

COPY.

Washington, August 12, 1907.

My dear Tuck:-

.....
Matters are continuing as usual. Roosevelt is doing everything possible to injure business, as you readily see from the results in the stock market, which at present look bad. The whole country is remarkably prosperous; crops are splendid, the demand for iron, coal, cotton never was so big. The railroads are earning big money and in fact there is nothing that I can see to stop prosperity, except the cussedness that dwells in the White House. I have heard from good authority that in answer to the question put to Roosevelt in regard to a 3rd term, that he has said he did not want a third term, except in case of a foreign war and his ordering our battleships to the Pacific, they believe to be a move in that direction, for if he can find any excuse for such a war, he will use it for his own perpetuation and say as Lincoln said in 1864, ~~XX~~ "It is not best to swap horses in crossing a stream." Now what excuse he can find for such an outbreak, people are slow to think. I have in my mind one circumstance, which I doubt is known to but very few, even in official circles, and that is this: About twenty years ago, when Japan was a minor power and was afraid of China and Russia, in order to strengthen herself and to keep Russia and China out of Corea, persuaded the United States to make a treaty with Corea over the heads of China in which the United States practically promised to protect the autonomy of Corea in case of attack by other powers. This was done by the Japanese Legation here and I did some pretty good work in its accomplishment. Now that Japan has got Corea, she has not the need of this treaty, but I see that one of the Corean princes has arrived in the United States and is going to see Roosevelt at Oyster Bay and if he has gotten on to this treaty he may try and persuade Roosevelt that it is his duty to stand by Corea and against Japan and as Roosevelt is hunting around for some excuse for a foreign war, he may think that this is as good as any other excuse, but I can hardly believe that any Congress would back him up in any such pretensions.
.....