

with every general statement the President made, said that after the occupation of Egypt, England had certainly not intended to possess Egypt; that she had gone to the assistance of that country, but certain circumstances made it necessary and desirable that she should retain her occupancy of that country. The President said he believed that absolutely. ^{scolded} He said, "In regard to my own policy "I know there are many who feel that in sending our troops to Cuba "we have had in view the annexation of Cuba to the United States. "I am so desirous that the motive of the United States in this "matter shall not be misunderstood, that although I feel in some ways "it will be to the disadvantage of Cuba to have it so, nevertheless, "I intend, before my term of office expires, to withdraw every United "States soldier from the island and leave her to her own self-govern- "ment. As to Porto Rico, the only advantage that I can see about "it is that it is not large. The fact that it is not large prevents "it from being a too great encumbrance, but I would be glad to hand "it over to whoever would take it," (or words to this effect). "As "for the Philippine Islands, I only wish that the people were in a "position to govern themselves. If they were sufficiently civilized "for self-government, I would be only too glad to leave them to "themselves, but I fear they will not reach this point during our lifetime. They may, Mr. King, during yours."

The President, in referring to my going to England, asked Mr. Bryce if he ^{did not think} ~~thought~~ it would be well for me to see some of the figures on the subject of immigration, and the papers which contained the correspondence with Japan, and Mr. Bryce said he thought this might be of advantage, and the President directed Mr. Bacon to give me this information later in the afternoon.

The President then said: "Mr. King and Mr. Bacon, will "you excuse Mr. Bryce and myself if we withdraw for a minute." He then took Mr. Bryce into the adjoining room.

After being absent about ten minutes, Mr. Bryce and the