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Turin, Italy, 20 January 1866.

Honorable W. H. Seward  
U. S. Secretary of State  
Washington

ORSZÁGOS LEVELTÁR

Köszöntő-gyűjtemény

I. 4376

Dear and honoured Sir!

My worthy fellow Countryman  
Dr. Crapkey, now of California, gave  
me the pleasure of a call, on his re-  
turn from the east.

The pleasure I felt at meeting  
again that Gentleman, whom I hold  
in high esteem, both on account of  
his personal worth and for his ha-  
ving, so eminently maintained by  
his successful career, abroad the  
honour of the Hungarian name  
- the pleasure I say, was enhanced  
by his informing me, that there  
was some likelihood, that the U. S.  
may resolve on establishing a  
General Consulate and political  
Agency at Bukarest, for the united  
Principalities of Roumania.

From many obvious reasons I  
am to such an extent anxious to see  
this idea realized, that I could not  
allow myself, to let Mr Crapkey re-  
turn to the U. S. without availing



myself of the occasion, to request you, not  
to let this idea drop, but to give to it  
your eariness and favourable consi-  
deration.

Inconceivable domestic affliction  
superadded to public adversities, could not  
but leave an ineffaceable impression on  
my soul. - Few things in the world can  
interest me any longer. Yet amidst all  
the sadness and all the grief that benights  
my existence, never for a moment have  
I ceased to follow with intense interest  
the events of surpassing grandeur, which  
of late years have been trying the vita-  
lity of your great nation.

To you, the eminent Statesman  
patron, to whose wisdom and energy  
was allotted to have a share - second  
to none other - in guiding to an auspici-  
ous issue, those for ever memorable  
events; - to you I am not wanted to  
tell, that in the grand civil war of the  
American Republic, the battles of huma-  
nity were fought; and that by the tri-  
umph of your good cause, not only the  
durability of your own institutions  
and of your national existence, but  
also the future ascendancy of the  
Democratic principle has been assured  
for all mankind, comprised within the  
pale of the same civilisation.

Since every situation has its own  
logic, in my opinion it would be in perfect  
keeping with the logic of the situation  
which the U.S. have attained, should they  
everywhere in the family of nations  
secure a standing, from which they could

in a future more or less to near extent that influence, which according to the exigency of eventualities, their position may command, or their interests may advise.

By a fortuitous concurrence of circumstances, the Roumain principalities, may hope to be amongst the first, (if not the very first) of those nationalities which will advance to the position of independence. - You may in fact consider their dependence of Turkey as actually nominal, and virtually at an end. In reality: already the position of the Danube the joint protection of the great European powers, has given them a semi-independent standing, so that the diplomatic and commercial organs of the U.S. at Constantinople, are no longer in the position either to secure to the American trade that protection which it may chance to require in Roumania especially in the estuary of the Danube, the growing importance of which is evident from the fact of that great River becoming more and more the great artery of commercial relations between Central Europe and the East, - or to secure a standing for the U.S. so extensive from a competent influence in the future solution of the Oriental question, in which Roumania is evidently called upon to have a principal share.

If to these considerations we add the immediate vicinity of those Principalities to Hungary and Poland, which



in certain eventualities, might possibly bring about some claim, both to the political sympathies, and at least to the occasional humanitarian offices of the U.S.; I can not but think, that there are more than sufficient motives for the Govt of the U.S. to establish a politico-commercial organ at Brno Kuxest.

Should Your own views harmonize with these, I dare in good conscience affirm, that You could not make a better choice, one better adapted to the virtual requirements of the situation, than in appointing Mr Chap. May to that post.

I know him to be a man of honorable character, of practical tact, and of exquisite discretion, whom I hold in high esteem, and whom You may implicitly trust.

I should be the more glad to see him in that post, as I know that being a wealthy man, the financial side of the appointment is for him of no consideration, and that he would prove in case of need, a generous friend to those of my Countrymen, who chiefly from neighbouring Transylvania are in the habit of resorting in great numbers, to the principalities in commercial and industrial pursuits.

I avail myself of this opportunity to recall myself to Your kind recollections, and have the honour to renew to You the assurances of my highest and lasting regards.

W. Smith