

(Handwritten)

Sept 19th (1917)

(To Mrs. Cushing)
(From Mrs. Chapin)
The Copse, *CUS 417/52.136*
Hamble, Southampton.

Chapin, Mrs. J. B.

My dear Kate

Forgive me for not writing to you sooner - I have had a feeling that you would know I would write to tell you about my dear suffering family - & that I have failed to do so. And your Harvey too - how my heart has ached for him -

That his task must have been a heart rending one - Grace & Sir William have been so thoroughly conscious of - and yet to them it has brought immeasurable comfort to feel that Revere knew he was in Harvey's care - & that they knew he could not have been in more skillful loving hands & that everything was done for the precious boy - Your assurance that this could not happen to Revere - has given me the most amazing confidence all winter - Do you remember once our talking about it at the P. B. B? But with both his father and mother - they have felt it was inevitable - W. O. said to me the other day - "from the day war was declared, I knew this was coming." It is not necessary for me to tell you that they are magnificent in their courage - you would know it - but Oh! it is heart breaking to see them - W. O. seems to be shrinking away & dear Grace's face is sad beyond words. The strained look has gone - It has seemed in all these anxious months - that sometime something would snap - she has been so over-strained, & with it all the continual pressure of people - people - people - & everyone else's interests & demands to be attended to. We have been at Swanage for two weeks - They are still there, & I believe both will feel the benefit of it. They are stopping here tomorrow for two days & I go back to Oxford to be there when they come. Tom Fletcher & Norman both came to Swanage - & they have not had one moment quite to themselves so I ran away - to give them a little peace - Think of it Kate - it is almost a year since I came - a long time for Grace to be "tagged" by a member of her family - I have not made any plans - but soon will start off, either home or to France. If I found that there was something I could really do - to serve our own men - to help mother some of these boys who will feel - or whose mothers will feel they are so far away - I shall stay - One able-bodied woman already on this side of the Atlantic should be of service, I think, & nothing else seems to be of any account in these days. As much as I long to see my children - that sort of feeling - the self - personal one does not seem to have any place in this great aching universe & I am ready "to serve" - if I'm wanted. I'm waiting to see Major Murphy & Mr. Endicott before I know. I think so often of you dear Kate, I know how anxious must be your nights & days.

Harvey was so wonderful in his concentration of detail. He wrote his letter to me - absolutely telling the whole story - without letting play to his emotions which he would have had to had he written to them - He gave exact addresses of the Major & several of the men wounded by the same shell - so that Grace was able to write & get further details - A sergt. wounded at the same time is in the Netley Hospital - & one of their reasons for stopping over here tomorrow is to see this man - W. O.'s great diversion has been having the little Max Muller boys at Swanage - He has dug in the sands - driven donkeys with them - & then turned to answering notes - 480 - Grace told me he had written - and now it must be well over 500 - We can't help him - And as yet the American letters have not begun to come. This is a very scrappy letter - Forgive it, Kate dear. It takes you no end of love & closeness of feeling.

Ever yours,

Susan Chapin.

I sometimes think Mrs. Mead would groan if she knew how thoroughly Mrs. Fedden accepts me as representing the S. D. C. - I am on two of her committees - Mrs. M's one or two notes to me have been without decoration. What splendid work they are doing - & the Reputation of one S. D. C. is growing & splendid!

