

Yokohama
25th March 1898

Dear Count Okuma

There is to be a meeting
("Gokai") of the Kamaguroa branch
of the Red Cross Society
held at Enoshima on Sunday
the 17th April, when some 600 or 650
members are expected to attend.

I received word that it was your
wish to visit Enoshima on the
27th inst, but in consideration of
the above meeting, and being very
busy with ~~to~~ my share of
the preparations for same, I
telephoned to day asking if you
would be so kind as to postpone
your visit. I must apologise for
making the request, but I have
another reason for making it.
We had a meeting at Enoshima

yesterday of the Committee for
the Ceremony, and I was then
deputed on their behalf to ask
if you would honour them
by accepting an invitation
to address the meeting. It is
also proposed to invite Viscount
Sano the President of the Society
and His Excellency Mr Soga
the Minister of Education and
also Marquis Ito if his presence
can be obtained. I propose coming
to Waseda tomorrow to ask for
your reply and sincerely trust
you will find yourself able to
give a favourable one.

Knowing that you wish to
visit Enoshima again, I thought
you might be able to make it
the 17th of April instead of the 27th
inst, and thus kill two birds
with one stone as we say in our

English proverb. Marquis Ito I know also would like to see the Greenhouses at Enoshima and perhaps, your kind influence will induce him also to accept an invitation. on behalf of Miyata Kishi

I have promised the Committee, to undertake to entertain the gentlemen named and apart from the Red Cross Society's invitation beg to extend to you the hospitality of our house at Enoshima on the occasion.

I wrote to Mr Kumatori some days ago, asking him to bring the matter before you at that time the proposed date was the 10th April, but it has since been altered to the 17th as named but I do not know if Mr Kumatori mentioned the matter to you.

Believe me
to be

Yours respectfully
S. Backing

To
His Excellency
Count Okuma
Waseda



Count Okuma
Waseda
Tokyo

七三

