

*Murray
Langdon*

DEC 21 1912
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
S.C.

A. BARTON HEPBURN
EIGHTY-THREE CEDAR STREET
NEW YORK

December 20, 1912.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler,
c/o Columbia University,
New York City:

My dear Mr. President:

I am more than pleased, delighted, with your very cordial and kindly note just received.

I have had in mind to place the French interests in this City on a par with the German, for some little time, and it seemed an opportune moment for carrying the plan into execution, its consummation being easily within the range of my ability.

You conceive most things at Columbia on such a magnificent scale (\$10,000,000 or \$12,000,000 was it, which you estimated as Columbia's needs, in the last report?), their characterization even is embarrassing to a "near-millionaire." I desire to keep out of the newspapers, for fear that public judgment might connect my recent decoration with the presentation of this house, and that would be extremely unpleasant, and equally unpleasant for these representatives of France.

By the way, since you are a Commander in the Legion of Honor, I suppose I am likely to receive orders at any time. I assure you I shall gladly respond, but perhaps you can give me some "points" in advance, as to the accoutrements, equipment, day's rations and other paraphernalia with which I must report.

I know of no one from whom commendation would be received with greater charm than your good self.

Very truly yours,

A. Barton Hepburn