

44/2127
Letter from Rudyard Kipling to Lady Osler.
(Script).

in reply to Revere. CUS417/21.33

Bateman's,
Burwash,
Sussex.

April 29, 1920.

Dear Lady Osler,

Thank you from both of us for your most kind note. We've just come back from the battlefields and visits to the cemeteries.

I am so glad to know that you found Revere's grave properly tended. It has been difficult to get forward on some of those salient cemeteries but the work of planting is being pushed ahead as fast as may be so that the cemeteries shall be closed till the headstones are in place. The difficulty of getting these latter delivered is very great. The fact of having no grave of one's own makes one keener if anything that other folk shall be content as near as may be with their graves, and your letter comes very close to my heart.

We expect to be at Oxford for the Eights week when I trust Carrie and you and I will meet again. I want to see the Rhodes Scholars; Elsie naturally wants to see young Oxford life again and C. and I both want to see you.

With all our love,
Very sincerely yours,

RUDYARD KIPLING.

P.S. Has it ever occurred to you that our dead in the War Cemeteries are the only class set apart for ever, (as near as human forethought can desire it), as a sign to the following generations. The rest of us go to our civil death and are duly forgotten; but these should be remembered, more by some, for at least as long a time as divides us from Elizabeth's day. I suddenly realised it when I was watching the work of a nearly completed cemetery by Dieppe.

R.K.