

1028/58/66

CUS417/58.6P

G.R.O.

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin)

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford.

July 3rd 1908

Dear Sister

I have started several letters but none have been finished & one written on the train the other day was such a scratch I couldn't send it. Your cable was very nice with birthday greetings - the other part was mingled with disappointment - for I had hoped against hope and all the time knew I had discouraged you. I am sure you are glad - and all the time Willie has been saying "don't urge your mother to come if she has decided not to." The future must remain unsolved for the present - If I survive July I shall be glad.

This week has been given to Bishops and Henley - a queer combination. Sallie and I took the girls to Henley yesterday and had such a delightful time. The day was perfect - We were on the Christ Church barge and as we won two races it was thrilling. Marian & Elizabeth are as nice as possible & Sallie very happy but a bit weary I think. I hope to keep her quiet while they are here. They moved here today from the Hotel.

July 4th At that moment I was interrupted. I have just started the girls & Sallie, Miss N. & Revere off to Ewelme. I am motoring over for them tomorrow afternoon. Monday they go to Warwick & Stratford. Our motor hasn't come yet - it takes forever. I so dislike having it, & the responsibility that I feel like a reprieved convict every day its arrival is delayed. Aunt Nan returns here on Monday. I thought Mrs V.B might keep her but I don't think she wants to stay. She yearns for a bath tub she says. Marion writes that "life is very regular at the Copse" - a contrast to this pandemonium.

I hope Lizzie has braced up - she was in a most awful state of mind in London - weeping most of the time & as cross as a bear - Aunt Nan was in despair over her & Lizzie raging because Aunt Nan said it was change of life. I think the rapid moving wearied them all - in Touraine. Marian has made many investments: Goodness - how many clothes she has! I was ashamed while she was here for I am really in an awful way - Two morning dresses ruined & no time to get anything more made. We are going to the Astors for a week end on the 11th and I hope she will be pleased with my appearance.

Our garden is really lovely - most wonderful Canterbury bells & stocks. People coming in to see them - The tennis court draws young men every afternoon which makes it nice for Marion & Elizabeth. The weather has been simply wonderful - no rain in London for three weeks - An almost unheard of thing. I haven't seen Adèle for months. I purposely avoided speaking of her the first day I was with the family in London - for they are so funny about ones in-laws - that I thought they would be bored - Then in writing Jay that I was sorry I couldn't keep her longer than one night as all the family were coming, then Adèle telegraphed to know where they were - & telephoned Sallie to come to dinner, so you can be prepared for some sayings on the subject. Revere is making wonderful progress at cricket - much to his Dads delight - it will be a help at Winchester. We were at Winchester for the Pageant last Sat - the School is enchanting. Mother ought really to go to Bar Harbour - there is no sense in her never having a change. Love to you all

Affly

Grace.

Is Mr Lovering dead?