23rd. Dec. 1916

(In bed – hence pad)

Dear Jacob.

I am laid up with a heavy cold, the worst cold I have had for years. I have coughed my Pacchionian bodies loose! very little fever. I am better now & sitting up part of the day. I have been doing too much the term & have been worried over this C. A. Med. Corps business, but thank God we got rid of that awful bounder Sam. Hughes.

The Browne Miscellanies is a great treasure – thank you so much. It is the very copy in which I had some years ago. I now lack only the 1686 Dutch edition to complete my set. A missing 1644 Latin – one of the three of that date – came in the other day.

Thanks for your lovely Xmas card. Bad time over here for the Dove of Peace. I wish Wilson, who arrived this am had been shot on the way. Peace now

would mean another big war within 10 years. We have got to go through with this now to the bitter end & either come out on top or go under, & leave the future of Democracy with the U.S.
I think we can hold out another 1½ years or even longer. The Country is at last alive to the business, & all this shortage will do good.
Revere is in splendid form & evidently with a set of fine fellows. If you have a war map just above Albert, along the Ancre, a famous farm is marked. That is where his Battery is stationed. They hammer away night & day – the expenditure of shells must be prodigious. I am so glad he is in the Artillery – so much better in every way.
Sue Chapin is with us & Archie Malloch & we expect some other Wright tomorrow.
Love to Mrs Jacobs. Both best wishes for 1917.

Ever yours
W Osler

P.S. Our treasure William the butler died in a military hospital last week of Pneumonia! such a loss.