

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

[Oxford] Sunday Eve Sept 10th [1916]

Dear Sister -

I havent known what to say about your coming - because I don't know what your plans really are. You know how we will adore having you if you do come but I feel that it is too great a sacrifice. Wouldn't it be better to wait until after Margaret's confinement? You might be worried about that. You must do just exactly as you think best and want. I wish you were here now for the garden is lovely and we are having glorious days after that awful rain. I do not know when Revere goes. He should have four days before reporting at Southampton but sometimes they dont get that. It will be hard if we dont see him again. Willie is with him now. He went to Newcastle last Wed. for the British Asso. & was to stay with the Bishop. - I was asked but knew I should hate it and only have glimpses of Revere. - He is very busy - has had command of the Battery <sup>several</sup> days since he went back there. They were to go further north yesterday with a Library friend to see some famous old library - so they have been happy together. Time has not hung on my hands I assure you. Wanda & I have been moving a Belgian family - and Mrs Balfour has been preoccupied with a War Charity Show - & Mrs Thomson ill for weeks with neuritis. Then Dr Hurst has been eating & sleeping here as his wife had a motor accident & is in the Acland Home. They are a young doctor couple from London who are living at Headington & he is working at the Base - I never saw Dr Jones. It was too disappointing - He came to Oxford last Sunday when we were away - & the day they were all to lunch Willie was called away and we had to head them off. We have also missed Dr McGuire of Richmond which was too bad - but Nancy Astor has been good to him - I wrote you the Licks had come - So many thanks - They are going to prisoners - I am sending a card I had from Ted Bath - Ruth's son - after they have seen it at Canton you might send it to Ruth Coxo - she will be interested. Phoebe is making her arrangements for Lapanne. She and a friend have signed on for 6 months - She is having various inoculations & getting warm clothes. How can we write of the war? The more I hear the worse it seems & the more I see of these poor sufferers the more miserable I am. What it will be in another year I cannot imagine - Believe no German reports of the Zepp raids - They even said Oxford had been demolished - Hamilton Emmons has been allowed to take the motor ambulance chassis over to France & will have the body built and hopes Bob gets a day to come to Paris to see him. Willie has written a friend at the State Dep and if Bobs passport doesnt go through - says he will write Wilson - The reasons given for not giving a new passport were really trivial, one being that he was doing an unneutral job - I wonder what about all other Americans working over there.

I had a charming letter from Susan - about not coming & about coming later. The MaxMs are meaning to tidy up the house & let it but I do not think they care if it is not let during the War. Wanda has become so fond of it - she loves being there Charlie is to go to School in Oxford & board - & I think she dreads the dark winter in London. Adèle writes that Bob is improving - This is a stupid letter but I am overcome with sleep.

Good night - Much-much love

Grace.