

Dec. 10th - 1915

13, NORHAM GARDENS,  
OXFORD.

Dear Jacobs

I hope all goes well with you & Mrs Jacobs. 'Tis nice to hear that she is keeping well, & that you have on the whole had a good year. I am glad you did not come to this cauldron. What a mess! and we are not half through. It is sure to be a long war. Finance may stop it & leave the issue undecided, which would be unfortunate. Either we or the U.S. has to smash Germany. If we go under she will be

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at your throats within a  
year. Ships, ships, ships! where  
would he be without the navy.  
& it may be the navy that will  
decide the war. The difficulty  
is to turn a democracy into  
a fighting people. This very slow  
work. Ld. Derby has apparently  
done the job without censure.  
The recruiting has been wonderful.  
There will be an army of 4 million  
within 6 mos. Lack of proper organi-  
zation is sadly felt. You cannot  
grow a big general staff in  
a few months, any more than  
you can build up a Krupp's  
in a year. On the whole the  
country has done wonderfully, &  
if we could only shut up the  
politicians & editors & put the  
war into the hands of a few  
good men she would do better still.

We were nearly burnt out the other night. 3<sup>30</sup> am smoke awakened Grace. The dining room was ablaze. Reverse was at home & he & I got out the mess & incense altar from the upstairs room, which was black with smoke. The only valuable thing lost was the ivory Vernon plaque, which Mrs & Miss Jacobs had done for me. I was melted to a ball. Reverse is well, but there is not enough to do at the McGill unit so he is going to join a field ambulance, and will be near O'Connell's. Poor Laddie, he hangs to the wall at Ch. Ch. with his books Oxford is empty - we have 20 men at Ch. Ch. instead of 280. The losses have been fearful and 20 more

need to have both boys. Robertson, Garrod, Moore, Hemingway  
Schäfer among them. Extraordinary people - such self-  
restraint - no murmur or discontent.

Grace is working at high pressure - 120 women in a  
big laboratory. I am seeing all sorts - a condition  
of sick & wounded. We had a bunch of Harvard  
men - 30 here - the other day - I include programme.  
Cheever, the chief, seems a jewel  
I am picking up a few treasures - nice X1 cent. No  
of Platenius - one of the Practicing Bernard & Collins  
The catalogue grows. but Secretary, William! & the  
Chamberlain have gone. I have a name in the pen for  
Bodley.

Love to Mrs Jacobs

ever yours.

Wm Osler