

Токио, April 14th 1875.

Your Excellency:

It is with deep emotion and feelings of sincere gratitude, which I can find no words to express, that I have received at the hands of Mr. Hirai the portraits of Their Majesties. This gift is precious to me, not only as evidencing a new proof of Imperial favor and esteem which I cannot too highly prize, but also as a lasting memento of the honor which it has been my good fortune to enjoy of being permitted to serve under a reign which is almost without precedent in the annals of Japan, and which,

like a shower of rain falling on a fertile land after a long drought and bringing again abundances and riches to the harvester, is fated to inaugurate in the East an era of prosperity and happiness by which fully one third of the whole human race will ultimately profit. For the blessings now being enjoyed by Japan cannot fail, in a future not far distant, to extend themselves to the long-suffering races of China and Central Asia.

In rendering again my thanks to their Majesties, I beg to renew to Your Excellency the new expression of the high esteem with which I have

the honor to subscribe myself,

Your Excellency's
Most Obedient, humble Servant

Ch. W. LeGendre

His Excellency
Tokuh Daiji Sané nori,
H. I. M.'s Chief Chamberlain
etc. etc. etc.