

CVS417/55.19

G.R.O.

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford,
Oct 23rd [1914].

Dearest Sister

Your letter came this morning - also word from Liverpool from the Leyland people about the parcel. I am looking forward to it I assure you and am most grateful. I wonder if it is because life is so unnatural that I never seem to remember things. I can't believe I have half thanked you for all you have done. Every one is so kind - that seems to make it worse. Zoe Thomas wrote such a letter about the silver bowl - and the "Osler" influence at the Hopkins that it finished me - after rather a weary day and I had a nice time with my head under the bolster - you know - Then I feel worried about my letters - I am afraid they don't give details enough - I can almost tell you what I do each day - Monday - Wed and Friday - at workroom from 9.30 to 5 - Tuesday - Thursday - Saturday arranging for other days, helping about houses for Belgians - and odd jobs every where - Wanda MaxM- comes in nearly always after dinner to talk about Professors & wives - & babies - She has splendid spirits and we amuse ourselves over queer things. She is the most executive person I have ever seen - It is rather trying for her - Mrs Max has ups & downs & is not able to leave her room except some days when she goes into the front room Mr W-M-M. is in the Foreign Office and comes late Sat - goes back Sunday All their things are sealed up in Buda Pesth and she has all her treasures there. This Belgian Prof business is such an undertaking that she has had to take a room outside & Monica & Helen Merry Peel act as Secretaries for us. The language is easy for Wanda Flemish & French - Some day I must send you a list. Benning has just taken a box to Madam Persyn a lovely looking woman with 4 children under 5 and another coming soon. Lizzie & Prichett have been fitting her out - & we are doing a box of baby clothes to have ready. Our next door neighbor Mrs Griffith has forgotten Egyptology and come down with me and we have fitted out Madam del Marcel - husband & wee baby - staying next door until their house is ready. Of course we felt terribly about Antwerp - but we were made to feel it wasn't vital - & Winston Churchill has been blamed for sending our Marines - however one can't tell. I have got myself schooled now. I don't listen when people tell me awful tales or try to - and I believe nothing but official statements in the Times - I expect the very worst and try not to think about it. I no longer mind when women put shirt sleeves in hindside before - I pay 1/- to a good woman to make the shirts properly. I have just come from Headington where I took 60 well made shirts to Mrs Rowell to send her husband - who is in camp and not got extra shirts from the W. D. I allow no one to abuse Kitchener or the Admiralty to me, & I find these rules make life much less fatiguing. Revere seems happy. Did I tell you Mrs V B & Marion were in Oxford over Sunday & here all day. Marion is worried I think to know what to do if the Zepelins cross the Channel & her mother gets nervous. Martin is coming but they have made no plans. The Emmons are economising Mrs V B says & have only one egg in their cornbread instead of two! Cable me about Margaret. I hope all goes well - My love to her & John -

Yours

Grace.

Three Colyer Fergusson boys have enlisted and since I began this Mrs MaxM- has sent me the enclosed which is splendid for an old lady.* Their father was furious at their going and would not speak to them. Edith Miller Colyer Fergusson is giving singing lessons & behaving splendidly about it all -

Good night again -

Grace.

* [note from Mrs. Max Miller Sr. about son's going to France]