

211, East 14th Street, New York City, U. S. America.

December 25th, 1889.

Your Excellency: I have this day seen the telegram announcing your retirement from the Foreign Office. It is the most painful and disheartening public news I have ever received from Japan. Now Treaty Revision is dead, and the best hopes of the empire are destroyed. I have not the power to express the sorrow with which this unhappy intelligence has filled me. I have spoken freely, perhaps more freely than I ought, in the letter which I sent by the last mail, and I hope that Your Excellency has not been too overcome by care and illness to give a glance at my earnest and sincere words. I should deeply regret to think that you were ignorant of the feelings with which I have watched the extraordinary events of the past two months, or of my endeavours to communicate those feelings to you.

Mr. Mutsu did not come to see me before his departure. I think he had no desire to meet me. He knows what my convictions are, and it would probably not have been agreeable for him to converse with me upon the recent calamities. But I shall soon have the opportunity of sending you my personal respects through my former pupil, Shuzo, who returns to Japan next month. I can trust him to convey faithfully all that is in my thoughts.

At present I shall only assure you of my profound wishes for your speedy restoration to health, and of my strong and lasting confidence in your high purposes and your devotion to your country's welfare and honor.

I am, Your Excellency's Obedient Servant.

E. H. House.

P.S. - I have given myself the pleasure of sending some "holiday cards" to the ladies of Your Excellency's family, in accordance with the American custom. It is a pleasant custom of compliment and congratulation for the return of the New Year.

To His Excellency, Count Okuma Shigenobu.



了等事各上は所陸軍省の電信に貴軍外務
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 崩致す事少くも申す中條伯改正
 兼心出使に少くも程々自軍に於て陸軍省に
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 やつ後少くも申す事少くも申す事少くも申す
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二白 貴軍外務省の電信に貴軍外務
 沙役人各少くも申す事少くも申す事少くも申す

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Count Okuma Shigenobu,
Tokio.
Japan.



内事

東京
伯爵大隈重信殿



