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Give a volume out by post,

Bodleian Library,
Oxford.

February 2, 1920.

Dear Lady Osler,

The Curators of the Bodleian have instructed me to endeavor to express to you their profound sense of the loss which they and the whole University have sustained in the death of Sir William Osler.

His work for the Library, like everything else that he did, was carried out wholeheartedly, with no sparing of himself. He served for years on the Standing Committee, and took great interest in the working of the Library. He concerned himself for the welfare of the Staff, and was known to almost all of them personally. He came frequently to read here; he knew much about the treasures which the Library contained; and was always happy to show them to friends, happier still when he could sit quietly and study them. When anything was needed for the Library, he bestirred himself to obtain it, and he is recorded here as a generous benefactor.

But such as this might be said of many faithful public servants: in him there was much more. It is probably true to say that he was the best loved man in Oxford. To everyone who knew him he was a friend, a ready helper, a quickening spirit. No one ever turned to him for advice or encouragement, and was disappointed. His eager devotion to learning, his ardent desire for the advancement of knowledge in all directions, communicated itself infectiously; in moving forward himself, he swept others along with him irresistibly. His example, his leadership, his glowing enthusiasm can never be forgotten. Such intellectual fire as was his, such professional eminence, or such beauty of spirit may perhaps, any one of them, be paralleled to-day. The combination can hardly be hoped for once in a generation. For us now he is literally irreplaceable.

Believe me, dear Lady Osler,
Yours sincerely,

A. COWLEY.
Librarian, for the Curators.