

CUS 417/41.12
[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

June 24th (1919)

I think you will like these two bits dear sister - from the Times
So true, the Immutible Briton - Just the same in Oxford - Four College dances
this week and the girls & men quite mad - Wanda dancing her remaining flesh
off on the excuse of chaperoning her pretty Norwegian girl. W.O. and I went
to the train this morning to see the Americans off - And really it was de-
lightful to have such Cordial farewells - That is a peculiar thing to say
but you understand what I mean - The men simply radiant. ~~Bob~~ took these
snaps - The only decent one we have ever had of the house - I think you may
like it - the others you can destroy. I am so worried about a Clipping Viets
has sent over from Germany - about a Dr. Cushing drowned - & body sent to his
uncle Dr. Harvey Cushing. I cant believe its Pat for he is not a doctor I
do hope someone will write me. You have not mentioned Kate or Harvey since
you returned - or how anyone looks - not even John & Margaret. ~~Bob~~ very

Friday 27th. I am sure you will be interested to hear about the
Encaenia so I am sending the papers - We were in an uncertainty about the
Hoovers as no message came about Mrs H - but his wires said we so supposed
it was Mrs - but she is in California & did not come. I was glad to think I
needn't go and asked Nancy Astor to take my place - but the V. Chancellor sent
another ticket & asked me to be there. So I went of course - Pershing with
Gen Biddle & three Aides arrived at 10.45 - also Col Lloyd Griscom with an
aide - also Mr Hoover with a Capt Somebody - 3 big US Army cars. Also an
orderly to polish up the General. - You would have laughed to see the blue room
and your bath room. + Twice during the day Gen Pershing was brushed & polished. -
It was a very cold morning & I had a nice wood fire in the drawing room over
which they all clung gratefully. ~~I~~ had sandwiches coffee & drinks in the
dining room & they had a good meal as they had left town at 8 o'clk. Nancy

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(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin - cont.)

arrived in the midst of it & kissed the General affectionately & said "do let's dance - you are the best dancer in the American Army". We dressed the degree people up in scarlet gowns & velvet hats. And all went down in cars - Wanda had a seat with me. It was really a wonderful sight. Lord Curzon was gorgeous. The Prince did not come but the degree was given in absentia. Pershing had a splendid reception as did Mr Hoover - but Haig was the hero. I never heard such a racket. Joffre looks old & sad - worn out I fancy. As the big doors were opened at the Sheldonian - Joffre was the first to enter - God Save the King was played and as Joffre stepped in he saluted - And one could see all the others in procession behind him - it was a gorgeous mass of scarlet & black - with touches of blue from French uniforms & M.A. hoods. After the ceremony the All Souls guests walked across the street into the big Quad. At the gate the plan of the table was handed you & you can fancy my surprise when I saw Sir Douglas Haig was to take me in & Sir David Beattie on my right. I said I felt I must be Great Britain I was so protected - Army & Navy on either side & France & America in front. I got on very well with my friends Gen Haig said Everything that was charming about Bob Bacon - He said he had just had a letter from Billie H- telling him everything and appreciated so much his writing - Then I had such a delightful time - the best thing of the day. Wright our All Souls friend stood just behind us - looking after the wine - I told Sir Douglas that there had not been a better Warrior in the Army's force - so when we got up - Sir Douglas spoke to him - shook hands & thanked him - Wright nearly cried and I did - I could see him carrying those poor things down the Hospital steps. It is an awful thing to say but I was much happier when the War was on & I was really helping - Now Everything is upset & fuss on all sides - Strikes & fights - and daily horrors in Europe Mr. Hoover was most depressing about the winter outlook - & had to leave directly after luncheon as he was called back - Hums holding up food for Poland. After luncheon Gen. Pershing dashed over to Blenheim to see the place etc - then back to the University Garden Party at Wadham - then for a walk - & back here - He said he would like a nap, so I tucked him up on the blue room sofa - an aide on the bed - & Griscom on your bed - at 7.30, having been dusted & polished again they all went to dine at Christ Church & left by motor for London at 10 - & back to France at dawn. So that's all - Such a business. Archie writes most enthusiastically about Jersey - and the house he has taken. We'll go over the night of July 31st. I enclose the address as you better write there until Sept 1st. Bob has gone - also Wyatt - Bob very casual about everything and never a word except "Suppose you'll come Tuesday". I hope you will be going to Bar Harbor later. Bob is furious because he finds the small motor no longer belongs to him as his father gave him the Ambulance instead of it. The Bullitts are going on the Olympic with the Emmons. Nancy Astor was overwhelmed by the University proceedings Treated it all as rather a joke. The Master of Balliol took her in to lunch When I introduced him - she said "My name is Astor - I am not at all intelligent but I can write & speak English all right". Could she have heard what he said later - when I said "I hope my friend Mrs Astor gave you no great surprises" he said "Oh no - I often talk to Mrs Asquith". Perhaps this will find you at Thérèses - Give her my love & tell her Lady Beatty looked quite charming at the Encaenia but defend me from Lady Curzon. She was really indecent -

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She had a black silk Stockinette chemise shaped garment on - low necked & short sleeves - a small plait from between the shoulders to allow her to sit down but no belt or string at the waist. Two strings of enormous pearls - & a floppy hat with a fringe of uncurled feathers dangling in her eyes & her painted face showing between. We are really nearly perished. I am writing with a heavy coat on & everything brown & dry. Love to everybody -

Grace.