wants to stop work. Phoebe seems very happy there. Willie does not get there very often. Goodness, I branched off on to our affairs and meant only to write about yours.

Monday Eve - 6th I sent a line Friday p m and wrote Harvey asking him to telephone about the Harvard day in Oxford - It was really splendid for them - I wish you could have seen the Hall - I discovered there was no Saturday steamer nothing until Wednesday Now I believe I have forgotten half the things I had to say - of the War - really nothing - It is too mixed up - We have a man staying here - directly from the front A Mobile Laboratory - he says every one is perfectly satisfied of the result - in the end - that is comforting - all the wounded now come from the Dardanelles - & some bad trench foot cases from France - Revere writes the weather is too horrible and last week Campbell wrote that they were nearly frozen stiff. The town is full of Australians - such splendid looking men - Mrs Symonds is tremendously interested in them. I do not really have much time now to see much of the wounded except in the wards. You can imagine what a mess the house is in - The dirt from the dining room is awful - I have had all the Insurance business to attend to & all plans for rebuilding & renovations generally. We can have the same red wall & curtain material copied for which I am glad - We are moving book shelves on the long side under King Arthur only there is no King A - We haven't a picture left - except the Sargent photo Isn't it awful? The work room booms And it is a business to keep work ready always. All the Committee except Mrs Symonds have been ill - I had one day with a cold - stayed in bed to please Willie - I wonder if you make roller bandages. If you do - save all the selvedge & knit it up or crochet it - into wash rags - or squares 15 inches for scrubbing - They are useful in the Wards. The Wrights are flourishing - And the children keeping well. Campbell has applied to be released in January - as they insist on his returning or resigning - in that case Ottilie will go home with him in February. Palmers Wife - Hilda will have a baby here in April - I see them nearly Every day & Willie goes every Evening to see the babies in their bath. Their nurse is leaving and Ottilie does not mind. Ottilie looks very ill sometimes - & so weary - Jean is the darling. They all lunched here yesterday & Jean & Bob sat

at a wee table in the corner - Bob jabbering away like mad all the time. Poor Marion has had a recurrence of pain - as you may have heard. She is in despair. I think the Emmons are in a very unsettled State of mind about the future - with enormous taxes here and America too. Archie Malloch has had quite a disappointment. All arrangements made to go to Mrs Depew. Now the Red + will not let him leave the Country. Their contract with the recruiting people make it impossible. Owing to his stiff Knee joint Archie Cant take active service & these chances have been splendid for him. He is in town tonight And wants to get into the Canadian Medical Corps & apply for a Hospital job in England. It is delightful having him here - and he is always very busy working at something. I am having a glorious time with apples - 98 barrels - Be sure to let Joe know how pleased I was to get 50 barrels from Halifax - & Edmund sent 48 - I have just cabled Ralph Sherman to be ready at any moment to come - I think I have a Chaplain job for him. - He put a letter from me in the N.B. papers - for apples so I fancy more will come. an extra person at luncheon, someone wanting something. -

Did I tell you our Renault was in Town being doctored - I hired the old one from Parker - & W-O & a man went to Cliveden - on the way home - with two other officers one wheel came off & rolled down a hill leaving them plump on the roadside. They were going slowly or goodness knows what would have happened. I will not use the old Car again. Margaret Pearce has lent her Rols Royce twice for Cliveden - & Peazley is fetching our Car today. Benning is still in Monica's V.A.D. wheezing but being useful -

I send one d'oylie. Will send the others to Marjorie. Goodness it will take you until N. Year to read this -

Love to you all

Affly

Grace -

him to tel. Love to you all. I sent a line Friday p.m. and wrote Harvey asking them - I wish you were back with me - I discovered there was no Saturday steamer sailing. I have forgotten half the things I had to say - as the car - really nothing. It is too mixed up - We have a man staying here - directly from the front mobile laboratory - he says that one is perfectly satisfied of the result - in the end - that is comforting - all the wounded and some from the Baroness - & some had trench foot cases from France - letters writes the weather is too horrible and last week Campbell wrote that they were nearly frozen stiff. The town is full of Australians - such splendid looking men - Mrs. Sperrville is tremendously interested in them. I do not really have much time now to see much of the wounded except in the wards. You can imagine what a mess the house is in - The dirt from the dining room is awful - I have had all the insurance business to attend to & all plans for rebuilding & renovations generally. We can have the same red wall & curtain material copied for which I am glad - We are moving book shelves on the long side under King Arthur only there is no King A - We haven't a picture left - except the Garret photo - Isn't it awful? The work room beams And it is a business to keep work ready always. All the Committee except Mrs Symonds have been ill - I had one day with a cold - stayed in bed to please Willie - I wonder if you will rather hangings. If you do - save all the selvage & knit it up or crochet it - into wash rags - or squares 15 inches for scrubbing - They are useful in the wards. The Wrights are flourishing - And the children keeping well. Campbell has applied to be released in January - as they insist on his returning or resigning - in that case Otilie will go home with him in February. Palmers Wife - Ellen will have a baby here in April - I see them nearly every day & Willie goes every Evening to see the babies in their bath. Their nurse is leaving and Otilie does not mind. Otilie looks very ill sometimes - & so weary - Jean is the darling. They all lunched here yesterday & Jean & Bob sat

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