

CUS417/120.107
(Dec. 10, '15)

(Letter to Mrs. Robt. Brewster)
(handwriting)

10th

13, NORHAM GARDENS,
OXFORD.

[To the Bellamy's]

Dear Mabel

So nice to hear the other day. I began to fear lest those horrid nerves had knocked you out. You will be amused at my Leeds Luncheon-club talk on Nerve & Nerves. Nothing personal! It should reach you, with another address, by this steamer. It was so good of you & R.B. to send that fat cheque, which Grace acknowledged. People are wonderfully kind & send all sorts of things. - 95 barrels of apples came last week! for the Canadian wounded soldiers. Revere had leave for 5 days - looks so fit. He is joining the Field Ambulance as the Hospital work is too monotonous & he feels it rather a soft job. He will be at the front We shall have to take our worries with the others. Poor laddie! he loathes the whole business.

We had a horrid scare the other night - fire in the dining room. Grace woke with the smell of smoke 3.30 a.m. We kept it in one room until the engines came. It was a narrow escape... Fortunately Revere was at home & he & I with wet towels on our faces got the Mss & early printed books out of the room above the dining room. No serious loss - except that nice Verdun plaque in bronze. Another hour & the whole house would have gone. I suppose now you are glad to have had the fire at Avelon. When I opened the door & the black smoke puffed into my face the thought came "nothing that cannot be replaced", but then I rushed up stairs to get the Mss & incunabular. I enclose a photo. of the wreck taken next day.

The country is at last awake. Recruits pouring in - munitions abundant - outlook good on the western front, very bad in the east - very good at sea, better in America! So let us be thankful. The English are awful pessimists I suppose it is the climate...

I must ask Armour about your sister. Very sad to hear that Uncle Ned is bothered about his heart I hope he is all right again How I wish I could see the children. Give them my love. Send another snap-shot of Phyllis I hope Sylvias facial tic has gone. Letters are very uncertain just now but this should reach Avalon in time to wish you all a very happy Xmas. Love to R B. I am glad he has got interested in Hospitals.

Give Frances Hand my love should you see her Happy New Year to you all

Yours affectionately