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Yokohama - Japan

3rd of March 1875

His Excellency Okuma Kijuroku

Minister of Finance & Chief of Banchi Simuikoku

I have the honor and pleasure to inform your Excellency that I have in some degree recovered from my illness and, though still much affected by the results of the fever, that, in case any duty may be required of me, I am ready to undertake it.

It has occurred to me however, that, on account of my late serious illness, your Excellency may feel a hesitation or delicacy in informing me, in view of the closing of the "Bureau of Formosan Affairs", that the Government will have no further need of my services and I hasten to beg that you will not suffer any consideration of the kind to influence your action.

Should the Government have any duty, either in the field or at sea, in which it might seem desirable to employ me and in which, I myself might thoroughly believe that



I could be of real service, I am more than willing to undertake it, but under no circumstances could I consent to occupy a merely nominal position and continue to derive benefit from the Government because of past services for which I have already been fully compensated by the distinguished consideration which has always been shown to me by yourself and by the other officers of this Government.

If, therefore, your Excellency sees no further field of usefulness in which I may serve I sincerely hope that you will not hesitate to so inform me in order that I may instantly relieve you of any embarrassment you may feel in regard to my retirement.

I beg that your Excellency will believe in the sincerity of my gratitude for the kindness which you have so often personally shown me, as well as for the great appreciation which you have always been pleased to evince of whatever slight

service I may have been able to render to His Majesty's Government.

I have the honor to be  
Your Excellency's obedient servant  
Douglas Russell  
Lieut. Commander  
U.S. Navy



Douglas Cassel  
Yokohama

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1875

Informing Mr. O'Rourke  
of his recovery & his  
readiness to resume  
his duties.