

December 22, 1911

His Excellency

The French Ambassador

French Embassy

Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Ambassador

The first Visiting French Professor,
appointed in accordance with the formal arrangement
recently entered into between Columbia University and
the University of Paris, has just completed his period
of service and returned to France.

It is appropriate that I should
express to you our profound satisfaction at the auspicious
beginning of what we trust will be an increasingly
important movement to bind together the intellectual
and academic life of France and the United States.

Mr. Lanson was the happiest possible
choice to inaugurate this undertaking. The scope and
profundity of his scholarship, the brilliancy of his
expositions and the charm of his personality united to
give great distinction to his presence among us.

You will be interested to know that
M. Lanson, while at Columbia, delivered two stated

academic lectures weekly on The Development of Thought in the French Literature of the Eighteenth Century; and, in addition, conducted one seminar, or practical exercise, weekly on The Methods of Expression and Study of the Texts of the Great French Writers of the Eighteenth Century. It is needless to say that all of his work was performed with remarkable ability and effectiveness.

Moreover, during the ten weeks of his stay in America, he delivered about forty public lectures before various institutions of learning, clubs, societies and other organizations. Of these, six constituted a course of unusual importance before the Lowell Institute of Boston. In fact, I fear that M. Lanson was almost too generous in accepting these invitations and that, perhaps, he fatigued himself unduly by so doing. Among the universities that he visited were Johns Hopkins, Yale, Harvard, Cornell, Michigan, Pittsburg, as well as Wellesley and Smith of the colleges for women.

It cannot be doubted, therefore, that the end that was in view in establishing this new professorial exchange between France and American has been appreciably accomplished by the extraordinary, successful activity of M. Lanson.

With highest regard and greetings for the New Year to Madam Jusserand and yourself, I am

Sincerely yours,