

CUS417/2.45

Miss E. Campbell to W.O.
Dec. 30th (1916)

Buxton.

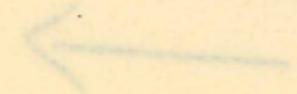
(handwritten)

Dear Sir William,

Thank you for your letter and wishes for 1917.

Angry and sore as I am about everything I feel that it would do no good having my affairs made more public even than they are and I would rather not have my name mentioned in your letters.

No doubt about Miss Macdonald being on the fence for the first few days but I understand and forgave it long ago as I know I have only Mrs. Vidal, Mrs. Phipps and Mrs. Astor to thank for



for her temporary doubt of me and she and the Sisters must know how untruthful and vulgar it all was.

Our padre, Capt. Whillatres(?) was asked by Mrs. Astor if he thought the Matron 'was in love' with Col. Gorrell and the man went to the Sisters and asked so I sent him a message to deliver to Mrs. A, which I hope he did, that the vulgar story was started by Mrs. Phipps and herself and nobody in the world could or did believe it, so they might as well stop repeating it. Lady (Boston) writes to me regularly and she said at first the stories were utterly disgusting and so untruthful. So I suppose Sir Sam, Col. Bruce & Co. were filled up by these stories and have nothing else to go on as they never asked me and suited them to believe.

The officers who I reported for being drunk and some on duty, Major M. Keely, and Cathcart, to Col. Gorrell time and again did their best to get even. I made my mistake not taking it over Col. Gorrell's head to Gen. Jones, but the Col. used to promise me to get things changed and straightened and I must say he tried but made me unpopular with the offenders instead of keeping me out of it and his manners were so abominably rude and rough when correcting anyone that everyone resented and hated him for it.

All I want now from anyone of them is to be made Matron of a General Hosp. in France or Salonika to show the public that I am fit to be trusted and that the three Sisters under Mrs. Vidal's guidance who swore that I had been cruel and undermined their health, Sisters Lordly, Ryan and McKenzie, by over-work, brought to task for their lies, but even they are not worth getting angry about. They have done for themselves already I hear.

Miss Macdonald wrote me (privately) to say that she hoped by the end of Jan. that I would have No. 1 Gen. in France, the best they have, the one we all like best, and my O.C. would be Col. Wylde, a man I know and respect, a gentleman in the truest and highest sense. Sounds too good to be true, and if they thought she and I wanted it badly would do something to prevent it. So we must be very careful not to let anyone know. I don't know if I ever can thank you and Lady Osler for all your kindness to me. What I would have done without your sympathy and help I don't know. I couldn't have felt worse if a real bomb had blown me up. The worst wars are not all in the trenches!!

So all I really care about is to be given a place of trust again and No. 1 General would be perfect.

All the 'workers', Lady Boston and her workers have written to me such charming friendly notes so they don't believe evil and if the Matron-in-Chief, Matrons and Sisters who I care for and the M.Os. who really know me, nothing else matters a bit and I would not trouble to let them ever hear my name again.

With my best wishes to you and yours for 1917.

Ever sincerely yours,
Edith Campbell.