

CUS417/41.9

G.P.O.

[Lady Osler to Mrs. Chapin]
[Oxford]

Sunday, May 18th 7 A.M. [1919]

Dearest Sister

I can hardly endure your not being here - Never has Oxford been more wonderful - never - and you and Revere cannot see it today after Cathedral - but I am sure you are equally happy - The birds are making such a racket I had to get up - partly that, and partly - we have a guest, a Classical chap who who takes An hour in the bath room & I had to go in ahead of him - Everything has come out at once - Apples - pears - lilacs & all the other things - the streets & Park look as though Nature had gone quite mad - birds as well - to say nothing of the town & river - You should see the High & corn market - Benning simply has to creep along. and The congestion is quite the same in the "Open Arms" - Marion 1 & 2 are in Little Sue's room - Bill in R's room - Sir Fred & Lady Kenyon in the Blue Room & a Mr Slater of the Classical Asso in your room. I hardly know Willie got the address done - he was so beset all the Early part of the week - I forgot to say that Arthur Howard proposed himself for Sunday - but at the last moment went into College with Langstaff - you should see Arthur - he is a miracle - absolutely good looking - very like Marjorie - walks without a stick & says he is in splendid form - Langstaff just as feeble & sloppy looking - of course Early in the week our Energies were concentrated on finding Dr. Welch - Smithy had it in hand - and I felt safe - He & Col Russell - crossed on Tuesday - Mumford rather Muddled Matters & the Hyde Park Hotel people gave up their rooms at 9 P.M. & they arrived at 10.30 - They hunted Hotels until 1 a.m. and got in at the Cadogan - for one night - Dr. Welch was coming here Wednesday but changed his mind - not knowing about the Classical Asso - and Came Thursday - in the Meantime the Classics sent word they would like to come Thursday on account of Early Meetings on Friday - So they all arrived at 6 P.M. on Thursday & Bill too as Col Adami let him off to hear the address Dr. Welch was perfectly delightful - absolutely Nothing has escaped him - he has been everywhere -but not beyond St Quentin on the British Front - With the Army of Occupation - Coblenz - Everywhere - to say nothing of All the old French Universities - & Castles - & Monte Carlo - Really - he is a joy - Alas - Montford slipped up on Dr. Welch's & Col Russell's passages. They were to have gone with Mr Davison on the Aquitania - but he kept Nothing And they had to sail yesterday from Tilbury on the Saxonia - headed for Breste to pick up - 1000 - Mental Cases - U.S.A. Of course Dr. Welch will be interested in each one. After dinner Thursday evening We had to ask our guests to let us retire with Dr. Welch as we Wanted to discuss Revere's library - He is intensely interested, Yesterday - afternoon & Eve we had the Johns Hopkins Librarian here and talked with him. It was so wonderful - Dr. Welch was able to stay until Friday afternoon and be at the address - He turned to me & said "That was Osler's very best Work". Marion Jr. arrived from Leamington 10.30 Friday And we all went to the Divinity School - Well - I never saw such a picture - the Sun shining through the Exeter trees & through those Ancient Windows - Willie standing in that black oak-pulpit & his Scarlet Gown & Velvet hat in his hand - looking Mediaeval & wonderful We sat directly opposite - Wanda & Anna with us - also Bob & Bill - And Sir John Barran a Member of the Asso - who came to second the vote of Thanks offered by Sir Herbert Warren was quite wonderful in what he said - just to the point - He came up before the Tea in the afternoon and was delightful - asked about you Etc. About the Address -

*Chapin full
Mrs. Chapin
has not
for 2 1/2 years*

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I Cant tell you how Wonderful (I sound like Margaret Chapin in My wonderfuls) it was. I shall send it as soon as it is printed. You will see how you and I have been deceived by him during the last 2 1/2 years. Marion has sent you a long letter I believe & I daresay told you everything. In the afternoon the Association came here for Tea. I was told to expect 200 - so I Employed Weeks. the caterer person to do it and everything was very nice indeed except the waitresses who were dressed in bright green & no Caps. ^{But} it was a glorious afternoon & every one outside - Marion was daughter of the house and did her duty nobly. I asked the American officers who are doing classics & they seemed ^{to enjoy themselves.} much pleased. Thank Goodness thats done, And now for the Text-Book. I had arranged a nice trip Starting Monday in the car for Lyndhurst and on to Lulworth the next morning for the week. Willie seemed much pleased but has just announced he cant go - must be in London two days. I am ~~now~~ in despair and can make no more plans to go away. . .

Monday 19th

My turn at the bathroom came and I am now ready to finish this Epistle. We had such a Sunday & needed you badly. A superb day & nice & cool. Bill had a blister on his toe & Babs having taken a pill they sat all the morning on the Terrace. Marion & I went to St. Johns Garden - as we were too late for Cathedral & our guest made other plans - I then took M. to the Somervilles - The fruit trees there exceed even two years ago - even the Canton trees All a Mass of bloom. Monica has gone. The day before she left Mrs. S. invited all his Students And Margaret quite enjoyed it. There are several Americans doing Agriculture. I suppose Polly told you about Wanda's party Saturday night to which she took Captain Chapman. He was perfectly delightful & Wanda liked him - he is a beautiful dancer. Wanda's Mother brought over a very pretty Norwegian girl - who is living at the Drivers - doing English lectures & Amusing herself in quite a new atmosphere, Chaperoning river & tennis parties. If you see Bishop Lawrence tell him I am delighted with Capt Murphy whom he introduced, he lunched here yesterday & spent the Entire afternoon, Also a Virginian Lt Stuart - who dashed back to Balliol, put on his flannels, brought 2 more Men & with Bob & Marion played tennis all the afternoon & after Tea Wanda & Billie joined them. Sir Arthur Evans had a party in the Afternoon for all the Classical people. WO took our Guests, & I did my duty here - I asked all Keble & Magdalen American officers & Sgts - & they came - Hilda MacMaster comes Each Sunday & brings a friend to help me - The last left at 6 o'clock & I was nearly dead - The house guest went to Chapel & the Men dined in College. Every one went at 9.12 this AM & W.O. dashed off to Bicester in the Car. Anna has just been here. Her passage is changed to the Royal George on the 31st. Roger goes with Nannie to Adel tomorrow Anna to town to stay with Evie Byng until Friday - goes to Adel herself on the 27th. Rosie Fay was with Anna for Sunday - I could not have them here as we were already 12 at lunch - Tony came in the afternoon - adorable as usual but rather fussy - he is going out to Tea too much I think & being a bit upset by the irregularity of Spring life - Anna is a shadow. The Marions are to be in town two days - fittings Etc. They are making great preparations for Bar Harbour. I believe I'll stop this now for I have to see Pricket - oh dear - I wish I could tell you more about the address. Every one is talking about it - I forgot to tell you that Willie & the Vice Chancellor had an "At Home" for the Classics at the Ashmolean - Friday Evening - I had to go ^{but} I escaped from the

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crowd & got in a quiet corner by myself unseen, for nearly half an hour. There every one was congratulating me on "Sir William's remarkable Knowledge". I thought it was a pity that so wise a Dr. ~~man~~ had shown so little wisdom in selecting so big a jackass for a wife. However - perhaps with his hospitable inclinations his house might not have been as comfortably arranged for guests - had he selected an intelligent - artistic - sloppy wife. That's my one consolation.

Norman is in the Petrograd Canadian - N. Audley St. Hospital with his leg bad - para Germ again - I am going up to him tomorrow.

Goodness what a letter - I'll stop & write more tomorrow

Love to Every body -

Grace