

*August 3, 1917.*—De Broqueville is to take the Foreign Office, but the crisis isn't settled—still some questions as to . . . the portfolio of war. Van der Elst showed me dispatch from Roumania; situation there very bad; people tired, and want peace; and the

German agents working on their fears and hopes. The Russian malady growing epidemic. Also showed me dispatch from Washington saying that the President had asked Congress to let me accept the Order of Léopold. Also Moncheur expects decorations for Anderson, who gave the Belgian mission his house while it was in Washington, and for Gibson and others. I explained the constitutional provisions to him, but told him that it did not apply to Anderson.

Two resignations from French cabinet, and a crisis at Paris, though the Government had another vote of confidence yesterday. All the work of Socialists, who still dream of brotherhood, and long to walk into the German lines. Vandervelde has given me a copy of his confidential report, which is intensely interesting. It throws a great light on the Stockholm business and the situation in Russia. Also sent me copy of his book *La Belgique Envahie*. Helene Vacaresco, the Roumanian poet, sends me, too, the volume of her poems.

I have finished reading W. D. Howells' *Years of My Youth*, and we are reading now, at bed time, Nell and I, George Moore's *Confessions of a Young Man*. W. D. Howells' book is charming, to me fascinating, partly because it is about Ohio, partly because of its intrinsic merit in the honest, sincere reflection of a refined, generous, beautiful nature. Moore, who mocks at Howells (the latchet of whose shoes he is not worthy to unloose) is smart, with a perverted cleverness, never for an instant rings true, is evidently somewhat without principle, and obnoxious, too, boasting of conquests he never made, and of deviltries he never committed. That prudent, calculating, selfish young man ever wild! He never had the courage of his lack of conviction. He never kissed a girl, or had an affair in his life!