

1028/58/28

CUS47/58.28

G.R.O

(Lady Osler to Mrs. Revere)

Colonsay House, Island of Colonsay.
Aug 31st (1905)

Dear Mother

I sent off a letter from Oban & believe I left several things unwritten that I meant to have said. One was about Adèle Chapin. Agnes Eckstein wrote me that she and Mrs Taft had been to Broadway to lunch with Mrs Millet - Adèle was there and they went for tea with her and were delighted with her surroundings. Tell Sue that her address is Williersley near Broadway, Gloucestershire. I shall certainly go to see her and Mary Nonarro directly we get back. We met the yacht at 9.30 Tuesday and reached this Island at 1.30 - ^{neils} If you look at the Map you will see how far west it is & the broad sweep of the Atlantic before us. It is such an interesting place, the late owner was Sir John McNeill ^{wrote} His people have owned the Island for generations. He was Equerry to the Queen for 25 years and went to Canada with the Lornes and was a great friend of Lord Strathcona. I fancy Lord S- has helped him financially for years, for when he died last year the Island fell to Lord S. It is about 8 miles [long] and 3 wide and all rocks and heather except a few acres of fine trees in which the quaint old house is nestled. It looks like a Virginia house with wings on either side, The Gulf Stream flows on either side of the Island so that vegetation is like the south of England - high hedges of fuschia - roses climbing and Lemon Verbena trees above the window tops. Figs, peaches & plum ripening on walls in the open. Everything in the house came to Lord S- Even the silver - He gave the family all presents that were here from Royalty and all the portraits but everything else is left the same - so all the Howards did was to walk in - even cook & Housekeeper here. Lord Strathcona has his big castle at Glencoe in the Highlands and as much of the responsibility falls on Mrs Howard she is enjoying the freedom here tremendously. / We found Marjorie very happy here - and Willie seems glad we came. Relations have for years been so strained between the Strathconas, Howards & ourselves that it is well to have it settled and straightened out.

There are three splendid boys and two girls. The eldest boy - now 13 - will be Lord Strathcona when his grandfather dies. He is funnily like Campbell Howard and a dear fellow. Revere has a companion in a boy his own age - so is happy. The shooting is good and yesterday Dr Howard came in with grouse - snipe - black cock & rabbits. It is much more sporty than at the fashionable places. There are about 300 people on the Island & nearly all McNeils or Campbells - the most respectable lot and the same McNeils as Sir John - Everybody is delighted with these boys and tremendously pleased that the eldest will be their Laird. We had a telegram telling us that the Phipps men had been acquitted which was a great comfort as no one expected it.

Yesterday came a telegram telling that Peace was declared - but as we have no mail or papers until tomorrow we really know none of the particulars. I have had nice letters from all the servants. Lelah was ill and had to leave her place & says she can't cook any more as she has something the matter with her heart. Mammy said she was writing to you.

It seems absurd to finish this so soon - but the letters go away tonight. A boat from Glasgow to Oban stops here twice a week - otherwise there is no communication except by yacht - We leave here Tuesday on the yacht and get train at Oban for London so when this reaches you we shall have been at home several days I hope. Much love to the chickwicks and Ned -

Always Grace.

Sallie was delighted
with the children.

We have not heard from Dr
Thayer about Dora Thayer's death.
W.O knew she was ill & very depressed.