

1028/58/21

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G.R.O

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Revere)

Sunday Aug 6th (1905)
off Cowes
S.Y. "Kethailes," R.M.Y.C.

Dear Mother

I wish you could see this sight, it is really wonderful and I am constantly wishing for Will and Ned. We came through from Oxford to Southampton with a change and found Mr Johnston waiting for us in the launch. They had such a heavy storm here Thursday that it was necessary to move up to Southampton - but we were able to start off at once and came to anchor here in the midst of yachts and Battle ships galore. We found Mr Johnston with two daughters - two sons in law. His son married to a very ordinary girl from North Carolina - Mrs Frazer the American wife of the British Consul in Baltimore and a Mrs Patterson (English) who lives in Balt - so we are 12. The yacht is large & most comfortable - We have two large rooms & a bath. Soon after we arrived the King & Queen came from Portsmouth in the Royal yacht - a huge clumsy thing. They had a grand salute from the Battle Ships and anchored not far from us - We saw the King pow-wowing with an old admiral as we were coming from church in the launch this morning - There are 34 Battle Ships in line and as many Destroyers - Tomorrow the French fleet arrives for a visit and there will be intense excitement. There are hundreds of yachts and as the day is superb - it could not be lovelier. The people on board might be more congenial but I dare say they will improve on acquaintance. Marion & her children are going to Scotland Tuesday so we shall not go there but I think she will come here tomorrow as she wants to consult Willie - do not mention this fact in your Bar Harbor letter.

Tuesday Aug 8th

The thin paper is so thin I fear you cant read my bad writing so I will finish on this - We are having a delightful time & some moments of intense excitement over the races. Yesterday morning the big yachts began to pass at 11 o'clk - then smaller ones. At one o'clk the French Fleet arrived. There must be 60 battle ships now and about 35 Destroyers and 600 yachts of all sizes. The weather is superb with good sailing breeze all the time. We go off in the launch and glide about among the ships and yachts - It is like being in Venice. The tremendous excitement is the motor boats - their races are madly exciting. Last evening every ship and yacht was illuminated and the Fire works went on till 10.30.

Marion telegraphed she was not well enough to come here. I have wired her that we will come to see her tomorrow and are now waiting to hear from her. We leave for Scotland Monday night and expect to be at Beaufort from the 15th until the 22nd. You can write to 7 Norham Gardens and the servants will forward all letters.

Miss Nicols will go home the same night we do - I send a picture of the King as he goes about in his gig. He looks very frisky and well. It has been a very interesting expereince but I shall gladly leave tomorrow as I cant get a bit of exercise.

Willie sends his love - he is having a fine loaf -

Much love

Grace