

*Sunday, May 16, 1920.*— ——— and Major Ord here to luncheon, and I went with him to the train afterward. He gave a gloomy view of things at Washington. The department wholly disorganized; no one to fill the vacancies; Frank Polk deeply disappointed at not having been made Secretary; Colby<sup>1</sup> wholly ignorant of his duties, and generally incompetent; with nothing of a foreign policy; Irish politicians all-powerful.

As to the President, he would never be well. His stroke had permanently affected part of his brain, so that he is exceedingly irritable, which he said had accounted for the Lansing incident,

<sup>1</sup> Bainbridge Colby, whom Wilson had unaccountably made Secretary of State.

though Lansing and the President had never fully agreed, Lansing having been against the League. I was right, too, in supposing that the jealousy between Mrs. Wilson and Margaret on the one hand, and Mrs. Lansing on the other, had helped to bring about the situation.

He was interesting as to Lord Grey,<sup>1</sup> and the reasons why he was not received by the President. ——— says that it was due wholly to the Major Crawford-Stuart incident. The President, very angry, was determined that Crawford-Stuart should go; Lord Grey was as stubborn, and would not be moved, and hence the regrettable situation. Sir William Tyrrell told ——— that it was one of Lord Grey's qualities never to desert or abandon a subordinate. In keeping Crawford-Stuart, after having been informed that he was *persona non grata*, Lord Grey was technically wrong, but the President was wrong in the larger view of the case, in allowing such a petty feeling and such an insignificant thing to affect his attitude toward such a man as Lord Grey, on such a mission, from such a nation as England.

——— had crossed with Lord Grey, and had been consulted by him as to his famous letter; had indeed, he said, ... written parts of it ...; he said that Grey in leaving America was not in the least influenced by the President's treatment of him, or by the Crawford-Stuart incident, but that he returned to England solely for the purpose of publishing his letter in the interest of better Anglo-American relations and the peace of the world. What a pity that the President could not have been big enough, or well enough, to take advantage of the great opportunity that England offered him!

——— was most discouraging as to conditions at home. There is no understanding of foreign relations, especially at Washington; Canada's advances have been ignored, both by the President and by Lansing, and all the politicians about Washington treat the Irish question lightly, and as shameless demagogues. Provincialism, ignorance, indifference, everywhere as to foreign relations.

This evening another invitation from the Villiers, asking me to dine there Saturday evening, the 22nd. We have a dinner here that evening for the Whitehouses, and so have to decline, and Nell is writing Lady Villiers. It is rather embarrassing.

<sup>1</sup> Viscount Grey of Fallodon went to the United States in 1919 on a three months' mission to deal with issues growing out of the peace, but was never received by President Wilson.