

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

Sallie likes my letters
if Joe doesn't

[Oxford]

Monday Eve July 3rd [1916]

Dear Sister

I really think it was splendid of you to go to N.Y. - to see Mrs Wright - I am sure she was glad - I haven't heard from her yet but they are such wretched writers I never expect to hear. I am rather doubtful about the summer for Otilie - as she and Marjorie probably will scratch each others eyes out - I shall be anxious to hear how Nannie gets on in an American Hotel. The children are so good they will give no one any trouble - unless they are ill. Willie is still weeping for Muriel - his devotion to her is really touching. I hope he some day has a granddaughter but that is doubtful now. I had no idea that you had taken the entire responsibility of the Peter Brigham place - I hope it will not prove too great a burden - I think it is splendid of you - I hope the girls will get some Red Cross lessons if they have a chance. Monica has a varicose vein to be cut out she has been so much on her feet. She will now have to be laid up for weeks and take care. I am sure many women are overdoing it - and will be laid up. This old Dud is holding out pretty well - but do not seem to be doing much. W.O. has been in Wales ten days on a Royal Commission on Education and came home Friday night rosey and brown - after two days motoring over the mountains - he is really wonderfully well. Important consultations are constantly cropping up which is a good thing now with a tax of 7/ on the £1- for American securities. We are lending them to the Government - although personally I cannot understand how the Gov- benefits - but I am a business idiot - of course everyone is at high tension now and eyes (and ears almost) on France - everyone is very hopeful that the beginning of the end has come but I feel it will be a long time before the real end comes. Leave is off from France and letters I hear - Requests in the paper for people to be patient about news and to stay at home as much as possible - not to obstruct railways and Channel crossings. Meaning Hospital ships to be rushed through & munition trains & boats, - one literally trembles. We had a big convoy on Friday and one at Cliveden yesterday. We motored to the Astors yesterday to meet the new Governor Gen- for Canada Duke & Duchess of Devonshire and Lord Salisbury - spent the day & night - & back this afternoon. Lord Grey was also there and some other nobs. I confess I don't like these parties but must do it sometimes. The Duchess seemed to take quite a fancy to talking with me and has asked me to come up to lunch & see Devonshire house - & tell her about Canada. - but I am sure I shall never go. She is very high-bred and charming, was in Canada when her father Lord Lansdown was Governor. Nancy is simply killing - never looked so pretty - has a new baby and adores her children. She is simply wonderful with the Hospital. I wish you could see it now. I think it is the best of all. The huts are splendid - wide balconies & men outside. Men seem so happy there. The Astors have cut down everything - 75 men gone off the place - women everywhere. She has cut down everything - no wine no dessert - Last nights dinner only 3 courses & strawberries & cream. A simple cold luncheon, yesterday when 12 Canadian Senators - just arrived - came out to lunch and see the Hospital - I think the Duchess of Devonshire was a bit surprised at the Senator from Yukon when he patted her gently on the arm. It is very hard for her to go - with her eldest boy back at the Front after one wound. Mrs MaxMuller is very feeble - hardly knows anyone now - The Billies are here and Charlie rushing in & out (of) this garden all the time - Mary Cabot was here the other day. I have seen gumps but never a gumpier one than she. She asked my advice about a house at Noke near here. When I told her it was the village with the worst reputation for damp &

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unhealthiness in this neighborhood - she said she had taken it - on top of that she has taken another house in the place where she is & now wants to go to America with Geraldine and leave Caroline in the house with a chaperone - Came to ask if I thought she could get back to England and if she ought to go. I declined to advise and the next day she wrote for Hotel addresses in Montreal as she is going via Canada. I don't wonder Caroline is weary of her. Marian Weld angelically sent me £5 which instantly paid for the funeral of a Belgian girl who died here.

I think Joe Revere is very queer. He doesn't like the letters sent on to him and asks me to write often to him. I am not sure that I can write any more than I do - His letters ask so many questions it is hard to answer them & worse luck, I can never find the men he asks me to hunt for -

Wednesday 5th. I am just starting for an afternoon in the Hospitals an enormous convoy came yesterday - some just from the front & the Battle now raging - not very bad cases - mostly heads & shoulders - & all cheerful - pockets full of trophies - Moving Belgian families today too - Gosh - dirty lot -

Yours

Grace -

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