

PRINTING HOUSE SQUARE,

LONDON, E.C. 4.

28. Bramham Gardens, S.W.5.

Oct . 7. '26.

Dear Louis

I have your long letter: but you surely don't think it necessary to explain to me ? I know your sincerity and how impossible it would be for you to write or speak or draw anything except in accordance with your convictions.

It is a cause of great grief to me that we cannot see eye to eye ; but we knew that before. It is probably impossible ; for we live in different atmospheres, subject to different influences; and we must each hold to our opinions as our consciences bid us. But there is one point in your letter - which is not a matter of opinion but a matter of fact - on which I must correct you.

You say that it was " as a result of my outburst" (at the Hague) that " some weeks later the Mansion House luncheon was enacted". Your "outburst" had nothing to do with it. I do not think that I had at that time heard of it . It was simply that you were about to cease to live in England and I went to Lord Burnham and told him so and said : " England must not let him go without in some way showing its gratitude to him". He

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at once agreed . We discussed what could be done and, while I was there, he called up the Lord Mayor on the telephone. I am awfully sorry that you do not attach as much value to the Luncheon as we thought you would. But nobody was influenced by any motive in offering it to you (not by any outburst or anything else) except the purest goodwill .

On the larger political questions it is not any use our trying to convince each other. If only the United States ~~had~~ had stood by the agreement to guarantee France and to cancel war debts (and heaven knows Great Britain tried hard enough to make her !) it would be a different world. But it hurts us like anything that Europe seems not to distinguish between the American attitude and ours. As I have said in print, it will be for future ages to decide whether the Kaiser and the German War party or Senator Lodge and his friends did the world the greater injury. However !

None of these things touches my affection for and admiration of you. Florence would, of course, love to come to Brussels. At the moment our plans are all in chaos; but during the next week we shall probably know just what we can and cannot do -

With love to you all

