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Ottawa, September 28, 1907.

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I have been most carefully considering the more than generous proposals made to me by the gentlemen whom I met in your office on Thursday morning.

It is unnecessary to say how fully conscious I am of the extent of the compliment which so great a confidence implies, and how exceptional I would regard the opportunity were I circumstanced other than as I am. As I intimated at the time of our meeting, the prospect in some respects is wholly inviting. In others, however, it appears to involve more in the way of possible sacrifice, than having regard for obligations which I am bound to consider. I feel at liberty to risk at present.

Greatly, therefore, as I am tempted to show my appreciation of the offer which has been made, by an acceptance, my judgment, everything considered, compels me, difficult as it is, to forego the opportunity. I cannot do this, however, without again expressing my gratitude to those who have so generously interested themselves in my behalf, as well as the hope that I may have opportunity in other ways of proving myself even remotely worthy of the

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