



CHÂTEAU DE VERT-MONT
RUEIL S.&O.

July 13th, 1911.

My dear Mr. Bigelow:-

We have been overjoyed to know of your rapid recovery from your illness which happily was exaggerated in the newspaper accounts, and I am now pleased to receive your letter of June 30th telling me that you are fully able to take up again your favorite work upon the Retrospections. I wonder how you are enduring this long spell of torrid weather which the newspapers tell us is afflicting the United States. We have been so long away that we are now declimated and could not endure it. I wish you could be here with us for a day to realize the delightful temperature which we are having all the time. The sun is hot during the day but at night we dine on the perron in the open air and spend our evenings there in a deliciously cool atmosphere without an insect or a fly to annoy us. We are entertaining as usual different batches of nieces and nephews who have come over from America and also frequent friends from the same direction. D'Estournelles de Constant dines with us this evening and will complete the account of his journeyings in America of which he has already given us one session. He tells us that he met two men over there whose intimate communion he enjoyed more than anything else during his stay. The names of these two men, in the order in which he gave them, are John Bigelow and James J. Hill. He is grateful to me for having put him in the way of seeing them, and I need not say how great a satisfaction it is to me to have done so.

I thought I was doing something of small importance in buying at the Hôtel Drouot for a very modest sum the camp bed which Napoleon used at St/ Helena and presenting it to our friend Ajalbert, the Conservateur of the Malmaison, who is taking the greatest interest in bringing back to it all the souvenirs he can of the period of its magnificence. I did not do it for any admiration of Napoleon, for I never had any except for his military qualities, but because of Julia's and my interest in the history of that period which has naturally been stimulated by our residence in what was formerly a part of Josephine's park. The notoriety which this small gift has given me has come as a great surprise. It does not mean that the name of Bonaparte is revered, but only that the historical interest of that period is very great with all French people. There is no danger of a Bonaparte or any other pretender ever returning to rule this country. The Republic is more firmly established than ever. The only fear is from the socialistic Corps Législatif, and a monarchy could not cure that disease which is spreading over Europe as it is over the United States. We shall have to "stand and take it," for I do not know where we could go to escape the evil consequences,

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financial and otherwise, which are certainly threatening.

We both send you our love and to Grace, and I hope we shall continue to have good news of your health and happiness.

Yours always sincerely,

Edward Webb