

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin) 2)

[Oxford] Monday Eve April 17th [1916]

Dear Sister

spring clothes & her sisters - you can't imagine their joy - We are expecting one of the Rockefeller's here on Tuesday & hear about the Belgians - and to think. I hope you will like Revere's photo - he looks much older in it I count. He is back here now and very bright. He has been accepted for the Artillery at the War Office and waiting orders for the Instruction Course. In the meantime he is working hard at trigonometry and is greatly interested. It has been the greatest delight having him here on & off. He and his father have the most wonderful times with books - the boys knowledge of literature is simply extraordinary to me. Coming or glowing, at this time makes it very pathetic, but whatever the future may be - there will always be the knowledge that his mind had developed wonderfully. Willie is holding out so well. This house goes on in the same mad way. When I open the front door I always expect to find someone waiting for a job or letter of introduction to the War Office. Bob Emmons has just telephoned from town to say he will be here tomorrow to say good bye. He is going to France - on the French Red Cross to drive an ambulance. I am thankful he is going. I hated to see him doing nothing & knew he was unhappy, but it seems a shame to have his work interrupted. We shall miss him very much as we see him nearly every day and he is so affectionate & dear - Joan is growing uneasy about her young man's leave, as her people say she can stay until he comes again and there is little chance now. All officers on leave now have suddenly been called back - and one trembles to think there may be a horrible repetition of last years fighting. We have had two busy afternoons. Saturday Mrs Wright with the children had come for Tea - & two very nice ladies who have come to live at No 17 & have Canadian relations - suddenly arrived dear cosey Mrs Page - & a Mrs Wallace of Washington & her niece - the two latter just from Paris and on their way home. Mrs Page was taking them to Stratford for Sunday at Mrs Liggetts - of course they joined our party & had tea around the table. Mrs Page adores a comfy time & is most friendly. She is trying to go home but finds it hard to decide how and when. They all stayed until 6 o'clock and talked like mad - but nothing compared to Sunday - just as we finished luncheon - a motor arrived with Ralph Osler (Frank's son) another officer - Dinah Meredith & her friend Wanda Guroyski - drenched through - An early hot tea was scrambled for them - when in the midst arrived some people from Florence (Italy) whom W.O had asked & forgotten - and a gentleman from Cardiff & several Hospital Nurses - They all seemed quite happy, but life is queer.

19th. I was overcome with sleep and this is my first chance to take up my letter. We now have Mr. Penfield the American (Rhodes Scholar) who was on the Sussex - he has a fractured leg in plaster & has been in the Military Hospital at Dover - of course I can't write what he tells - He is established in the blue room and will stay as long as he wants. Bob is here too - in a tremendous state of excitement. He and an American at New College named Hurst are taking Hurst's Ford to France with a body for 5 stretchers - and are to drive it at the Front under the French R. C. & American Ambulance Soc - He is so happy, says he could not come back here again. We shall be really deserted as Archie is probably going to McGill - as the Officers Hospital he was to be in has been delayed in its alterations - & he is uneasy. What a time this is! Every human mad to be at work - I think so often of Jennie Burke - and her girl. I am afraid it is a bad outlook.

I saw three men in a row in the Hospital the other day & not one leg left of the six. I enclose a note from the Matron at Paignton - to show what pleasure £5 gives. I gave £10 of your money to my Ostend school teacher for her

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin, Apr. 17-19th - 2)

spring clothes & her sisters - you cant imagine their joy - We are expecting one of the Rockefeller men here on Tuesday to hear about the Belgiums - and to know what they will do - in the future. The gardens are very backward on account of the cold nights & severe winds - The wind keeps the Zeps away - Bob says Martin says he must go immediately but is afraid he will not be allowed.

If you think it worth while please send this to Gailie as I cannot write this week - Just heard that Campbell G- is safe - they have been fighting.

Much love -

Affly

Grace

I am sending Williams letter to Ned - fancy that clean angel sleeping in a barn with rats running over him -

Williams is always be the knowledge that his mind is always out so well. This house goes on when I open the door I always expect to find someone with a job or letter of introduction to the War Office. Bob Emsone has been from town to say he will be here tomorrow to say good bye. He is so affectionate & dear - Joan is growing uneasy about her young man's leave, as her people say she can stay until he comes again and there is little chance now. All officers on leave now have suddenly been called back - and one troubles to think there may be a horrible repetition of last years fighting. We have had two busy afternoons. Saturday Mrs Wright with the children and some for tea - & two very nice ladies who have come to live at No 17 & have some relations - suddenly arrived dear cosy Mrs Page - & a Mrs Wallace of Washington & her niece - the two latter just from Paris and on their way home. Mrs Page was taking them to Stratford for Sunday at Mrs Liggetts - of course they joined our party & had tea around the table. Mrs Page adores a comfy time & is most friendly. She is trying to go home but finds it hard to decide how and when. They all stayed until 6 o'clock and talked like mad - but nothing compared to Sunday - just as we finished luncheon - a motor arrived with Ralph Osler (Frank's son) another officer - Miss Marshall & her friend Wanda Guroyski - drenched through - An early hot tea was arranged for them - when in the midst arrived some people from Florence (Italy) whom W.O had asked & forgotten - and a gentleman from Cardiff & several Hospital nurses - They all seemed quite happy, but life is queer.

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