

(Mrs. Robt. Brewster)

(Aug.) 24th (1915)

LOCKINGE HOUSE
WANTAGE,
BERKS.

Dear Mabel

We are off for a few days in one of these Anglican paradises in which I hope someday to see you & R.B & the children. Such gardens & flowers & trees. Still, I wish it were Avelon! It seems ages since I was in America & goodness knows when I shall be able to get away. This awful business gets worse & worse & if the U.S. comes in the complications will be worser! Things look very serious, and we are anxiously waiting. I have a feeling that Germany will back down at the last moment. We are all very depressed about Russia but the truth is she is no match for the highly trained Germans & Krupp is winning. The outlook is much better here, & to have 3 millions of men in training is very hopeful. Munitions are piling up & the feeling in France is optimistic. But it is going to be a long slow business. The house keeps full, another wounded nephew back & a cousin with shell-shock & a nephew with an infected hand. Grace is hard at work, but there has been much less to do lately as the Hospitals are empty. Revere writes very cheery letters from Etaples. I hope to go over shortly to see the Hospitals & stay a week with the McGill men. We are thankful he is not in the East. I have been a great deal away - Cardiff, Paignton & Folkestone. The household is depleted, chauffeur, butler & secretary all gone. I am in despair about the latter as I had just got him properly trained in the Library work. I hope to steal another young chap from the Bodleian

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28th

No steamer this week so I brought the unfinished letter home. Such a busy day - Dr. Camac from N.Y. & Dr. Morris from Phila. then Dr. Van Dyke from the Hague & Mr. Yates Thompson, a stranded Johns Hopkins M.D. who has married a German wife, who has refused to go to America - a New Belgian Professor asking help. So you see we have plenty to distract us. Tomorrow the Pages come to lunch on their way thro to Broadway. He has done so well in London & Mrs. Page is a dear. The Embassy staff too is a great credit, particularly Col. Squier who has made such a strong impression in scientific circles. ~~(By this time you will be back at Avalon).~~ Kiss the darlings for me. The photos are on the mantle piece in my bed-room & Grace often talks to that bright eyed baby. What a delight she must be to you & Sylvia - to say nothing of R.B.!

Love to you all & to Uncle Ned when you see him

Affectionately yours
WM OSLER