

CUS417/56.13 G.R.O

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford] Wednesday a m 22nd [March, 1916]

Dear Sister

I see by the Times that the Saturday letters must go today - I have nothing worth censoring but I know the routine life account interests you. I am not sure of the day you sailed last year but know it was a year since you came and now it seems as though it might be years before we can meet. Your last letter told of Mrs McMonagle and Katherine McLennan - I have not heard from either of them yet. I believe the Rotterdam got in on Sunday. Philip Osler wrote his mother was coming on her - he is doing well at Winchester. I also see that Sam Hughes from Ottawa is in London & came on her. I suppose I shall hear from them some day. Helen Homans left me some instructions for Katherine. It is the devil, getting permission for Americans to go to France now. In fact everything becomes more difficult every day. Joan is American as her father had to be naturalized to practice law in New York. She has to report at the Police Station here all her movements. She is happy today in hearing that she can stay until May. It is as difficult to get a man out of the Canadian Army & into the British as for an American to go to France. Saturday I went to Folkestone to be near Revere and help on his papers - Joan went with me & we had a peep at the Channel - looking as calm and unoccupied as though nothing was the matter. We heard the guns at Dover on Sunday when there was a raid - but could see nothing & little damage was done - and an aeroplane (G) wrecked on the water by a (B). We managed to get on Revere's papers a step or two & had him attached to London so he can be here until his War Office order comes and he then goes to the Artillery School at Exeter. I do not know for how long He is at home this week which is a comfort - he is having a day in town with Bob - Marion Jr was confirmed at the Worcester Cathedral yesterday & they all spent the night in W- Norman came yesterday on leave and looks so well & seems happier than I have seen him in years. After two good mild days - bad weather has returned & floods are out - Never have I imagined everything more unpleasant & bitterly cold - I was going to town today but hadn't the courage to go for fittings. Norman reports everyone cheerful in France and enthusiastic over the French holding Verdun. They are magnificent certainly. I have heard from Mrs Carnegie with a splendid cheque of \$1000 which will help enormously with the Belgians for the spring & summer - it is to be very prolific.

You might send this to Joe if you think it worth while and tell him I have only just found Dr John Stewart of Halifax - at Shorncliffe, so hope to find his other friends. Norman says a Dr McLean in his Unit is a great friend of Joe's. Tom McCraes father aged 70 is coming over with a Battery he has raised - so Joe might come. I hope Ned has decided where to go for his holiday. I wish he could take a sea voyage and come here. Jean Wright is very happy at her job - working in the kitchen at a Red Cross Hospital in Surrey - I saw Phoebe looking nearly worn out and her feet killing her. Emily Tremaine (Mabel's sister) is working there too - very deaf like all the Martins, but full of pluck and energy. Joan & Marion do 2 days a week munitions at Didcot & 2 afternoons at canteen here. We are getting 5000 Derby recruits in Oxford - The Park is full - and our street every day with Fusiliers drilling & a glorious band. I am enclosing the number of my shoes - those I had last year - and would like 3 pairs - & 1 pair like the little leather strip which has the number - but I can't quite make it out 64 or 54 - you can send them separately by post & Ned will give you the money - or let me know & I will send cheque - I can't wear the Sorosis shoes from London at all.

Much-much love

Affly Grace.