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The Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York.

February 2, 1907

To the President

White House

Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

A letter just received from one of the shrewdest and most experienced observers I know, a man who sees and talks with leading men in England, Germany, France and elsewhere, informs me that there seems to be a settled opinion among those considered the most far-sighted that Japan will, ere long, attack the United States.

This may be all wrong, - quite likely it is, - but it seems to me that no opportunity should be neglected to avert Japanese ill-feeling, especially as a collision would lead to very unpleasant immediate results, no matter what the remote results might be.

You may remember that during my recent visit to Washington I suggested a solution of the educational trouble in California, and the more I think of it the more it seems to me likely to accomplish. You are fighting nobly in the matter, but you have against you the state rights sentiment, in a most embarrassing form. Why not, then, propose the establishment by the United States on the Pacific Coast of sundry national schools, which should be made attractive to our own people, but to which people of Asiatic nations should be freely admitted? From every point of view, it would be a

good thing. It would, of course, knock the state rights contention out of court instantly, and it would be a powerful means of extending the English language and American ideas thruout the empires which lie opposite us on the Pacific. It might be well to call them commercial schools." Great numbers of American youth would wish to enter them, as a privilege, and we could have the whole matter in our own hands. To devise the details of the scheme, I should suppose that there could be no better man than Nicholas Murray Butler, tho Andrew Draper, the head of our popular educational system in this state, would be a splendid man for the purpose, for the reason that not only here but in Illinois he has been accustomed to enthuse the people at large on educational subjects, and has shown a wonderful ability in "doing things."

In proposing a proper system and a liberal appropriation to back it, you would have behind you the whole mass, it seems to me, of American thinking people, would avert what may be a very serious matter to us, from a military and naval point of view, just at present, and would accomplish another great thing for the world, in addition to those you have already done.

I beg that you will think of this, and if it strikes you at all favorably, it seems to me that the best man, all things considered, to summon to your side is Andrew Draper. I have no knowledge as to whether he would leave his present position, which suits him splendidly, but if anybody could fill him with enthusiasm in such work as that suggested, you could do it. Then there is our old friend Ben. Wheeler, who, perhaps, might have some qualities even more adapted for the work than either of the gentlemen above mentioned, beside

having the advantage of being on the ground.

I remain, my dear Mr. President,

Most respectfully yours,

And. D. White