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 sleeping 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

at your throats without a
groan. Ships, ships, ships! What
would be 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. It is very slow
work. Ld. Derby has apparently
done the job without conscription.
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 Krupps
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. 3½ am smoke wakened Grace. The dining room was ablaze. Revere was at home & he & I got out the Miss & incunabula from the upstairs room, which was black with smoke. The only valuable thing lost was the lovely Vernon plaque, which you & Miss Jacobs had done of me. It was melted to a ball. Revere 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 Poperinge. Poor laddie, he longs to be back 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 so many

Friends have lost boys. Rolleston, Garrod, Moore, Herringham
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 & conditions
of sick & wounded. We had a bunch of Harvard
men - 30 here - the other day. I enclose programme.
Chiever, the chief, seems a jewel
I am picking up a few treasures - nice x 1 cent. Ms
of Platerius - one of the Practica of Bernard Gordinis
The catalogue grows. but Secretary, William! & the
chauffeur have gone. I have a man in the pan for
Bodley.

Love to Mrs Jacobs

Ever yours.

Wm Osler