

CUS417/41.24

Nov. 29th 1919

(Letter to Dr. Richard P. Strong,
from Lady Osler (handwriting))

Jan. 21st 1920

13, NORHAM GARDENS,
OXFORD.

Dear Dr. Strong

One clings more than ever to those who loved Sir William. Every one seems to have loved him but you stand out in the front row of adorers and I feel I must write you. I am the most desolate - miserable woman in the world I suppose - Perhaps I should not say that really - for I have such wonderful memories to uphold & help me. But as I sit here surrounded by the wonderful treasures he loved so dearly, the unfinished Catalogue and the unfinished Text book - I feel a most utterly helpless shipwreck. Sir William wrote a dear friend in New York on Nov. 29th "The Harbour is nearly reached - Such wonderful companions all the way - My Isaac (Revere) to meet me with his old friend Isaac Walton perhaps & other fishermen" - Isn't it touching? As I close my eyes I can see them together - and I am the wreck on the rocks outside the entrance of the Harbour - waiting to drift in - while waiting I shall do all I can to keep the memories fresh - I shall live here and see the catalogue through - I am worrying very much about Willie Francis. In a note written during his illness - Sir William spoke of Bill as helping with the Library - perhaps acting as Librarian at McGill in the future. Sir William spoke almost every day of the joy at having him go to Geneva & how wonderful a chance it was for him. We all urge his keeping at that work - He is heart broken - has never known another father - but he must go and stick to his job. He is very reticent - & will not divulge his real views. I believe he is going and I do employ you to get him to work as quickly as possible and keep him hard at it. That is what he needs - Should any emergency arise he might get back for a day or two - but I shall have experts working at the Catalogue and believe it can be done very well - although not as Sir William would have done it - Your letters touch me very much - Please thank your wife - Will you both come to see me some day? My sister sails Feb. 9th. I shall have some one with me always - Tom McCrae is here for a week to see about the Text Book. His Mother died while he was at sea so I had sad news to greet him with. Love to Tom Brown Perhaps I'll come to see you all later -

Affecty

GRACE R. OSLER

P.S.

I open this to say Bill has told me he is going to you. I am so thankful - keep him hard at work.

I feel so sorry for him -