

(Mrs. Robt. Brewster)

CUS417/124.125

Dec. 26th, 1917

Dear Mabel

Such an Xmas! with desolation in our hearts, and as usual, the house full - two wounded friends, a nephew, Col. Fatcher (of Johns Hopkins) and Mrs. Chapin. In the evening 17 American doctors who are stationed here in training at the Base Hospital\$. We have had to 'carry on' as usual, but it has been so hard, with our thoughts every moment on the dear Laddie who has gone. Poor Grace! I wonder how she stands the double life. I wish you could have seen those nice boys last night - it was such a pleasure to have them. We were allowed extra rations as they were American soldiers...

The pictures of your darlings are on the mantel piece & much admired. That picture of Phyllis & the baby on the grass is splendid. How I wish I could see you all! I hope you have had a very happy Xmas. Sue Chapin is in charge of the American Red X distribution work in London & only comes for Saturday & Sunday. U. S. troops are pouring thro - the censor would not I fear allow me to say how many last week. We are always told by the station master as the trains go thro. Oxford from Liverpool to Southampton. They will finish the war but dear me! 'twill be a long business - but patience, courage & hope & all will be well. Is Uncle Ned's boy over yet? let us know as we like to get into touch with our friends in France & this house is a regular distribution depot for comforts. Love to R.B. & the chicks.

Yours affectly

Wm Osler