

President's File

September 30, 1911

M. Henri Bergson

College de France

Paris, France

Sir:

On behalf of Columbia University I venture to ask whether it would be at all possible for you to consider coming as our guest in the autumn of 1912, or if that be not possible, in the autumn of 1913, in order to deliver some lectures on philosophy and to stimulate by your personal presence and conversation our teachers and advanced students of that subject.

I am sending under separate cover an announcement of our work in philosophy, which you will see is extensive. Doubtless the names of some of my colleagues in that field, particularly Professors Dewey, Woodbridge, Adler and Montague, are known to you. We should welcome you most heartily, and do everything in our power to promote your comfort and satisfaction while here. If you shall be favorably impressed with this earnest invitation, it will give me much pleasure to take up with you matters of detail as to date, number of lectures, appropriate honorarium, etc.

Perhaps you are aware that this University has a formal arrangement with the authorities of the University of Paris, for the presence here in the autumn of each year of a visiting French professor. This year we are to have the pleasure

of welcoming M. Lanson, who will be with us during October, November and a part of December. It is quite likely that if you were willing to come to us in 1912 at a similar time, or in 1913, that arrangements could be made through M. Liard by which you would be designated to serve as visiting French professor. But whether that be possible or not, we shall welcome you most cordially if you can come in any capacity, and I beg that you will take our invitation into most earnest consideration.

With high regard and every good wish, I am,

Faithfully yours,