

re Gladstones Funeral

H. C. James Esq. ? 1895
Eton College, 1896
Windsor. 1

May 29th

19.5.98

Dearest Mother,

Thank you so much
for coming down here on Thursday.
I am so sorry you got a headache
as the result. I am looking forward
to Tuesday awfully. I will tell you
later what train I shall come by.
We had a record time yesterday,
whilst my duties about took the

cake:- I was doctor's orderly as
being a sergeant without a section
to look after & a member of the
Ambulance! I ~~did~~ did not have to
take a rifle but only carried two
large haversacks, containing medicine
& the doctor's lunch, also a large
waterbottle. We had 3 Cases of
fainting which we cured in magnif-
-icent style. It was not very hot
but the poor people in the ranks
had to stand still for nearly 3
hours in heavy helmets, which

was enough to cause anybody to faint.
Of course during all that time
I was thoroughly enjoying myself
in Dean's Yard, & of course shared
the Doctor's lunch with the sick
under the trees & came out at
intervals when the procession came
by. I also had time to examine
the Lord Mayor's & Sheriff's coaches
& the bobbies & gorgeously arrayed
Flunkies. I am thankful to say
the corps did not disgrace itself
by bad marching or ~~drill~~ drill.

I saw all the swells there but not
Mrs Gladstone, Chamberlain, or
Rosebery, whom I specially wished
to see. There was a pretty good
crowd but one could hardly realise
the proportions w^t from where we
were, but especially as they were so
~~quiet~~ quiet. I had to march behind
the Corps all the time & felt rather
like the 'Commissariat Wonts'.

I had Albert Foster to breakfast
this morning. He seems flourishing
inwardly but not 'upwardly'.
Best love, Y^r affectionate son,

(Expect me about breakfast
time on Tuesday) F. A. Simonds