

PSF

POULTNEY BIGELOW

PSF. Poultney Bigelow

Box



Malden-on-Hudson

119

December 2

PSF

35.

Bigelow

My dear President Roosevelt

Is it not odd that our papers appear to copy those of England in saying unfriendly things about Mussolini and encouraging negro hopes of ultimate success?

I hope that Italy may annex all of that Black nation much as England has taken successively Basuto and Zululand and Rhodesia and made them fit for white habitation.



2

Should the Nègres win, it would be the first victory of black over white on a large scale.

There have been several surprises by Bantu natives where many whites have been massacred; but these were exceptional, & can be compared with Custer's massacre on the upper Missouri in 1877, when he lost his whole command thro his imprudent behaviour (1000 men!)

I've booked for a visit on the Guinea & Slave & Ivory Coast, having already studied the North & East & South portions of Africa. It's an interesting problem - also one that may become tragical. Had Lincoln seen what I have in

the west Indies; in the different southern states and above all in the Transvaal and Natal, he would not, methinks, have turned loose every American Kaffir with power to vote away the property of his former master!

The smiling figure in the foto means a young Polish pianiste who took tea with "Madame Mère" at Hunn elbow - a welcome Guest here - as well as at Hyde Park.

I shall see the Kaiser in January + shall presume to hand him your Greeting. A letter from him received yesterday announces the good news that Prince Louis Ferdinand has immensely improved by his course of military discipline as Aviator - that he is now "more manly!"

If you need news of Liberia I'll report from that negro mecca, that Holy Grail of abolitionists 100 years ago! How little can the mass of a people foretell the folly of what they do in the name of human liberty!

A letter from Kipling just received speaks of a Lunatic asylum taken on a pic nic by their Keepers. The Keepers all became helplessly drunk, but they were carefully brought home by the Lunatics. If that asylum and much of Congress, were put in a Cocktail shaker and scattered beneath our Capitol dome, would you, think you, be able to distinguish one from t'other?

When I reach the Congo I'll put that question to the first Gailla I meet - or even to a Monrovia Senator!

Much love to you. I sail on January 3<sup>d</sup>.

FD

COPY  
cws

December 2, 1935  
POULTNEY BIGELOW  
Malden on Hudson

(2)  
Paula file

My dear President Roosevelt

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Much love to you. I sail on January 3rd.

PSF: Bigelow

November 9<sup>th</sup> 1936.



PSF  
November 2-36

N.Y.

Honored and August Ruler over a  
devoted majority  
Dearlly beloved Franklin Roosevelt  
" " " " " "

of course I voted for you - but  
I have but one vote !

my neighbors of Ulster are  
mostly rabid republicans, but they  
listen when I tell them that your  
hands are tied by a Constitution  
that is now rusty and rotten  
and unrecognizable from patching  
and propping up — much like

my venerable Homestead, where I spend the best part of my small earnings in holding the precious thing from tumbling to pieces.

I'm off to Manchukuo, to see the miracle of Mikado administration in a territory that was without population, without roads, without any civilization when first I was there, in 1876.

Corea was equally barbarous when I travelled there in 1898.

But Japan builds good roads; maintains good schools and hospitals; plants millions of baby trees

on slopes that had become barren, creates harbors  
where the largest ships can take on and unload cargoes -  
and where such a tyranny as our periodical "Seamen"'s  
pronouncements would promptly be stopped by the  
firing squad of some patriotic Judge who has at heart  
the people as a whole rather than a brutal gang such  
as terrorized Sicily before Mussolini, or Germany before  
Hitler

This is my sixth peep in on Japan and her Colonies.  
Probably my last.

The Reporters usually meet me on my return and



C  
J  
P  
Y

Norddeutscher Lloyd  
Bremen

*RF Bigelow*

March 3rd, 1937

*Dinner - 37*

D. "Gneisenau"

*RF*  
Poultney Bigelow  
Malden on Hudson

My dear None such Neighbor Presidential.

Here's a line at the close of my third and final visit in Philippine waters. My first was of course when Dewey was here and General Merritt. My second during the Eucharistic circus.

And now I'm headed for the Hudson after a refreshing shore leave in the family of the U. S. C. O., and his military family.

A letter signed by your own hand saved my life.

The Sanitary satrap vaccinated every other passenger - but spared my venerable carcass. He concluded that there was not enough blood in me to transmit even a microbe!

But this inoculation is a silly survival of superstition. No British Port holds up commerce as we do - Hong Kong and Singapore sail at our fetichism and so does every port in Tropical Africa - east and west.

Verum sapientibus satis est!

Do you wish any more of my white bearded wisdom?

Of course I called at the Palace of the ginger colored monarch pro tea - had much palaver with voluble deputies who are spending money freely on unnecessary ornaments to official buildings. They will take freely all the money that the U. S. give them - after the manner of Liberia, Hayti, etc.

They are already following the example of Hitler in the matter of creating an army that is under native command and that can soon treat

- 2 -

the U. S. Flag here as a pretty piece of street decoration - of no practical importance. Therefore, my dearly beloved President, have no illusions about these little brown brothers. They have been debauched by my heavy weight classmate Bill Taft and now insult the U. S. as did the Sultans of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli until we sent our warships there, instead of tribute money. Why not put the Islands up at auction? Let Japan and Germany bid? Or arm the makometan minority. They would soon massacre off all the politicians and priests and elect a Kublai Khan as ruler! You note the analogy between these Islands and India - both have a mushy majority and a war like minority who detest government by gabble. I trust that your beloved Mama is well as also Madame la Presidente. The Herait Kaiser commended me to convey his kindly greetings - as also did his 2 Grandsons.

But I do feel old - to think that I was here when first the Stars and Stripes were hoisted over the Red and Yellow of Spain.

And yesterday at Sunset I stood bareheaded on the Parade ground of Fort McKinley whilst the band played our National Anthem and our flag slowly and sadly sank and sank and was rolled up and folded away - . . . . . And all this in the short span of one generation.

Would that I had the millions wasted here on harbor works and military defenses. I could build side walks along the highway to Hyde Park! - and so on - but you have more to do than encourage the senile garrulity of

PAULINEY BIGLOW

Private  
FB

To  
His Excellency

The President - at the  
WHITE HOUSE



WASHINGTON

U.S.



NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD  
BREMEN

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1937.



NORDEUTSCHER LLOYD  
BREMEN

D. "GNEISENAU"

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*Pauline Sigelou*

C  
O  
P  
Y

*file  
personal*

*PSF: Bigelow*

Poultney Bigelow,  
Malden on Hudson,  
May 27, 1937.

My dear President Roosevelt:

Thank you ever so much for the spontaneity of your semi-acceptance.

My birthday is on that day, September tenth, and many of my friends persist in coming then - whether invited or not.

What think you of going back to the former date - the first Friday of October?

If you can fit that into your crowded book of dates, then would I rejoice equally.

Either October first or eighth (preferably the eighth) because my sister, Mrs. Tracy, and my niece (Eristoff) would then be home from the Baths in Czechoslovakia.

Each presidential candidate, commencing with Washington, has been target for foul suspicion and accused of sinister purposes.

My honored father voted for Van Buren and my first vote was cast for Tilden. Both were vilified as agents of the Devil for the wreckage of our Constitution.

Half of New England thought of Ben. Franklin as a debauchee and atheist - and Republican opinion of Cleveland was couched in much the same language.

History is my trade, and therefore I can but shrug my shoulders and smile when folks talk politics at me and spit venom at their neighbor who thinks otherwise, on a subject they neither understand.

When I return to earth it should be for the purpose of doing a history of American madness during the periods of electoral delirium. The fact that you survive is evidence that miracles are still possible - or is it your Dutch toughness blended with English amiability? Luther threw his ink pot - you have none handy - else would you aim it at

Yours faithfully,

/s/ POULTNEY BIGELOW

may 27 1937

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Should you read theological polemics in the days of Charles V and Leo X you will find Luther painted as one who started rebellion agst the Christian Religion for the purpose of converting the neighboring nunnery into a convenient whore house.

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Yours faithfully

Hullner  
Dingelow

Mr. Latta

The President's  
letter has not come to file  
5-25

H.S.

Excellency

The President -  
The White House



WASHINGTON

Return when read  
attentively — to  
Poulney Bigelow  
former Professor on Law  
- Customs of Native Races.

*Handwritten: Fredrick*

*Handwritten: PSF Bigelow*

COPY MGS

April 29--38

My dear neighborly Nonesuch :

On September 30th Friday you shall be provided here with a choice audience for I am unveiling a bronze bust of PONTIAC.

Shall have KYRA here, plus her long legged worshiper and husband, Louis Ferdinand.

This time I trust that nothing will prevent your coming--you and your wife and loveliest of mama's.

The course of public life consists largely in the fact that many friends are afraid to wire because all secretaries are not discreet, and your postal bag must be as was the Kaiser's in his days of glory--monstrous in bulk--impossible for any one man to handle.

Thank you for your letter of greeting. It cause me to write at once to the prospective honeymooner who will be delighted--I'm sure.

At the dock in New York some 20 reporters asked me to tell them what the Kaiser thought of Hitler. My answer was obvious.

If I answered such a question I would soon have no friend.

I offered them Lindbergh's opinion of Reporters--but they did not regard that as news.

But they noted that I loaded all my 13 pieces of baggage on to a hand wagon which I bought in Wiesbaden for \$5.00 and that load I conveyed to the West Shore station--4 blocks--away without one cent of cost!

Any express truckman would have charged me 5% for that.

Then Capt. Sallsten lashed it on to the stern of his motor car and in 3 hours I was on my piazza sharing with him the first shad caught under my windows--this year.

When I am Dictator I shall have 3/4 of all truckmen, Jews and Reporters deported under pain of castration.

Of course you have my enthusiastic proxy as tentative Protector and Presidential Captain General, but you are far too gentle in many ways.

-2-

You would possible pardon those truckmen who charge the whole cost of my peasant cart for merely toting it from the North German Lloyd pier to the nearest rail head!

By same post I send you a book that only you can adequately appreciate-- for you and I be sailor men! Commodore AHRENS of the Bremen burst several buttons before laying it down. You will find it a prophylactic against spiritual morbidity in these days of shrinking incomes and overcrowded lunatic asylums.

May I book you for Sept. 30th? If you consent then shall that be a sign that you forgive even so long a letter as this of ever Yours much the same

/s/ Poultney Bigelow

April 29. 38

THE WORLD JOURNAL  
May 4 9 51 AM '38  
RECEIVED

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Pauling Sigelau

PSF  
Bigelow

slen  
(1)

May 10, 1936.

Dear Sailer:-

Perfect! I hope (Congress willing) to spend Sunday, the twenty-ninth, at Hyde Park and I suggest that Louis Ferdinand and the beautiful bride come down, under your experienced chaperonage, on Saturday afternoon, the twenty-eighth, spending Saturday night with us. We will take them to St. James' Church on Sunday morning, for I take it that although theoretically Nazi, they still believe in God. After lunch on Sunday I will drive them around the place. I would ask you all to spend Sunday night as well but I have people coming late Sunday afternoon and I imagine the honeymooners would much prefer a family visit.

Ever so many thanks for that delightful little book which I find on my return. I like it.

I am putting down September thirtieth in the date book. The Lord only knows what part of the world I shall be in on that date, but I hope it is the Hudson River.

Always sincerely,

Poultney Bigelow, Esq.,  
Malden-on-Hudson,  
New York.

may 7 1892

THE WASHINGTON POST  
May 9 11 56 AM '92  
RECEIVED

my dear Farmer President

This moment arrives a radiant letter from Germany's prospective Emperor announcing his honeymoon trip to the U. S. A. — + thus on around the world

He promises me his first visit but your alleged "off again Finegan" cedes his privilege in your favor if you insist. He arrives by S. S. BREMEN foot of w. 4-6 <sup>th</sup> dr. on May 26<sup>th</sup> ~~the~~ Thursday. he and his prospective - heirs to the

2

throne of a hypothetical Russia -  
the beautiful Kya Vladimirovitch -  
niece of the recently murdered Nicholas II.

Had I a Bagdad wishing rug, I  
would lasso them at quarantine  
and land them at Melden dock  
by means of a swift hydro plane  
or other such modern space  
destroyers.

of course the camera men and  
press pundits could get all they  
needed in a few minutes at the Narrows.

Louis Ferdinand has certain  
sentimental reasons for wishing  
to spend his first night ashore  
in the same big bed he occupied

Then first he saw the Hudson 10 years or  
so past - which means the Bigelow Homestead!

Then I would motor him to Hyde Park -  
he and his Grand Duchess - and I'm sure that  
both your wife and your Mama will approve  
of this match.

But all this depends on your duties to  
this Empire of sovereign states.

Louis Ferdinand owes much to Henry Ford &  
will of course pay them a visit en route for Frisco -  
whence he is booked to sail for Honolulu on  
June 18<sup>th</sup>.

I'm surging this to you, for I tremble  
at the thought of your being far far away

when he arrives .

God Bless you - to not the fishes !

Best messages to your Mother - wife & c

Henry Digelow

PSF: Bigelow may 23..38

PV

sent

My dear master navigator

Every salt water skipper knows  
that his ship is doomed if more  
than one mind control its helm.

Thank you for dating the  
Kyre-Louis, Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>.  
of course I accept for

them, subject, of course, to  
their surviving enthusiastic  
Zionists at the Gang Plank!

Your glorious Mama has  
written me a characteristically  
sweet letter. Aunt Kye and Co.  
we shall invade Hyde park  
for Tea cups on Saturday and  
have you on Sunday so soon  
after lunch as decent, and  
agreeable, to you - [May 29]

3

I'd like to see Mr. Hoover's  
face when he learns that you have  
had the courage that he did not have!  
It pays to be a "gentleman" - even  
in politics - A lesson that was never  
learned by your Fallstaffian predecessor.

when in Australia 4 years ago, I  
made frequent enquiry about Hoover's  
years in their mining world. It was  
a vacuum - zero - common place!

multiply such Jeros, + out pops a Hoover.<sup>4</sup>  
my Republican neighbors reviled me  
for telling the truth about his nothingness,  
they reviled me also for telling the Truth  
about William II; they even abused me  
for picking out Louis Ferdinand as  
a winner some 10 years ago -

well, so did I on [pick], and therefore  
have I a right to show pride in  
signing myself your web foot salt  
water second mate of the "Surprise", 1875

Franklin D. Rowland



Adolph Menzel

König Friedrich der Große - in  
his old age.

Quack !

Suppose Washington had  
made a congressional  
moratorium - suspended  
the Constitution for a dozen  
years or so - sent the  
bulk of our legislators back  
to their farms !

It would have helped us -  
but whisper it not loudly !

without Frederic the Great there  
would have been no Protestant  
united Germany; nor a  
Protestant united States of  
America in 1789.

Blessed are the nations who  
have such a dictator as the  
Sage of Sans Souci!

Moral : Don Altes Fritz  
died peacefully in his chair.

Louis XVI died on the  
guillotine :

Frederic based his prestige  
on Justice and Preparedness.

Louis XVI was fat and  
soft minded and paralyzed  
with a blood thirsty mob  
instead of strengthening  
his police reserve.

PSF  
Bigelow

March 23, 1839.

My dear Dr. Bigelow:-

My warm congratulations on your magnificent midwifely achievement! I had not heard of it before and I am writing to Louis Ferdinand and Kyra to tell them how happy I am.

You must have had a grand trip and I hope to hear all about it this Spring — but, in relation to the overlordship of Europe, don't forget that (a) pride cometh before a fall, and (b) what happened to General N. Bonaparte.

See you over the teacups at Hyde Park soon.

Always sincerely,

Poultney Bigelow, M.D.,  
Malden-on-Hudson,  
New York.

Haus Doorn, Holland  
March 10, 1939

My dear President Franklin:

You are much in my thoughts these latter days, for wherever I go I meet with problems almost as pressing as yours or those of England.

One person, only, has not torn his hair in lamentation over the rumblings of War drums — and for a good reason — the KYRA boy babe has no hair. But he's an angel child and Louis Ferdinand is radiantly happy. As to Mama KYRA she's the ideal wife and mother, and, of course she suckles her heaven sent son.

I was permitted to hold that precious treasure in my arms and invent an apostolic benediction that should not frighten him, nor undermine the Greek Church, and Lutheran feelings, of Papa and Mama Hohenzollern Gottorp Romanoff.

The parents wore the smile of polite but anxious hosts — for they were but half convinced of my baby handling technique, even after being assured that I was not merely great grandfather, but that as mere grandfather, I required a card catalogue for the census of my far flung descendants.

The physiologically speculative bridegroom tells me that this divine child was conceived in the ancestral bed on which was born my illustrious father in 1817. The royal bride balances between "Springwood" and my old "Homestead." All that I can do in a moot case of such delicacy is to give myself the benefit of any doubt and have a brass plaque made, and inscribed: "In this bed was conceived the future Hope of PAX GERMANICA — the Boy Babe of KYRA — sent on earth to save the world from that horrible NEXI War."

"No Holy ghost" meddled in that glorious conception, nor did any impotent Joseph insult the sacred occasion by parading as a masqueraded husband.

Each night at Malden I tucked the loving honeymooners, each into the other's arms, and each morning I disentangled them — and therefore I speak as a Professor on conjugal beatitude!

But I only started this midwifely sermon by way of letting you know the glad tidings.

Also please remember me to Mrs. Franklin and your ever young and beautiful Mama.

And also please, please, think of me when you reach Hyde Park and when the tea urn is bubbling and you want a connoisseur on that fragrant beverage — which means

Faithfully yours

(Signed) Poultney Bigelow

P.S. Am due in Malden March 23d — for good!

March 10. 39  
Holland.

HAUS DOORN.

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most case of such delicacy is to give myself the benefit of any doubt and have a brass plaque made, + inscribed: HAUS DOORN.  
 "In this bed was conceived the future Hope of PAX GERMANICA - the Boy Babe of KYRA - sent on earth to save the world from that horrible NEXT War."

No "Holy ghost" meddled in that glorious conception; nor did any impotent Joseph insult the sacred occasion by parading as a masqueraded husband.

Each night at Malden I tucked the loving honeymooners, each into the other's arms, + each morning I disentangled them - and therefore I speak as a Professor on conjugal beatitude!

But I only started this Midwifely sermon by way of letting you

Know the glad tidings.

Also please remember me to Mrs. Franklin  
and your ever young + beautiful mama.

And also please, please, think of me  
when you reach Hyde Park + when the tea  
urn is bubbling + you want a connoisseur  
on that fragrant beverage - which means

Faithfully Yours:

Faulkner Digelow

P.S. Am due in Malden March 23<sup>d</sup> - for good!

C  
O  
P  
Y

March 11, 1939

Haus Doorn

My dear Emperor in at and of Krum Elbow!

His majesty of DOORN sends you by these unworthy, yet highly Democratic, hands, his warm thanks for your kind reception of his grandson Louis Ferdinand and radiant KYRA, now mother of a lusty BOY 5 weeks old! The happy couple live in a wooded suburb of Berlin, half way to Potsdam. Their next door neighbor is the now desolate wife of your Ambassador Wilson.

She received me with hospitable smiles, but feels her desolation like another Penelope, or shall I say Ariadne?

Germany is in good fighting trim, for while our 10 million of unemployed are highly paid for doing little more than smoking cigarettes, every German is converted into a useful citizen and soldier who handles pick and shovel alternately with "School of the Soldier," at scarce any expense to the tax payer.

Its now "manifest destiny" for Germany to include Warsaw and St. Petersburg, no less than Prague and Vienna, as interesting provincial Capitals. In ten years Europe will be grateful for that act, much as the world accepted our absorption of California and Texas in 1848 -- or Alaska in 1867.

Pray give my love to your lovely Mama and Madame La Presidente. I hope you will serve a third term and add a paragraph to the Constitution making the Presidential term 12 years, and reelection optional for another 12 years -- optional with said incumbent, without reference to politics! I charge nothing for that chunk of wisdom for I am, as ever, Yours much as ever.

(Signed) Poultney Bigelow

March 11. 39

HAUS DOORN.

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nothing for that chunk of wisdom for I am, as ever, Yours  
much as ever

Pauline Sigel

PSF.  
Bigelow

B-12-3

January 18, 1940.

My dear Neighbor:-

That was a slip of the pen but,  
at the same time, I cannot confess that Nazi  
minds are wholly lacking in magnetism. Perhaps  
it would have been better to have said "mesmerism".

Your suggestion about the message  
to the delightful Kyra meets my most enthusiastic  
approval. And when you see her and Louis  
Ferdinand tell them I hope they will come back  
to Malden and Hyde Park the very minute travel  
is safe again.

As ever yours,

Poultney Bigelow, Esq.,  
Malden-on-Hudson,  
New York.

C  
O  
P  
Y

Jan. 14, '40.

POULTHEY BIGELOW  
MALDEN ON HUDSON

Dear Kind neighbor:

Here's a quotation from your benevolent bomb shell of a letter just recd. - signed F. D. R.:

"At your age you ought to know better than to risk contact with those magnetic MINDS (sic) which are being broadcasted by the Nazis!" Never was more fragrant flattery wafted from Washington to Berlin!

Should it ever be my good fortune to press the hand of him who saved his country from communistic misrule in 1933, may that letter of yours be in my pocket.

Hitler would be delighted at reading your words of praise.

He doubtless agrees with you in thinking that Germany is a nursery of "magnetic minds", and you surely would not be so cruel as to correct that venial slip of the pen!

My ship to the Conte di Savoia sailing February 3d for Naples, en route for Weisbaden. Your letter shall be my Voodoo Amulet guardian angel, at the Bavarian Frontier. There may be ferocious frontier guards at the Brenner, but when they learn your high opinion of NAZI mentality, however magnetic or explosive, they will embrace with fervor your amateur legate of Good will.

Thank you again! Shakespeare was a poor speller - so was Mark Twain - why should you turn your back on them!

Ever yours,

(Signed) POULTHEY BIGELOW

P.S. Shall kiss Kyrá on both cheeks in your name.

Jan. 14. 40

Dear kind neighbor

Here is a quotation from your  
benevolent bomb shell of a letter  
just rec<sup>d</sup> - signed F. D. R.!

" At your age you ought  
" to know better than to  
" risk contact with those magnetic  
" M I N D S [sic!]  
" which are being broadcasted  
" by the Nazis! "

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(3)

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when they learn your high opinion<sup>(4)</sup> of  
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explaining, they will embrace with fervor  
your amateur legate of Good will.

Thank you again! Shakespeara was a  
poor speller - so was mark Twain - why  
should you turn your back on them!  
Ever yours

Pauline D. Jelso

P.S. Shall kiss Kya on both cheeks in your name.

Jan - 3

January 10, 1940.

My dear Neighbor:-

Whether you like it or not the State Department has more regard for your continued existence than you have -- and they tell me that they simply will not let you try to go to Germany via The Netherlands. In their wisdom they say you can go abroad via Italy, and I suppose they have no objection to your going to The Netherlands via Belgium or via Germany itself. At your age you ought to know better than to risk contact with those magnetic minds which are being broadcasted by the Nazis.

I have some little hope, however, that your discretion is increasing because my Aunt Dora, who is years older than you are, would still like to travel back and forth to Paris on a French ship.

What can a mere President do!

As ever yours,

Poultney Bigelow, Esq.,  
Malden-on-Hudson,  
New York.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1940

My dear Mr. President:

Thank you for letting me see Mr. Bigelow's letter, which I am returning herewith. I don't know of anything that has amused me as much.

With regard to his passport application, I find that the Department wrote him on the third of January that it would be glad to give consideration to the validation of his passport for travel to Germany provided that he felt that he could go by the southern route, that is by way of Italy. He was asked to inform the Department of the exact date of his intended departure and the name of the steamship upon which he intended to sail.

He was further told, however, since it seemed from his application that he intended to proceed to Germany through the Netherlands, that the Department would not be able to validate his passport for travel to the Netherlands since his travel through the combat

The President,

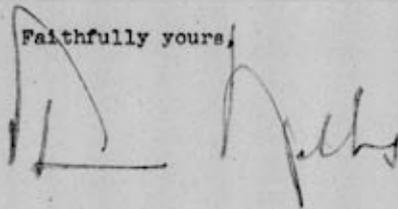
The White House.

-2-

zone would be counter to existing law.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. Kelly", written over the typed phrase "Faithfully yours,". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. SUMNER WELLES

The enclosed from old  
Poultney Bigelow is a joy but  
don't show it to anybody.

Let me know, however, what  
I can tell him about his pass-  
port. He is, as you know,  
schoolmate of the Kaiser, admirer  
of Nazism, etc., etc., but he  
is a loyal American and not a  
spy.

F. D. R.

Enclosure

C  
O  
P  
Y

(Copy of enc)

Foultney Bigelow,  
Malden on Hudson.

New Year's, 1940  
January 3d.

My honored neighbor and  
much tormented friend

Dear Mr. Roosevelt:

New Year's Day causes me joy in reflecting on the  
multiplicitous misery that oppresses an American President,  
compared with what I suffer -- merely GOUT.

At 35 one must die of something; and gout is tolerable,  
if you will order me to WIESBADEN for my annual hot spring  
cure.

I would carry your New Year's greeting to Grand Duchess  
Kyra; the fortunate Prince Louis Ferdinand and also the  
beautiful angel boy who was conceived, I hope, on the ancestral  
bed at Malden on Hudson -- without assistance of the Holy Ghost!

More than a week ago I clamored for a passport; pleading  
my moribund extraordinary reasons for crossing the ocean.

Mr. Hull is a warm hearted man, but so far I've received  
no acknowledgment of my appeal, nor of my \$10.00 enclosed.

Do you know Mr. Hull well enough to tell him that I am  
honorary Chaplain of the New York State Police; and, therefore,  
my halo should serve by way of identification card, as did that  
of the holy Saint NEPOMUK, who floated all the way from Prague  
to Hamburg with no other escort than a flight of angels!

The N. Y. State Troopers were first paraded by Colonel

- 2 -

Geo. F. Chandler in 1917; and on that occasion he proposed me,  
& I was elected by unanimous vote - certified by the trooper  
commandant, and countersigned by the then Secretary of State.  
That's the proudest honor so far - and the next to be permitted  
to sign myself, after 40 years,

Your friend as ever

(Signed) POULTNEY BIGELOW

P. S. I shall continue to vote for you as the Greeks voted  
annually for Pericles when he made Athens the World's greatest  
city.

New Years 1940  
January 3<sup>d</sup>

THE WHITE HOUSE

JAN 4 12 01 PM '40

RECEIVED

My honored neighbor and  
much tormented friend  
Dear Mr. Roosevelt

New Years Day causes me joy  
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2

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3  
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Your friend as ever

(Enclosure)

Pauline Dignelaw

P.S. I shall continue to vote for you as the Greeks voted annually  
for Pericles when he made Athens the world's greatest city.

*P.S.F.  
Bigelow*

B-3-

January 29, 1940

Dear Neighbor:

The following from Break Long is disappointing but it will amuse you. The comforting thought is that Penelope got her man back in the end!

"Pe is an appealing figure in poetry, but this is a practical, hard, realistic world at war. Her warrior's chief has been denied the right to have his own wife there, and his own recommendation was against her going. Under those circumstances it hardly would seem possible to give his junior officer the right to have his wife join him.

"It has been thought doubly wise to withhold all passports for persons in these categories until we see what is going to happen in the spring. If the stalemate continues, it may seem advisable to change policy, but all hands agree that we ought to hold this line until the spring discloses whether or not England is to be subjected to serious attack."

As ever yours,

Foultney Bigelow, Esq.,  
Malden on Hudson,  
New York.

fdr/

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

SPECIAL DIVISION

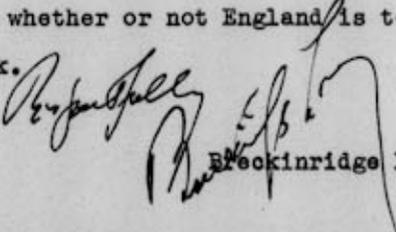
January 26, 1940

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

My dear Mr. President:

Penelope is an appealing figure in poetry, but this is a practical, hard, realistic world at war. Her warrior's chief has been denied the right to have his own wife there, and his own recommendation was against her going. Under those circumstances it hardly would seem possible to give his junior officer the right to have his wife join him.

It has been thought doubly wise to withhold all passports for persons in these categories until we see what is going to happen in the spring. If the stalemate continues, it may seem advisable to change policy, but all hands agree that we ought to hold this line until the spring discloses whether or not England is to be subjected to serious attack.

  
Breckinridge Long

SD:LONG:WA

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. BRECKINRIDGE LONG

What can I say in reply  
to this letter from Poultney  
Bigelow?

F. D. R.

COPY

*file  
journal*

January 31, 1940

B-3

POULTNEY BIGELOW,  
MALDEN ON HUDSON.

My dear President:

Then let my West Point Penelope sweeten the Hudson with her tears!  
I bored you with a futile request - for I knew that there must have  
been good reason for separating Ulysses Conrad and Penelope Charlotte  
of Highland Falls. Yet I am weak when women weeps and am sure of a pardon  
at such hands as yours.

Prophecy is inexpensive, unless accompanied by heavy stakes previously  
deposited. Yes?

Politicians and Press men should be bonded when they shoot off cock-  
sure predictions, liable to make war or financial disaster.

One must have carefully studied the past before venturing to foretell  
the probabilities of the day after.

Last night I looked up Harpers magazine of July 1892, with my article  
on: "The Czar's Western Frontier". Prophetic!

In that article I foreshadowed the collapse of Russian ships and armies  
when they should meet real fighters: Japan in 1904; Hindenburg in 1914;  
and now Finland 1939! John Paul Jones was victim of Russian political  
rotteness when he vainly strove to improve the Naval administration of the  
Empress Catherine after the close of our war of Independence.

The Russian Secret Police expelled me from Russia for having published  
a few obvious truths - and the world does persist in believing that Russia  
is mighty merely because we are impressed by multiplicity of square miles  
and ---moujiks.

Breckenridge Long is by right of ancestry a kid after my own heart - I have inherited admiration for his father & grandfather - Kentucky snails would be poor indeed were those of that name eliminated. And I recall very long talks of my father and Postmaster General Blair, in those happy days when our elders talked; and youngsters learned much by listening. My education owes much less to Yale than to a father whose intimates were contemporaries of Wm. Cullen Bryant and Henry Watterson - Blair & Breckenridge - and, in my case, Jefferson Davis also, whom I visited in 1880 - in Mississippi before Breck Long was born.

God bless you! England is now frightened by her own shadow. She seeks to frighten Germany by spitting at her over the fence. She has but to cease bullying and boasting and ransacking mail bags - for Hitler has no intention of hurting London - his enemy is Moscow Communism.

At Revoir. My address is Palast Hotel, Wiesbaden, if you want more of

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) DWILNEY BYCELOW

January 31. 1940

THE WHITE HOUSE  
FEB 1 12 24 PM '40  
RECEIVED

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(2)

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you want more of  
Yours faithfully  
Faulner Sigelou

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

January 26, 1940.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. BRECKINRIDGE LONG

What can I say in reply  
to this letter from Poultney  
Bigelow?

F. D. R.

Letter from Poultney Bigelow, Malden on  
Hudson, 1/24/40; copy retained for our  
files.

January 24. 1940

My dear Excellency

Thank you immensely  
for the hope you express, that I  
may survive NAZI minds-as-Mines!  
At my age, the difference is almost  
imperceptible!

But your letter may work  
wonders should officials prove  
unkind.

Kublai Khan provided such a

2

piece of identification to Marco Polo,  
and it served him well.

In the glorious days of William II  
I had a magical card that gave my  
coachman right of way, almost as rapid  
as that of an Irish Cardinal in the  
traffic of an American metropolis.

Your letter shall be displayed only  
in case the firing squad of Hitler  
has been ordered to take aim at me.

my ship is the Conte di Savoia  
sailing for Naples on Saturday February  
3<sup>d</sup> - at NOON.

Can you let me have the  
company of my niece Charlotte? -  
wife of him whom you have

ordered to LONDON as Assistant U.S. Military Attache -  
Captain Bryan CONRAD - U.S. Field Artillery - a first  
rate Polo Player; and much married husband.

Charlotte is in her home - the "Squirrels" - at  
Highland Falls [just below West Point].

She pines like a Yankee Penelope for her beloved  
Bryan warrior! She cannot secure a passport!  
Is there no clause in our Constitution that restores  
a wife to her husband - a clause in the interests  
of conjugal morality + domestic security!?

Your kind message to Kyrä, her babe and the longlegged Louis Ferdinand shall be delivered so soon as I cross the Alps from Rome.

But please dry the eyes of my beautiful niece who cannot endure life without her Captain Conrad! She can give bonds for exemplary good behavior - no time limit - for she is very much at home "over there!" She has inherited my father's library and bookish taste.

Your happy maribund

Pauline Sigel

P.S. the Conrads have no children!

T. : **RB**  
His Excellency



The President  
The "WHITE HOUSE"

WASHINGTON.

C  
O  
P  
Y

January 24, 1940

POULTNEY BIGELOW,  
MALDEN ON HUDSON.

My dear Excellency -

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But your letter may work wonders should officials prove unkind.

Kubla! Khan provided such a piece of identification to Marco Polo, and it served him well.

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Your happy moribund

(Signed) POULTNEY BIGELOW

P.S. The Conrads have no children!

PSF

March 4 Bigelow 1940-3  
File Personal  
HOTEL NASSAUER HOF  
WIESBADEN  
Fernsprecher: 89781  
Telegraph-Adresse:  
"NASSAUTEL WIESBADEN"

my dear Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Here is my ultima Thule - for these waters help my gout. The little children are on their way to school as usual, very well fed; many soldier boys are strolling about on short leave from the front - the theaters + cafes function as usual, and my friends keep asking me why England should continue this needless war? I give it up!

. 4

I go each night - opera -  
concert or play; and find  
thorough preparation agst  
possible bombardments. on the  
play bill is notice to follow  
the theater janitors to "refuges"  
and the janitors here are not  
pretty flappers, but grizzled  
warriors retired from active  
service.

Germany is leaving nothing  
to hap hazard, but - in the  
spirit of Moltke and Clausewitz,  
preparing for the worst whilst  
hoping for the best.

(3)

HOTEL NASSAUER HOF  
WIESBADEN

FERNSPRECHER: 56761  
TELEGRAMM-ADRESSE:  
"NASSAUER WIESBADEN"

Before the Conductor waved his baton, a huge white curtain displayed the same warning that I found on my play bill - to follow each his grizzled janitor to the safety dungeon on the first alarm, + then return to our seats when danger had ceased.

I note no change from normal until the opera house prepares for the home journey. Then most of the ladies pull

4

from their sacks little  
chinese lanterns lighted by a  
bit of christmas candle; and  
thus armed they start for home  
without fear - for all germans  
are good at footing it.

The men, + myself included,  
tap the path with walking stick,  
+ pretend they're blind until  
they bump up against their  
own hotel. of accidents I  
hear none, for taxis are few +  
cautiously slow whilst women +  
children are in great majority.

5

HOTEL NASSAUER HOF  
WIESBADEN

FERNSPRECHER: 50751  
TELEGRAMM-ADRESSE:  
"NASSAUTEL WIESBADEN"

From the Italian frontier - Brenner  
to Wiesbaden my train was crowded  
with soldiers on furlough - mostly  
handsome young fellows - cheery  
and helpful to me.

Some of my home friends  
assured me that I should be  
insulted or beaten if I  
uttered a word of English or  
exposed my Légion d'Honneur  
bit of ribbon at my button hole.  
on the contrary!

I was helped at Munich,  
at Nuremberg, at Würzburg and  
at Wiesbaden, where my 3

heavy valises had to be lifted<sup>b</sup>  
from the rack + "evacuated"  
to the platform.

I'm sailing from Trieste on  
march 18<sup>th</sup> via Gib. Lisbon  
+ Azores to the Hudson - due  
at Malden Homestead April 1<sup>st</sup>.  
S.S. VULCANIA  
If Sumner Welles opens his  
Harvard Eyes + Knows how  
to draw out his fellow  
passengers he will corroborate  
this plain tale from Yale,  
+ thank God, as I do, for  
an F. D. Roosevelt strong  
enough to keep us out of this  
war - at least partially.

HOTEL NASSAUER HOF  
WIESBADEN

Fernsprecher: 507 51  
 Telegramm-Adresse:  
 "NASSAUER WIESBADEN"

of course our ship was  
halted by a British cruiser at  
Gibraltar + will probably be also  
halted on our home journey.

In 1812 such behavior ~~was~~  
would have been *casus belli*!

Today we forget HISTORY.  
+ substitute HYSTERIA.

No more until you be  
settled with your beloved Mama  
in Springwood.

In Trieste I shall visit  
the Palace that was the last  
real home of Mexican Maximilian  
and his beautiful Carlotta -  
MIRAMARE!

8

The U. S. had a glorious, 1848,  
and worth while, war that  
gave us California Texas &c...  
It was also an act of statesman-  
ship to order Napoleon III to retire  
from Mexico unless he desired his  
backside perforated with U. S.  
bayonets. 1866.

There were "giants" in those days!  
John Bigelow was in Paris!  
Napoleon hated him with good reason.

Yours with much love

Pauline Bigelow

To  
His  
Excellency



The President  
the white House

WASHINGTON.

abgeschickt : —

Louise Sigelow

2/3.

HOTEL HASBAUER HOF  
WIESBADEN



March 17. 1940.

EXCELSIOR SAVOIA PALACE

TRIESTE

Trieste

file PSF Bigelow

My dear resident Roosevelt

This morning I strolled miles  
and miles amid the beautiful  
woods of MIRAMARE.

It was a "sentimental journey";  
yet no woman crossed my  
path; and the one man  
who did, might have proved  
wearisome to Laurence Sterne.

(2)

That man was also strolling  
leisurely - an obvious gentleman  
of scholarly manner - elderly -  
dignified.

Him I accosted in French,  
enquiring my way to Maximilian's  
Palace - for I was lost in  
the labyrinth of artfully planned  
paths.

He gave me his card - Count  
MICHELÉLI. His Uncle, so he  
said, was the adjutant of the

would be "Emperor" of Mexico.

I shall refer this to the beautiful  
Bertha Harding - author of: Shadow Crown -  
as soon as I reach home.

The Count shared with me warm  
sympathy for both Carlotta and her "Max" -  
both victims of Jesuit mendacity and  
napoleonic political chicanery.

But this Count carried my thoughts to  
Springwood, not merely by the

milage of this estate, but the (4)  
multiplicity of tree life. I saw norway  
pine hob nobbing with Singapore  
bamboo; and olives close to oaks.  
Count Micheli told me that Maximilian  
planned and superintended every bit  
of landscape gardening here and  
also the buildings + interior fittings.

Doubtless, like many another such,  
his joy was in making the place.



EXCELSIOR SAVOIA PALACE TRIESTE

TRINOMITELLI  
M. AP. S. C. AP. S.  
1877-1878

5

But once made, he turned for conquest else where - and the Devil tempted him. Or was it his Carlotta? - the glamor of an Imperial crown amid the volcanoes of Mexico!

The Park of Miramare is open to the Public, save only to that portion protecting the palace inmates from publicity. Just now it shelters the King's Cousin, Duke of Aosta - or, rather, the

Duchess, whose husband is  
momentarily in Abyssinia.

when you turn y. back on  
white House worries, then pull down  
from y. Springwood shelf the 5  
volumes of John Bigelow's  
"Retrospections" - his fascinating  
pages telling in great detail  
the rascally behavior of the  
Third Napoleon in his efforts  
to help the slave states while  
outwardly observing neutrality.

(7)  
Count Micheili being Austrian, wasted  
little of his breath in praise of Mussolini;  
much less did he eulogize Juarez who  
ordered Maximilian shot. As to  
Pius IX, who caused Carlotta to become  
a mad house wreck, he could not  
comment - save to his "father" Confessor.

And so ends my last day in Europe,  
at least for 1940.

I went no further than Wiesbaden,  
thence to Munich & so, over the Brenner,

to catch the Vulcania on march 18<sup>th</sup> / 18  
in Trieste.

Germany is invulnerable and irresistible.  
She is relatively as capable of a  
long struggle as she was under Frederic  
the great who made head against  
an alliance of all Catholic Europe  
from 1740 until 1763 - [having  
short interruptions].

She is relatively stronger than when



EXCELSIOR SAVOIA PALACE  
TRIESTE

7.000 HOTEL  
II APPL. 1912  
n. 114

19

she rose as one man in 1813  
and chased napoleon across the  
Rhine in January of 1814, and  
won the battle of Waterloo in  
1815.

She is now carefully doing  
what other threatened nations  
sh<sup>d</sup> imitate; what Pericles  
did in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B. C.,  
conscribing every man, woman  
& child for service in the  
common cause - not  
wait until the enemy is at  
our gates.

The British Press gives much space to whatever can injure Hitler; so called massacres of Poles; cruelty to Priests; misery in concentration camps. You can relegate such things to the same limbo which contains account of Southern cruelty to northern prisoners in our civil war.

The German is normally a family man - good husband & father - law abiding,

hating cruelty and the Inquisition,  
averse to conspiracies, assassination  
and all such tools dear to Papists.  
Whenever you hear in the papers any  
charges of abnormal behavior on  
the part of Germans, you can seek some  
comfort in reading any & every war,  
since Moses broke into the land  
of Canaan & glorified ~~the~~ butchery  
by Joshua and his gang.  
Germany is today carefully "rationed"

but her school children look rosy &  
well fed; one sees universal poverty  
but no tramps or mendicants. Life  
goes on as in Peace times, but one  
feels that at any moment the supreme  
struggle may commence & one also feels  
that nothing has been left to chance!  
The Spirit of Mother still rules - and also  
that of the Great Frederic

And now for Malden on Hudson!  
Best messages to your mama none  
such, and spasa non stop, from your  
maribund pilgrim

Poulney Sigelow

His  
Excellency

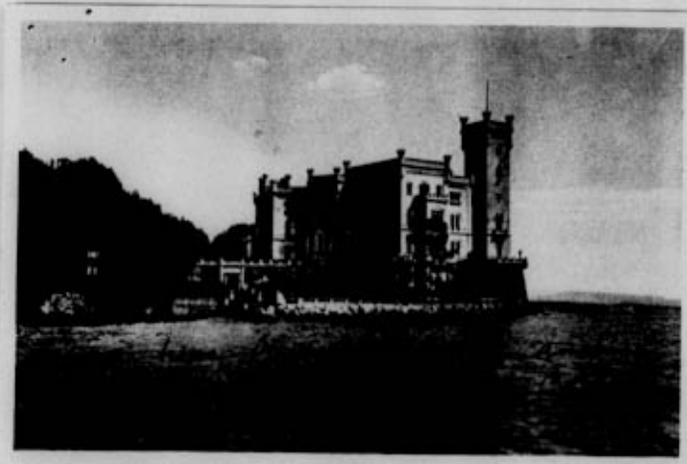


Franklin Roosevelt

White House

WASHINGTON





Trieste - Miramare.



.....  
.....  
.....



No. 8107



M/V VULCANIA

off Ponta del GADA - Azores  
Thursday March. 28. 1940.

File personal Jan 3

PSF  
Bigelow

2

My dear President Roosevelt.

It is not alone your special  
mouth piece WELLES whose ship  
was piratically boarded at Gib.  
This Royal Italian Mail craft was  
also stopped and forcibly held  
for ten hours in contravention  
of International treaties - notably  
the one signed in 1785 by

Frederic the Great and Ben.  
Franklin.  
that humane treaty protected  
neutral shipping from interference  
during just such a barbarous  
war as England is now seeking  
to make even more injurious  
to innocent christians.  
Summer Welles was only once  
held up.

This ship twice! we were  
forcibly stopped off PATRAS,  
within Greek territorial waters,

almost within sight of the Spot where Byron died for the liberty of Hellas - at messolonghi in 1830 - when my father was a student at Union - Schenectady ..

Now is the moment for feeling the proud pulse of General Franco as once I felt that of 2 great Spaniards in 1898 - Castelar, who was President of the first Spanish Republic in 1870 and CANOVAS the last Great Prime minister of Spain - who paid with his life, when compelled to fight the American Army + navy of that unhappy year.

I've never yet met Franco, but I feel that every true American would vote for any President who insisted upon our treaty rights; and especially those for which our navy fought with glory in 1812, 1813, 1814. [+ especially Andrew Jackson at the battle of New Orleans!]

England treats with respect only such

15

as have given her a good pounding.  
She searched our ships between 1783<sup>3</sup> and 1812 and we searched her's in 1862  
when Wilkes took two Confederate agents  
out of the Royal mail S.S. "Trent!"

Palmerston blustered and every Jingo plus  
Punch + the TIMES clamored for war; but  
Seward accepted the London challenge +  
John Bull backed down.

Today England is equally blustersome -  
unreasonably boastful - insolent because  
neutrals are not united.

Feel the pulse of General Franco - but  
first concentrate our best battle craft  
at Tangiers or some such handy port;  
and then send round a kindly circular  
invitation to Italy + all Scandinavian Courts  
pledging our support to the humane  
treaty signed by the Great Frederic only one  
year before he died.

Our fleet should be a match for that  
of John Bull. Do not call upon Japan  
and Franco.

Frederic the Great was only 28 when he  
became King of a nation without prestige.

6

within one year thereafter he had beaten Austria and won the decisive battle of MOLLWITZ. From then on to the close of the Seven Years war he kept the field victoriously; fought an enemy that was usually much superior numerically, yet he made up by better strategy; better discipline and complete confidence in their leaders.

France needs Gibraltar and we need Bermuda - to say nothing of other agreeable resorts on the way to Panama.

France is young & needs the prestige that his country lost in 1898. Your enemies are the money changers who are growing rich by watching the stock market where war material fluctuates.

Good by - my dear President. KYRA and her LOUIS Ferdinand send you loving messages in return for yours conveyed to them by ever your honorary and unpaid maiden Pundit

Pauline Sigelow

P. Life in Germany was just what I anticipated when I sought a passport.



His Excellency The President  
Springwood  
HYDE PARK

n. y.

Pauline Sigelov



m/n VULCANIA

PSF  
Bigelow

Warm Springs, Ga.,  
April 20, 1940.

My dear Neighbor:-

I am certainly glad that you are safely back and I hope the cure at Wiesbaden did its usual good.

I hope to see you this Summer but my visits to Hyde Park cannot well be planned ahead. There is always the danger that Germany will overnight extend her "protective occupation" to several more nations which have rather gloried in their right to self-government through a number of centuries.

It seems to me that I remember some rather admirable efforts by my Dutch ancestors to throw off the yoke of the Inquisition and of the so-called German Emperor -- also certain valiant attempts of Serbs and even Bulgarians to get rid of their allegiance to the Mohammedan caliphs. However, as long as Germany has invented "protective occupation", I suppose the theory could very readily be extended to Canada, Mexico and the Canal Zone.

Always sincerely,

Poultney Bigelow, Esq.,  
Malden-on-Hudson,  
New York.

Pullney Pugh has rec<sup>d</sup>  
no acknowledgment of a  
letter posted to you from  
Wiesbaden or else Rome.  
It's been probably illegally  
Milton on Hudson

appropriated by a  
British war vessel at  
Pinar del Rio



1937 - 1938

TRIESTE: 275.000 ab. - Rivas. ferr. per l'Estato  
Cristina - Interamio: Castello di S. Giusto, Teatro  
Romano, Basilica. - Dista un'ora dalle Grotte di Po-  
stumia e da Grado - Saluggia di fama internazionale

Here I spent a  
whole day exploring  
the last happy home of Carlotta  
and Maximilian - a magnificent  
park - a labor of love - all  
created by their own sense of  
botanical and artistic fitness.  
No wonder that my meditations  
were a bit gloomy! *FB*

COPY

April 14, 1940  
Poultney Bigelow  
Malden on Hudson

My dear neighbor & honored friend:

The NAZI Mines have spared me] their "MINDs" also -- thanks to your Visa for Wiesbaden. In gratitude, I quote here from George Bancroft's 10 Volume History of the United States, (p. 230 of the 3d Vol.) some words that should cause the British rulers to reconsider their piratical regulations in regard to stopping, searching and seizing American mail bags -- of which I was witness both in Greek and Gibraltar waters.

"To the Tory ministry of Queen Anne belongs the honor of having inserted in the treaties of Peace -- (Utrecht 1713) a principle which, but for England, would, have wanted a Vindicator"

"What Holland asserted, England kept alive and Prussia received, till it was safe against any possible combination."

"The IDEA which GROTIUS promulgated, Bolingbroke fostered, till the Great Frederic could become its champion, and all the Continent of Europe invoke America to secure its triumph: --

"FREE SHIPS SHALL ALSO GIVE a FREEDOM TO GOODS"

"The name of Contraband was narrowly defined and the right of blockade severely limited" . . . . .

Bancroft gave his whole time up to the year of his death in the writing of that great History -- it absorbed him as "Roman decline" monopolized GIBBON, or as Ben Franklin did my father.

He and Bancroft were warm friends -- both of them old time DEMOCRATS in days when our political banners carried such slogans as: "Free Trade and Sailors' Rights!"

The more I read Bancroft the more do I marvel at his industry, persistence and political courage. He always called me "Poultney" -- commencing in 1870, when he was "Ambassador" to William I and Bismark and lasting until he could no longer mount his horse for the customary exercise in Washington, 1891. A grand old man! -- over 90 when he left this earth.

And what a stimulus & warning to ambitious would be historians, like yourself. What interminable digging in worm eaten, frequently misleading pamphlets, or ~~digging~~ even manuscript reports! My "History of Germany" covers only 40 years & cost me 10 hard years of research and much money outlay. To which I hear you explain: "could to God Bigelow had ceased to write altogether! Yet I want much to run down to that Library of yours and keep hoping that you'll drop all frivolous ambition on the Potomac in favor of some "History of my own time" written on the Hudson.

Much love to Madame Votre Mere adorable & Mrs. Franklin from always the same

POULTNEY BIGELOW

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Pauline Bigelow

To:

from PH

His

Excellency

The President

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



Good Health

To you and a  
Life Sentence  
as

"Protector"

of these U. S. A. NO. 28  
UNION MADE  
IN U. S. A.

WISHING  
YOU



In Munich the  
Burgomeister's term  
is 10 years.

But in case he is  
not re-elected, the  
City must pay him his  
full salary any way!

Consequently his  
term is usually 20 years  
+ the best years of his  
life! It works well in Germany.

Why not also for a  
President in Washington?

Shakespeare Birthday 1940

4-28-26 4<sup>0</sup>.

File  
personal  
PSF  
Bigelow

My dear farmer neighbor

"Protective occupation" is a good word - borrowed from us, I hope. England gradually and benevolently occupied the whole of India; altho in the 16 thirties, [or about the time that the first Bigelow took "protective occupation" of a good slice near Boston] England had but a few modest factories or Trading Posts: madras, Calcutta, & finally Bombay - about 1639.

"Protective occupation" gave us Texas & California, Cuba & the Panama canal. Seward made the

12

slogan: "manifest destiny", his excuse  
for annexing Alaska. But his real  
reason was deep seated resentment  
because of Downing street's bullying  
attitude - first over the TRENT affair  
of 1862, + then the offensive attitude  
with which she flaunted her delight  
when American clipper ships were  
burned or sunk by the Alabama.  
one of them was the sister ship of our SURPRISE!

Seward conspired secretly with  
Russia and a majority of the Senate;  
+ chose the right moment at the  
close of a crowded session, to  
hurry the bill through, when John  
Bull was dozing and Russia still  
smarting from the Crimean war.

our "Protective occupation" has  
been benificent as a rule; and

the same can be said of England's and Holland's + now Germany's.

Prussia did much "protective occupation" under Frederic the Great, annexing all of Silesia and giving religious freedom to Protestant minorities.

In 1870 she took back the German province of Alsace, which Louis XIV had stolen, and from which he drove out all Protestants - that was in 1709.

Germany gave protective occupation to the German section of Denmark in 1864; and in 1866 annexed Hannover, Bavaria etc. making an Empire in which all enjoyed liberty of Conscience.

She is now occupying "protectively", territory that was formerly part of the ~~German~~ old very backward and Catholic Double Eagle Empire; and, she is determined to "protect" her smaller + weaker neighbours from the common enemy of good Government, the Moscow Communist.

I'm telling you what I would "protect + occupy" had I the power.

we made a great mistake in withdrawing our flag from Vera Cruz & Mexico in 1848, for France put 40 000 soldiers there in 1864 and Japan may put 400 000 in 1944. A weak and priest ridden neighbor is ever a source of danger - as Poland has been to Europe, and Ireland to Great Britain.

I don't worry about Canada - yet so soon as you have a free moment I hope you may order all custom houses abolished and all navigation restrictions also, the whole 3000 miles between Vancouver and Louisburg.

I should have staid 3 weeks at Wiesbaden - but I grew homesick after my second one, for not one single letter reached me from home - all stolen by the Piratical British who forget that we licked them in the war of 1812 and - but you know all this much better than Ever Yours

Roultney Sigelow

C O P Y

*PSF  
Bigelow*

*file  
personal  
no ans -  
Mar - 3*

POULFNEY BIGELOW  
MALDEN ON HUDSON

June 18, 40  
Anniversary of Waterloo!

My dear President in Partibus!

You have deserved my gratitude for letting me make the run to Wiesbaden and thus fight my gout. Pray, add to your kindnesses, by letting me have a cup of tea on some day when your angel Mama is at the Tea Urn and yourself not suffocated by volunteer advisers in search of something with a salary!

Of course, I agree with you on your time honored political maxim that weak neighbors are a source of danger. We of the U. S. would probably occupy Canada rather than have her protected by any "Great Power" distasteful to us.

Mexico would of course be added to our southern states were the new and greatly stronger Japan to demand a naval base in lower California. We took Alaska from Canada because Mr. Seward wished to get even with England for her insolence to us during our Civil War.

Why not anticipate events and proclaim absolute Free Trade in the spirit of Cobden and Bright -- Ben Franklin and Mr. Graham Sumner - between every square mile north of the Panama Canal.

Already Canada and the U. S. are almost interchangeable terms. I had almost said that we could outvote Canada at her own polls!, and each year come thousands to us who are welcomed as teachers, nurses, doctors, clergymen. We cannot say which is which and are glad to have them. Free Trade would abolish lots of sinecure hindrances to good understanding along our frontier and lead unobtrusively to such a good understanding that henceforth we would speak of Canadian as now we do of a Texan or Californian.

Yes! Its my "invention"! I give you the patent! Germany has used the words: "Protective occupation" such as Cromwell called himself "Protector". Its nothing new. Frederic The Great, a very enlightened and humane ruler, laid stress on the need of "protecting" small or weak states. He helped in the partition of Poland for the same reason that we annexed California and intervening territory in 1848. Frederic had other reasons. He needed a buffer between himself and Russia, to say nothing of Austria. Moreover, Poland was a land of chronic revolution - a continental Ireland - a very explosive and therefore very costly neighbor - priest ridden - grossly ignorant - credulous - always open to some crafty enemy. Priests have kept Poland and Ireland in perpetual turmoil. They dread Hitler because Germany insists on tolerance and good education and not mere mumbling of hagiological humbuggery.

On the 22nd, I must attend the wedding of Joanna Ellett, lovely grandchild of my, now dead, brother John; Colonel, former captain in the 10th negro cavalry who was 4 times wounded on San Juan

Hill - a true West Pointer!

Otherwise, I am always here, hoping for your command to kiss once more the gracious finger tips of Madame Mere, ~~never~~ ever with respectful compliments to Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt - *Yours*

Poultney Bigelow

P. S. Last night I reread an excellent account of the Waterloo Campaign, when Germany saved England from disaster, when Blucher hurried to the help of worn out Wellington, altho all the previous day had been one of battle for the Prussians - at Ligny.

Blucher urged Wellington to join him in making the victory complete, by a pursuit of the retreating Napoleon. Wellington refused. His reasons were that his men were weary and his regiments needed reorganization.

Yet the English had not had as much fighting and marching as had the plucky Prussian Allies! Blucher, over 70 years old, went on alone - also GNEISENAU. Drummer boys were mounted on spare horses and all the way from the battle field to the French frontier, from 11 pm to the following dawn, the French fled in panic across fields with no rear guard, no leaders, no military formation, a mere military rabble scared by pursuing drums.

Napoleon forsook his travelling carriage and baggage train - mounted a horse and slipped away in the dark - much as he slipped away from Russia in 1812. He lost his hat and sword - both of them I saw in Berlin.

June 18. 40  
Anniversary of Waterloo!

RECEIVED BY  
MADAM JACKSON

My dear President in Partibus.

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letting me make the run to Wiesbaden  
and thus fight my goat.

Pray, add to your Kindnesses, by  
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Yours ever - with respectful compliments to Mrs. T.D. Roosevelt -  
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both of them I saw in Berlin.

PSF  
Bigelow  
Gen 3

August 16, 1949.

My dear Neighbors:

What happened to my letter to you on April twentieth of this year I do not know, as I congratulated you upon your return from Wiesbaden and sent the letter to Malden.

I don't think there is a chance for Prince Frederick. He is not under my jurisdiction!

Very sincerely yours,

Poultney Bigelow, Esq.,  
Malden-on-Hudson,  
New York.

THE PRESIDENT WANTED A PICK UP TO  
FIND OUT WHEN HE LAST WROTE POULTNEY  
BIGELOW. ATTACHED IS THE LAST  
LETTER HE WROTE HIM AND ALSO MR.  
BIGELOW'S LAST LETTER TO THE  
PRESIDENT.

C  
O  
P  
Y

POULTNEY BIGELOW  
Malden on Hudson

August 11, 1940

My dear neighbor, farmer, friend, and lover of trees:

Prince Louis Ferdinand has lost a couple of brothers, killed at the front; but the beautiful Kyra and her two splendid babes are well, so far as I learn from Doorn, but my latest from that quarter is dated June 7th received here June 28.

Today, however, comes a letter from the younger Prince Frederick, "Fritzi", whom you doubtless remember at Springwood. He is now a prisoner in Canada - Aliens - Internment "L" --

But under an assumed name, to avoid, I presume, the curiosity of Press and Kodak Paul Prys!

He writes cheerfully, as one who is occupied - but says that he has no news of his family in 5 months.

You may have acknowledged my letters, but so far I have no trace of any. I sailed on Feb. 3d and returned here middle of April, having obeyed your orders, which were to go straight via Mussolini mail steamer, cure my Gout at Wiesbaden and so home again by the same route and flag.

Since Feb. 3 my letters were forwarded to me, but not one reached me whilst I was in Europe. All were piratically seized at Gibraltar in defiance of our Treaty with John Bull 1783 and our War of 1812!

Your health concerns me more than my letter bag; and I want much to come and have a cup of tea with Madame la Maman du President if the way opens providentially. Your brother-in-law of Algonac sent me his precious little paper on the family, but he says that your mother sailed on the Surprise in 1862 to China; whereas I was under the impression that 1865 was the year - 10 years ahead of

Yours faithfully,

POULTNEY BIGELOW

PS: Could I have Prince Fritz handed out by the Canadian Government? I would care for him here - make him do lumbering with me. My nephew, Colonel John Bigelow Dodge, is prisoner in Germany. Could you not arrange an exchange. He is grandson of Wm. E. Dodge, the famous cold water Y.M.C.A. - my youngest sister Flora is his mother - now turned British - widow of Lionel Guest (Wimborne!)

August 11. 1940.

MULTNEY BEELOW,  
MAILER OF HONORS.

THE WHITE HOUSE

AUG 13 9 48 AM '40

RECEIVED

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2

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PSF: Bigelow

August 20, 1940

Poultney Bigelow,  
Malden on Hudson.

*File  
personal*

C  
O  
P  
Y

My dear President:

Your laconic but perfectly lucid, message makes me pause in the midst of a chapter of my new book.

The theme is DICTATORS and I am not sure whether I should include Lincoln - or even Nero. I started with Pierpont the "Corsair" - but confused him with Morgan the Jamaica Buccaneer, who bought himself a title subsequently, and closed his life as a public benefactor, like Astor, Vanderbilt, Carnegie and other such philanthropists. Of course you belong in that series, especially if you do for the U.S. what Pericles did for the Empire of Hellas - conscript every man, woman, child, and make them work each in the manner best suited to his age, sex and bent of mind.

On second thought maybe I'd better wait until after Election day before taking so much risk! Pericles was much abused when he ran for office in Athens; but, when the world flocked soon afterwards to marvel at the AKROPOLIS and other creations of Phidias, Praxiteles, MYRON and their like, the democratic majority forgave him his extravagances to say nothing of one or two extra vigations out of Conjugal bounds!

Thank you for giving me hope as to Prince FRITZI. He is a good sport and complains of nothing. When you shall have annexed all the Islands between the St. Lawrence and the Essequibo, why not simplify our world position by abolishing that costly line of Customs between Canada and the

- 2 -

U.S.A., and thus create the happy union of the whole western continent from Behring Straits to Cape Bretons and from Panama to the North Pole. That would make Prince Frederic automatically your prisoner; and if you need an internment camp - my cow pasture is at your service!

Pity the poor Historian. He is compelled to speak the truth; and therefor must verify every statement he advances and sift conflicting evidence.

I'm glad your letter interrupted me, for the world is shifting about so recklessly that I should pause until the storm abates before saying more than that I wish to remain as ever your hermit neighbor and personal friend

(Signed) POULTNEY BIGELOW

P.S. If that work on DICTATORS ever gets done, maybe that prudence, or the police, may recommend posthumous publication - after the example of Boswell, his DIARY.

August 20. 1940

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(4)

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Pauline Digelau

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F.B.



His Excellency The President  
Springwood

Hyde Park.

n. y.

COPI

*file personal* PSF: Poultney Bigelow  
[1940]

The following is a letter signed by Poultney Bigelow of Malden on Hudson, dated October 10th, and which appeared in last Saturday's issue of THE HERALD TRIBUNE:

To the New York Herald Tribune:

Hitherto I have supported my honored neighbor and friend, Franklyn D. Roosevelt, for many reasons — not the least of which is his incomparable mother.

But that support, unimportant as it may seem, I now am forced to withdraw, because he deceived me by pretending neutrality whilst acting as though he desired war against Japan, Germany and Italy.

I wish to cast my vote for one who declares war at once upon any power who has the insolence to stop and search and plunder an American mail steamer when on her legitimate errand, with no war materials on board.

And now hand me a Wilkie button, and remember Commodore Wilkes and the Trent affair in 1861.

There were giants in those days; one was Seward, of New York.

POULTNEY BIGELOW



NEW YORK  
WORLD'S FAIR  
1940



*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
*President of the U.S.A.*  
*Washington, D.C.*