

To Wilson St., Bklyn, N.Y.

March 19, 1922.

Colonel Parker Hitt,  
 War College,  
 Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Hitt:

You must permit me to thank you - very warmly - for your introduction, on Wednesday last, to Major Moorman & Mr. Friedman (? I wonder how this last named gentleman likes to spell his name). They both treated me very courteously.

I have no hesitation, however, in saying at once that so far as their competence to pass judgment on my principle is concerned, they are not in the class of Colonel Hitt.

Both of them, for instance, helped on the necessity of sending all messages for a single day in one key, and Mr. Friedman evidently thought it a serious objection to my device that a compression of an indefinite number of messages deciphered from the same starting point - and without introduction of extra-automatic changes - would lead to the decipherment of these messages.

I do not know whether I have made clear the point of his objection, but being that the very purpose of my principle is to achieve illimitable diversity, a criticism such as Mr. Friedman's is just as reasonable as it would be to animadvert on the inability of a bird to fly without wings.

Prescinding from this objection, however, Mr. Friedman expressed his belief that the cipher product of my principle might be broken. He asked me to leave my device with him a while, and I did so.

I have come to the conclusion that either I am a poor exponent of my own principle or else that men generally - and cipher experts particularly - concern themselves very little, if at all, with "principles". Mr. Friedman, for instance, either would not, or could not, see anything in the method as necessarily implying the validity of my claim for indecipherability. He wanted product - lots of it - to work on. For all my device looks so ingenious and innocuous - like a steam rail!

I am bending every effort to construct at least one instrument ~~with~~ which can be used with comparative expedition and accuracy, and, if I do not hear from you or Mr. Friedman in the meanwhile, I shall have ready, I hope, a large quantity of product together with an operable instrument in less than a month.

Thanking you once more, Colonel Hitt, for your courtesy, and particularly for your kind remarks in introducing me to the Major Throonman, I am

Yours very sincerely  
J. F. Byrne.