

(Jan. 8, '18)

(Letter to Mrs. Robt. Brewster)
(handwriting)

Sunday 6th

From the Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford.

Dear Mabel

Friday eve on my return from town I found the delightful Robin Hood volumes - such beauties! and the whole story so fascinating. My mother used to repeat to us many of the very ones in this edition, which she had learnt as a child. And then the tears came, as I thought how the dear laddie would have loved them. He had become so interested in the old ballad literature & one of the last books he bought was an old edition of "Percys Reliques." While I was turning the pages with delight Grace (who had been to town with me) uttered a cry of grief, as news had been sent from the aerodrome that young Ely from Rochester, N. Y. had been killed in the morning with a young Canadian. Ely was a Harvard man ('17) who had just come here for special training, & we have been seeing a great deal of him, as his father, the late Dr. Ely, of Rochester, was an old friend of mine. The poor chap came last Sunday for lunch, & as he had a day off we kept him & he did not leave until ten o'clock. Such a charming fellow. An hour ago young Kissel from N. Y. whom perhaps you know, called up from the aerodrome. He had flown over from Salisbury plain to spend the night with Ely - his college chum - of whose death he had not heard! Such a tragedy. We shall keep the poor fellow for a couple of days, as he is completely knocked out. Our hearts just ache for these dear lads, so far from home. Do let us know of any in whom you may be interested.

Love to the darlings all ...)

Yours affectionately

WM OSLER

P.S. At the big service at the Cathedral this pm Grace says the Bishop read as part of his sermon Lincoln's *Gettysburg* speech. It is wonderful what an inspiration Father Abraham is! He brings courage & endurance.

Two could keep a secret but three can't.