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177 Lombard St London E.C.

13th February 1894

Dear Count Okuma,

Although so many

years have passed since I parted from

you, I retain & cherish very pleasing

recollections of my service in the Okurasho

under you. I fear that the results of

my efforts have not altogether fulfilled

your expectations, & perhaps that is owing,

in some measure, to faults on my part,

but it gave me great pleasure, some years

ago, to receive your courteous & most

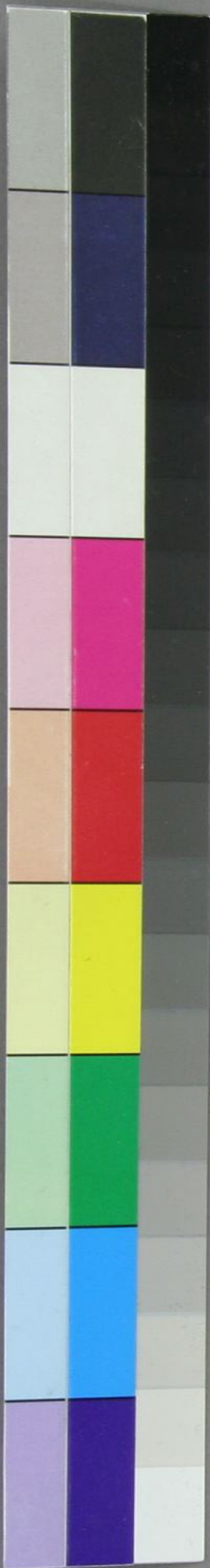
friendly letters, which encouraged me to

think that you believed I tried to do my

duty. At least business life in London is so

exacting, as regards the demands it makes

on one's time, that I have now almost



no opportunity of meeting Japanese gentle-
-men, & thus of learning about your
health, your well-being, & your political
labours, but I see enough in the news-
-papers to assure me, that your anxieties
must be very great. I trust a
happier & more peaceful time is at hand.
I have ventured to give a
letter of introduction ^{to you} to a gentleman
belonging to a well known & distinguished
English family, which has produced
many statesmen - the Honorable A. H.
Baring. He is a son of the late
Lord Ashburton, & his eldest brother now
bears that title. Both are young men
& I trust you will find it interesting to
meet them. Possibly it may be in
your power to extend to Mr. Baring, &
to his brother Lord Ashburton, if he
should accompany him, some privileges
which will materially increase the
pleasure of their visit to Japan. May

I venture to ask your kind consideration
in this matter, but hope mine at least

I have not myself met
either Lord Ashburton or his brother, but
they are clients of the Bank of which I
am one of the Managers, & I take a
great interest in them.

By this mail I am sending
you a photograph of Mr. & Mr. Gladstone
in the midst of a group, one of which is
my youngest brother. It is a curious
coincidence that I was formerly one of the
Secretaries of the Liberal leader in Japan,
& now my brother is one of the Secretaries
of the liberal leader in England. I hope
the picture will please you. On the
accompanying sheet of note paper I
send you the names of all the persons in
the group.

I shall hope to see Mr. Baring
on his return, & to hear from him the
best account of your health & happiness, but

I need not say I should be still more
pleased to receive good tidings of you
under your own hand.

With great consideration,
I remain,

Dear Court Okuma,
Your most faithful servant & friend,

William Howard

When a photo-graph of Mr. & Mrs. Gladstone
in the middle of a group, one of which is
my youngest brother. It is a curious
coincidence that I was favored one of the
Secretaries of the Liberal League in London.

The Court Okuma's signature
of the Liberal League in England. I hope
the picture will please you. On the
accompanying sheet of note paper I
send you the names of all the persons in
the group.

I shall hope to see Mr. Howard
on his return, & to hear from him the
best account of your health & happiness.

The group.

Sitting figures.

1. Gentleman with cap + white beard - W. Armitstead.
2. Mrs. Gladstone.
3. W. Gladstone.
4. W. Henry Gladstone his son.
5. Mrs. Henry Gladstone.
6. W. Stephen Gladstone. (her husband standing behind)
7. Lord Acton. said to be the cleverest man in England.

Standing figures.

1. W. Shand.
2. Mrs. Drew. W. Gladstone's daughter.
3. Rev. S. Gladstone. W. Gladstone's son.