

Sunday, July 1, 1917.—Reading Tolstoy's journals. Like many great finds it is not so great as I thought it would be. Much of it is unintelligible, vague thoughts that came to him from time to time and were not therein developed. He himself is always saying "Not clear!" or "I contradict myself." Now and then there is some flash, some note of the old fire, the mordant touch characteristic of him, but much of it only bored me.

Began reading the address of Alfred Capus on the occasion of his reception at the Académie, but didn't finish it. It is in clear, beautiful French, but he is like the orator to whom the Negro listened for two hours and greatly admired, and when asked what the orator was talking about, scratched his head and said: "Dat he didn't exactly mention."

Nell and I went to the house in the rue Jacques Louer to see Mme. Chauminot, the holder. She wished a clause permitting her to re-enter when she wished, but I refused, and she agreed to a

lease for six months. We hope to begin the troubles of housekeeping on our return from Paris the end of the week.

The American troops are here at last. They landed the 26th at—a port on the Atlantic, probably Brest or St. Nazaire. The papers are full of it. It is an historic event, so big in its implications, its possibilities, that one can't grasp it at all. We hope to see them at Paris on the 4th.

Have been busy most of the day writing declinations for various events here at Havre on the 4th—the Belgians' salute of our flag at 9 A.M., a luncheon here at noon, a meeting in the evening. Wrote Didelot, and Morgand, Mayor of Havre, and others.

Call this morning from Paul Otlet, who as usual has a grand transcendent scheme for remodeling the world, this time a "Study Congress for the Realization of a Society of Nations." He stayed an hour, but I insisted this time on doing most of the talking myself, and so enjoyed his visit more than I should otherwise have done. . . .

The newspapers say that President Wilson has asked Congress to permit me to accept the Order of Léopold the King gave me. I was surprised to read it.

Decided tonight to change my speech to suit *me*, and not try to please every one else.