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Wednesday



My dear Mr. Stirling,

I have been strongly
against this Farnham
affair, because I feared
it would lead - as it
has led - to trouble. But
if we are going to have
war - which may or
may not be - for God's
sake let us show as

bold a front as possible. In this I may be of service to the Government, if it would only send me information about its troops, drilling, levies, preparations &c. I understand there is to be a meeting of the nobles on the 26th to consult about giving up a part of their

livings to the Gov^{ty} in case of war. Could I get an account of what is done there? It is highly important to represent that the country is full of spirit if there is any necessity for its exhibition.

My paper goes to Mr Stark, the Inspector General of the Chinese

Customs and a great
friend of the Chinese, but
a very shrewd man.

If I could only get more
information it would
really be of service to the
Gov^t to have it published.

Could you not see
Mr Okuma privately about
this? It really is important.
I never get information
now from Mr Hiji Kato



Dainishi, who used
 formerly to send me
 the Summary of the month's
 news. But this should
 not be stopped simply
 because my arrangement
 with the Gov^t is at an
 end. Let me have
all the information I
can get: We must do

Everything to represent
the nation before the
world as full of
spirit & determination.

This spirit - not
numbers - that makes
a nation formidable.

Please give this your
earnest attention - if
possible to day.

Yours faithfully

W. S. Merrill.