

211, East 14th Street.

New York City - U.S. America.

October 21st, 1889.

Your Excellency: I have just received a letter from Mr. Mutsaers, informing me of the terrible event that has taken place in Japan, and of your fortunate escape from the worst danger. I need not try to tell you how this grievous intelligence has affected me. My strongest feeling, however, is that of happiness that your injury was slight, and that you will suffer no serious consequences from the wicked assault. This is not the first time that I have been shocked by the mad actions of wild fanatics in Japan, but it is the first time that a blow has been struck against one for whom I have such deep personal regard, and whom I hold in such respect and honor for his public achievements. It touches me more acutely and profoundly than I had thought possible. It is only when deeds like this come near to us that we realize their atrocity and cruelty. I never believed that a man like you could be the object of deadly malevolence. But I fully understood that the attack was not aimed at you individually, but at the representative and originator of a lofty national policy, the noble purpose of which cannot be comprehended by base or narrow natures. I earnestly trust we shall soon hear that no painful or disturbing results will follow this crime. I rejoice to assure you that there is no general disposition to look at it as indicating a lawless state of society, and that it cannot, in this country, be discussed in any way calculated to retard the fulfilment of your projects for Treaty amendment. Everyone will perceive that it is totally unworthy of consideration in connection with a great international

question, and it will increase the sympathy that is extended to you as the leader of an important movement of reform, and will add to the interest with which the progress of your negotiations is regarded.

With sincerest esteem and devoted wishes for your welfare, I am

Your Excellency's Obedient Servant -

E. H. House.

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P.S. - Some days ago, I sent your Excellency a copy of a magazine [Bellford's Magazine for October, 1889,] containing an article on Japan written by me several months ago, at the time when the Treaty with the United States arrived in this country.

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To His Excellency Count Okuma Shigenobu -

Minister of Foreign Affairs -

Tokio, Japan -