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Mr President;—

The President of the United States has charged me with a special mission to the government of the Helvetic Confederation. I have now the honor to present my credentials. In performing this agreeable duty permit me to give you an assurance of the lively and abiding solicitude of my country for the continued welfare of the Swiss and the perpetuity of the free institutions of Switzerland. Such solicitude is natural. Switzerland is not only a self-governing nation like America, but like America she is a Republic composed of sovereign commonwealths, zealously co-operating for the honor, the usefulness, and the prosperity of the whole. Under the operations of her enlightened system, the oppressed have an asylum, the free a home, in central Europe.

I indulge the hope, Mr President, that Switzerland will hereafter be better acquainted with America. Steam has so annihilated space that the frontiers of the two Unions are at present only about 13 days apart; and the distance between them, measured by time, will, most probably, be considerably further diminished. The commercial intercourse between the two Republics, already large, cannot fail to augment rapidly from year to year. The Swiss will assuredly find America, at no distant day, incomparably the best of all their customers for the products of their industry.

Switzerland and America, as is perfectly apparent, are bound to each other by inseparable political and commercial ties of paramount importance, to say nothing of the bonds created by an extended emigration of temperate, industrious, enterprising citizens from the former to the latter.

I entertain a confident belief, Mr President, that the children of William Tell and of Washington will remain true to themselves, down to the latest posterity; and that their principles of government will, in the Providence of the Almighty, make the circuit of the globe, — restoring to mankind its just title to the rights to which it was born. Those principles, happily, have nothing to fear from discussion, oral or written, nor from a dissemination of the Truth and Knowledge. Like light they travel, regardless of tyrants frowns — like light they convey to humanity the choicest blessings of Heaven.

