

*June 20, 1919.*—After the luncheon yesterday I took advantage of a moment when I happened to be alone with the President, to thank him for the suggestion that I go to Rome. He was very generous, said that he had instantly thought of me when Page—“apropos,” he said, “I’ll tell you a story.”

Then he said that during the recent incident—Orlando furioso, and so on—the Pages, and especially Mrs. Page, had warmly espoused the Italian cause, and that Mrs. Page had made many indiscreet remarks, so indiscreet that Harry White<sup>1</sup> had told her that she was making a fool of herself. Though, as the President said, the fact had nothing to do with Page’s resignation, the feeling and belief prevailed that he had been removed because of his wife’s indiscretions. On this Mrs. Page induced Page to seek to withdraw his resignation and he wrote to the President to that effect.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson Page, Ambassador to Italy; Henry White, veteran diplomatist and American Peace Commissioner.

“I was very glad,” said the President with a smile, “to be able to write to him that the post had already been tendered to you and accepted. Still,” he continued, “I wish to let him down easily, and so I have told him that he could announce his own retirement when he goes home, and then I shall make the appointment.”

One of the President's stories about Dr. Jowett was this:

When Lord Curzon was paying his ceremonial calls on leaving Oxford, and was calling on Jowett, the Doctor said:

“Mr. Curzon, we are sorry to have you leave Oxford. The university authorities have formed a very high opinion of your abilities, sir, the faculty has formed a very high opinion of your abilities, the undergraduate body have formed a very high opinion of your abilities; but none I believe, sir, has formed a higher opinion of your abilities than you yourself.”