

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Revere)

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Brown's Hotel, London,

Thursday 6 PM 25th (May, 1911)

Dearest Mother - Behold three females - one aged - fat, old, grey haired lady - And two beautiful young girls of different types sitting on a bed waiting for dresses to arrive to go to Court - The dressmaker promised not to worry us but now can they help it when they have such a lot to do. It is a fearful waste of time too - away from Oxford which is more lovely this year than I have ever seen it and in a punt on the river we can have so much more pleasure than dressed up like a jumping Jack. I look like Katherine of Aragon, The girls like angels - I suppose you are quite thrilled over the Irenia disaster - I am glad it happened to a Cunarder for they are always so self satisfied - I have heard of no one I know being on board.

Friday Evening May 26th - Well dear Ma - the great performance is over - And we are safely back and I pray I may stay in Oxford for a time now without going away. I am just tired out gadding back and forth. I feel I must tell you all I can - We went up Wednesday And had a busy day with final fittings - I went to see Cora - who was going to Court that night She showed me the train & how to put it on. The girls went to a theatre party Wednesday Evening And I made them rest the next day to look fresh. London seems mad - is packed jam full and Motors thicker than mud. The hair dresser came at 4 P M - I did My own but she put in the feathers. The girls had to wait about two hours with their feathers & Veils before the dresses came - finally they Arrived Cora sent train And feathers in the morning - Nona's dress was white satin covered all over with a fine silk net And trimmed with pearl embroidery. The train lovely white crêpe Willie brought from Egypt lined with chiffon - very pale pink - almost white and looking like a shell - Otilies was white satin with glistening bead overdress - & fine roses - train of soft satin covered with net & trimmed with roses - Jay's was net trimmed with Adèles real Valenciennes lace - She looked perfectly darling. My dress was black satin covered with net And heavily embroidered in jet and dull gold - Cora's perfectly plain black velvet train - four yards from my shoulders - very narrow from the shoulders. Adèle arrived with Jay Very much excited - She had a bit of dinner And off. Poor Willie was dreadfully disappointed - he had to be in Swansea and could not see the Girls. We went in two carriages - very swagger with footmen - We got into the line on the Mall and waited until 8.30 When the Palace Gates are opened - We got in very nicely And leaving our wraps in the carriage did not have to fuss with the dressing room - Up the broad staircase - passing the old Yeomen of the Guard - And Men with Gold sticks - through a long picture Gallery - Entered the Throne room And found nice seats as I have marked - A more wonderfully brilliant sight one could not imagine - Superb dresses - diamonds - Uniforms Galore - The Oriental Men simply dazzling - Getting there Early we got into the Throne room - there were huge rooms & corridors packed with people waiting - Gentlemen Ushers Motioned to the ladies to Move on & finally our turn came - I went first - Nona - Otilie & Jay - When you reach the door near the Rug 2 Gentlemen at Arms take your train off your arm and spread it out - as you have carried it all the time on your left arm. The Connaughts and Many other Members of the family were there - The King & Queen were seated And looked rather bored I thought. I strutted like an old peacock & didnt mind one bit. As you pass on & go out the door your

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train is folded and placed over your arm. We wandered about as we liked. I saw several people I knew - who spoke - then we went down to the supper - which was served from buffets And very gorgeous - then we left and drove to the photographers & had our pictures taken - Never have I seen a More beautiful girl than Nona last night. She was superb - Otilie looked lovely but pale as she was not feeling very Well - When we got back to the Hotel Harry Osborne had supper for us in his Sitting room And some men friends of the girls to see them. The palace is superb having been done over. The pictures are wonderful & the flowers & plants simply superb - Altogether We thoroughly enjoyed it And shall never forget it. The girls said I looked as though I owned the Palace And was about to ask the King & Queen to spend a few days. We came home at 10.30 this morning half dead - first driving to Cora's to leave her treasures. The dresses went back to the dressmakers to be packed And sent. The girls will wear them to a ball at Blenheim on the 5th. I dare say you will think I have not told you enough. The paper will tell you how the King & Queen were dressed - I really couldnt see - I am sending a Tatler with nice pictures of the Unveiling of the Monument. The Indian & other Oriental people were wonderful last night.

Good night. I hope you can read this -

Affly Grace.

