**NLI 13073/13/ii/2 of 11 March 1905**

**Francis Cowper to Casement**

13 Rua João de Deus 3 Estrella

Lisbon 11th March 1905

**[At top in left margin:]** Lady Gosselin leaves for London on the 26th over land and the body will go by sea.

My dear Casement

Yours of the 28th. Feb found me ill in bed with a dangerous attack of influenza which affected all my weak points – heart, lungs & intestines. I suffered dreadfully and almost thought I was booked for a better world but fortunately am now getting better, and must hope no relapse will take place – such a lot of people are dying here this winter in consequence of the unusually cold N.E. winds. I caught it at poor Sir Martin’s funeral.

 I can understand your great grief at the loss of such a good friend. He was very fond of you, and always spoke of you in the most kindly terms. Poor Sir Martin! I was dreadfully cut up at hearing the sad and unexpected news.

 Only four days before he was in such high spirits and full of fun at a dance at the Legation on the evening before he started for his trip with the Fleet, his fatal trip. I think he must have caught a chill and want of care and proper treatment from Vigo towards Lisbon was probably the cause of his sudden demise. Poor Lady Gosselin only reached Busoro?? In time to say goodbye to him for ever! Poor Woman!

His death caused a profound impression here as he was universally liked by everybody. In fact no one could help liking him. The Portuguese Government undertook the Funeral which was almost regal. I have seen nothing like it in Lisbon - nearly the whole population attended and expressions of sorrow were heard on all sides. I am sending you 5 numbers of ‘Seculo’ with detailed accounts. It was a grandly solemn but sad funeral at the cemetery – few were the eyes that remained dry.

I hope, dear Casement, that you are now all right again, and that your trip around the world will be an enjoyable one to you.

I am now in the full enjoyment of my retirement, but have not quite settled what my future plans will be, I have not yet decided on remaining here.

Churchill has not yet arrived to take up his appointment. I hear that young MacDonnell is in London again and tried hard to get Lisbon, but was too late. Write and let me know all about yourself.

Yrs Always

**[Unreadable signature but Francis Cowper’s. There is a later 19 July 1913 letter from England in NLI 13081/1/17 once catalogued as from ‘Owpen’ now corrected to Cowper.]**