

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford] Monday March 13th [1916]

Dear Sister

Joan says it is too late for the Wed steamer but I'll risk it I think. Are not the mails too strange? I always think the letter I am writing may be the last - for goodness knows what will happen. It was very dear of you to cable - I hope you understand now. I never saw any one so changed as Revere, his whole attitude. I think it has upset Bob too - for he is in a state of depression. I do not wonder - Last Eve I went to New College Chapel & Bob was with the exception of two lame boys the only undergraduate there. I do not see how he can bear it - I fear I made him unhappy at luncheon yesterday by heedlessly talking about Americans who were not thinking of the future and throwing money away. This was the result of a letter from Thérèse telling about a dinner of 50 at Larz Andersons - & the great extravagance of it. Of course we are not personally suffering but one simply must try to save - in view of the future - Margarine at 10^d tastes as good as butter at 1/8 - and gran sugar is as good as cut - one does not need dessert or cakes, and it is really a pleasure to surprise the servants. Did I tell you that Bateman told me she & William were engaged? She is going Tuesday to say good bye as he is off somewhere on the 18th. I enclose a letter from Taylor from the Trenches (the Museum boy). Campbell Gwyn is fighting now. Revere left on Saturday and reported at Folkestone to wait his papers from the War Office. He & his Dad were glued to old books all the time he was here and reading to each other every evening, Bob joining in - sitting on the arm of Revere's chair with his arm around him. He is just like a man in love with a girl - Revere seems years older than Bob.

W.O has had rather a bad cold but is well again and very careful - Joan typewrites for him every morning. I am afraid her family will want her home soon. Jean has gone to a Red + Hospital, V.A.D. as Utility Maid - in the Kitchen at present - Benning is being discharged. Cant walk & breathe. I hope he gets well & can drive Willie when the car is done. Please tell me where the new pantry & bathroom are at Canton. That's the first I have heard of it from your last letter. Helen Homans wrote from Yvetot - very happy. I suppose Katherine McLennan will come here on arriving but I have heard nothing - she too is going to Yvetot. - That Miss Stoddard has been back this Term - & has worked Sunday morning at the V.A.D - giving some girls a chance to rest. We are very busy at our work room - making p[y]jamas and supplies for the addition to the Base - Also some pants & vests in cotton for poor devils to wear under their flannels who are suffering from scabes (itch) an Epidemic in the Army - Excuse the variety of subjects - of the most important one I do not write because I know nothing.

Yours Aff.

Grace.