

Very interesting
letter - historical

Acc. 976

June 1. 99-

Dear George,

Thanks many,
for your interesting note
just rec^d.

I am not inclined to
take quite so pessimistic a
view of affairs generally, as
you seem to do. The Yankee
Gov^t is raw & crude & quite
unaccustomed to give & take in
international affairs. It begins
with of course they are not

2, gentlemen & cannot be
expected to act as such.

After they have sent 1000
men a month to the Philippines
for 2 or 3 years, & brought back
nothing but invalids, - all at
gt^e expense, they will know a
little more about tropical
conquest & colonization. As to
Canada, their tradition is that
they have only to lie about things
here in London, & receive in
return any Canadian territory or
interest they choose to ask for.
This has been so for 100 years, & their
habits & customs are not easily
changed & destroyed. It is so
now no longer.

3) The Gov^t here, I have reason
to believe, is much disgusted
with Mr McKinley & his satellites, for
their dog in the manger policy -
after their "friendly neutrality"
in the late war, which means
of course helping a country in every
way except openly, they expected,
& had a right to expect, quite
different treatment - It is not
possible to make bargains about
such things beforehand as between
nations, but there is a well
recognized code of etiquette on the
subject, which the boorish Amer^{ic}
Gov^t thinks it can ignore. It
will find out its mistake -
Already Lord Salisbury has
refused to revise or alter the

Clayton Bulwer Treaty, & has
given M^r-M^r K. a nasty rub by
refusing to let him send troops
to the disputed strip of territory
in Alaska. Little has been said
about this, but it is I believe so,
& even if M^r-M^r K. hasn't sense enough
to understand it, Choate & Hay
have & will let him know what
it means. Meanwhile if the
Canadian Gov^t had any sense,
they would, instead of gassing &
talking, quietly organize an
efficient mobile little force of
say 20,000 men with ^{plenty of} artillery &
transport, which wd immenately
strengthen the hands of the
Gov^t here, & put them in quite a
different position, as to what they
can & can't do -

5/
No one here believes in
Russia's ridiculous peace
Congress - Of course Stead &
the papers sling ink, but
who pays any attention to
what some twopenny half-
penny reporter or leader writer
chooses to say? They are too
having matters all their own
way in China at present -
This is a very big question & a
very serious one, but un-
fortunately it has to wait -
The strongest Gov^t (I Lord
Salisbury's is not a strong Gov^t)
cannot do every thing at once -
Last year it was Fashoda &
Egypt. No one was more

6/
Surprised I believe than
the Prime Minister, ^{when} ~~that~~ the
French Gov^t backed down.

It was expected that they
w^d fight, although quite
unready, & we were fully
prepared to fight it out.

This year it is South Africa,
old Gladstones criminal
& stupid blunders are
still working endless mischief
there, & have to be put down
& put right one way or another.
Rouyer & his Coors may give
in, but it is most unlikely,
as they are proud, ignorant &
obstinate. This will mean a

7/ 3 or 4 months campaign; &
besides the troops already there
& a naval contingent, some
10,000 men will have to be sent
from here, & probably an equal
^{or greater} number from India. The Gov^t
can't afford to run any chances
this time, or make another
frasco of the business -

China will have to wait,
but we have 3 or 4 years grace
before Russia can do anything
really final or effective, & we
shall have Japan heart & soul
with us, & with half a million
excellent troops ready-to-hand,
besides & most efficient little
fleet. Japan is borrowing
£8,000,000 here this month (& will

8/
easily get it) to build more
warships & complete her
armaments. Russia will
never be forgiven the scurrilous
trick she played them after their
China war: but they are long
headed people & know they must
bide their time for a suitable
revenge. In a country where
individuals ^{devote} 20 years or more
to obtaining a adequate & suitable
compensation for some private
slight or wrong, the Govt
need not be in any un-
seemly haste.

Apologies, if need be, for
this long lecture on con-
temporary history!!—

9/ At last we have
got summer weather
here. After a cold week
it has come with a rush,
& plunged suddenly into
mid summer.

Clare has been with
us a week, & has I think
thoroughly enjoyed her
first experience of London.
She is very kindly staying
on for a few days longer
to help Elsie with baby, as
our trusted nurse very
unexpectedly went quite off her
head yesterday, & had to
be instantly sent off —

Thanks for kind enquiries
about my bothersome
ankle. It is far from
right yet, although I think
steadily improving - Unless
anything turns up to prevent,
as it may easily do,
I rather hope to get out to
Canada for a month or
so this summer; but
have, I think, for the time,
pretty well given up the
idea of settling in
Montreal, - at least at
present.

Kindest remembrances
to all at home when
you see them. I hope Will
is benefiting by his
rest & change -

With all good wishes,
as always,

Yours sincerely,
Rankine

G.C. desires to send
her love. Baby Margaret
flourishes in spite of weather
& mad nurses -

