

*February 7, 1917.*—Afternoon—de Sinçay and Lemonnier, and Villalobar, with a courier from Langhorne with all my cipher messages.

Among them, the long missing telegram, No. 248, instructing me to turn over interests to Villalobar and to go to Havre.

But the correction is not a correction, but an insertion, inspired evidently by Hoover, instructing, or authorizing me, to remain here, unless the Germans object! (There are, too, detailed instructions for consuls, all of whom were given leave to go home, with all expenses paid—save, said the telegram at the end, Nasmith, who is to report to Rotterdam. Nasmith and his wife were standing by when this news was decoded!)

I am in a difficult position. I should like to remain, if by so doing the revictualing can continue. I am ready to make any sort of sacrifice for the Belgians, but in what quality am I to remain? As a distinguished hostage, or what?