

MR. ROOSEVELT TO THE OUTLOOK'S READERS

I am very glad to be back once more in the Outlook office, and from time to time hereafter I shall have certain things to say to the readers of The Outlook. But first I would like to say one thing, through The Outlook, to those of my fellow-countrymen who write me letters, who extend me invitations, and who ask to see me. I am very deeply appreciative of their good will and kindness. I wish it were in my power to answer all the letters I receive, to accept the invitations extended to me, to see all those who wish to see me; but to do so is simply a physical impossibility, and even to attempt so much as to answer in person a rather small fraction of the letters, or to accept one in fifty of the invitations, would mean that I could do nothing else whatever. On some occasions the mail is so large that it is really necessary to leave a portion of the letters unanswered. So far as practicable, acknowledgments will be sent to each writer. I genuinely regret that it is not in my power personally to read and acknowledge each letter. As I have said before, if I even attempted this, I should not be able to do one other thing of any kind or sort during six days of the week, and I should be hard pressed to so much as keep Sunday to myself. What I have said also applies to my kind friends who wish to see me in person; and it applies even more strongly to the requests to me to speak. About all I can do is in this public way to try to express the very real gratitude I feel for the kindness that lies behind these letters and requests, and my very real regret that it is a physical impossibility for me to accede to more than a very small proportion of the requests, or even to answer personally more than a small proportion of the letters.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.