

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]

13, Norham Gardens, Oxford.

Jan 21st (1915)

Dearest Sister

I am certain that if I had kept my peace until everything was settled about Revere I should have saved you pangs and worries. Your cable I am sure was sent after having my letter written I think as he went off to join the Public School Corps - At the same time it may have been sent after seeing that Willie had offered his services to the Montreal Staff. I opened the Times yesterday when he was away and saw in quite large letters "Sir William Osler offers his services to Canada." I was soon inundated with messages and notes. Willie of course says it means nothing more than his offering to help with organization etc. You are angelic to have offered to come. Of course we say almost every day "I hope Sue will come" - but I do not want you to come now. I have thought perhaps in the spring when the days are long and at least the country looks more cheerful. It would be such a joy - but I can never ask you to take the risk - You must arrange it yourself - I talked to Bob (Bacon) about [it] and he said he would bring you the next time he went home & probably Martha too. I think you should see the Hospital and all that. I wrote such a fat letter by Wednesday's steamer there is little more to tell. All Revere's papers are filled out and sent in - and the cable sent to Ottawa about his Commission to join the McGill Corps - Willie feels very satisfied about it. Col Jones who has all the Canadian Organization says he prefers to take a chap who has a brain and no experience. I suppose he will have to learn all about the Quartermasters Department and the Ambulance Supplies and transportation work - This he will do probably at Clevedon - & then when he joins the McGill thing he will be of some use and be Col Birkett's right hand - Campbell's cable came at the same time as yours saying all was arranged and he was coming. Norman and I have been in town today arranging his affairs and he probably will go into Camp at Salisbury Plain working in the Hospital - They have had several cases of Meningitis there and Norman has made very careful study of that and worked in Baltimore during an epidemic. He can be of great service if he gets in there and is tremendously pleased. He would really like to enlist and fight but that seems a waste when he can give real help with disease.

The Raid has been the latest topic - of course it really does good in England for recruiting and in increasing American sympathy. We lunched at Cora's today and she was much excited as the Zeppelin had flown over her Norfolk house. They do not show much discretion in the direction in which they go. I am having a safe put in the cellar for some of the valuable books - It would be cruel to have them burned by a bomb, but I cannot believe Zeppelins or aeroplanes can get in as far as this - I hadn't time to see Adèle today and know nothing of them. Revere had a note written from Julia's house - perhaps they have moved there.

Friday 6 P M Just back from a very busy day at the work room - We have been staving at p[y]jamas for the wounded at the Infirmary - Good night - I am so glad you are really meaning to come, keep at it, and you are sure to come -

Aff^y

Grace.