

*August 22, 1917.*—Went this afternoon to see de Broqueville, who is just back from the front. He told me that they had asked London and Paris whether the reply to the Pope's note should be separate or joint; London had replied, separate, and Paris, joint. He had prepared a sort of preliminary note which he showed

me. It was, in effect, only an acknowledgment, concocted in most polite terms, thanking His Holiness for his interest in Belgium, but reserving the right to reply more fully later, and saying that Belgium was fighting only to recover her sovereignty and independence and to compel respect for "the political principles of a high morality." De Broqueville said that the King and he both thought that President Wilson was the best and most disinterested friend Belgium had, and that because of his moral vision he would guide Belgium better than anybody, and that they should like his opinions, counsel and advice. Some more talk, very cordial, and I came away, and prepared and sent a cable in cipher to Washington.