June 9th, 1915-

My Dear Mr. President:

It is with sincere regret that I have reached the conclusion that I should return to you the Commission of Secretary of State with which you honored me at the beginning of your administration.

Obedient to your sense of duty, and actuated...
by the highest motives, you have prepared for transmission to the German Government a note in which I can not join without violating what I deem to be an obligation to my country, and the issue involved is of such moment that to remain a member of the cabinet would be as unfair to you as it would be to the cause which is nearest my
heart, namely, its prevention of war.
I, therefore, respectfully tender my resignation to take effect when this note is sent unless you prefer an earlier hour.
Like desires of reaching a peaceful solution of the problems arising out of the use of submarines against merchantmen we find ourselves differing irreconcilably as to the methods which should be employed.
It falls to your lot to speak officially for the nation; I consider it to be none the less my duty to endeavor as a private citizen to promote the end which you have in view by means which you do not feel at liberty to use.
In severing the intimate and pleasant relations which have existed be- tween us during the past...
two years permit me to acknowledge the profound satisfaction which it has given me to be associated with you in the important work which has come before the State Department and to thank you for the courtesies extended. With the heartiest good wishes for your
personal welfare and for the success of your administration, I am
my dear Sir President,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

W. J. Bryan