

President returned and the President said good-bye to Mr. Bryce, adding a few personal words as to when he expected to next see Mr. Bryce at the White House.

After Mr. Bryce had withdrawn the President said to me that Mr. Bryce had thought it desirable that I should not take letters to England from him, that under the circumstances he would not give me the letters he had intended.

The President then said: "Mr. King, you have already rendered a very great service in coming here, and I feel that you will do an even greater service in going to England, and I wish to thank you. I will write to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and thank him myself," to which I said, "Thank you, Mr. President." The President continued: "I will not send, as I had intended, a letter by you to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, but will write him myself today." While saying this, the President looked at Mr. Bacon, and I felt that what was passing through his mind was that he had not had time to prepare the letter, and that he was counting on Mr. Bacon giving him a hand in its preparation later in the day. I replied that I would be pleased if he would do so. The President immediately added, "I will mention that you said you would be pleased." Having caught up my words, that I would be pleased if he would do so, which were intended to mean that I quite understood that there was no reflection in his not sending the letter by me, as he stated yesterday he would do, but that I would be pleased to have the letter sent through the mails, rather than taken by myself, so that it might be a letter which Sir Wilfrid would see without it being written for my eyes in the first instance, in an instant the thought flashed through my mind that the President knew he was going to have his difficulty in writing Sir Wilfrid thanking him, and at the same time not sending a communication which would make it appear, if published later on, that the United States had availed itself of an offer of assistance from Canada.

If the letter which is sent begins with a statement