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I intended making a defence of my own position at the Brandon banquet last Saturday night. Just previous to the banquet, though, I got telegrams from three or four of my best friends, all of whom agree with my position, urging that I do not revive the subject again. Though quite convinced that their advice was wrong I yielded to it, not desiring to become too defiant, even in pursuance of my best judgment. The trouble is that wholly wrong impressions of my conduct have been scattered abroad and even those who are inclined not to raise trouble now pass the subject off as one in which I hastily blundered and are inclined to forgive. This attitude of mind I do not like and I do not intend to submit to it long. The leadership, of course, is important and is a great honour, but I will never allow even that to weigh against my desire to be known among my fellow citizens as a man of sanity and sense. In all probability I will very soon, at all costs, take the field myself and say just what is in my mind. In this connection I am sending you copy of what I prepared for the press as intended to be spoken in Brandon. This of course is for your own use and not for quotation.

Again with most earnest thanks and whole-souled appreciation to which is added the sincere hope that the Christmas season

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