

✓
Roganzon
Romaine Depo

March 31, 1916

M. Liard

The Sorbonne

Paris, France

My dear M. Liard:

On returning from an absence in the Northwest, I have your very kind and helpful letter of March 1. My reason for cabling you under date of February 26 was because I suspected that M. Guérard was just the sort of person that you describe. He has, however, made friends in America who have strongly urged him for appointment to Columbia. Your letter, however, puts an end entirely to that movement.

We have all been greatly pleased with Capt. Merlant. He is now traveling in the Western part of the country and expects to return to New York within two or three weeks. It may be that we shall wish to invite him to remain with us for at least a year or two as Professor of French Literature and French Institutions, for our advanced or graduate students. The endorsement of him by MM. Lanson and Bédier will be most influential with us, for the opinion of those scholars is held in universal esteem here.

As soon as M. Merlant returns here and we have conferred with him, I shall write you the result. The name of M. Michaut is new to me, but what you write of him is most interesting and we may wish to ask more about him later on.

I am very happy to hear from M. Pettit Dutailis that he can come to us as lecturer on the Carpentier Foundation, and you may be sure that a scholar of such distinguished standing and such widely recognized contributions to his chosen subject will be received here with every mark of appreciation and acclaim. He will not be able, he tells me, to come to us in 1917, because of a probable change in his activity and a change of residence from Grenoble to Paris. It will, however, be equally convenient for us to have him come in 1918, and I have so written him by this post.

You can hardly realize the anxiety with which we follow every development in the war, particularly on the Western front. The magnificent defence of the French Armies at Verdun has filled us all with new admiration for what I consider, without any hesitation, the most remarkable people in history. What the Greeks were in ancient civilization the French are in the civilization of to-day and to-morrow.

With warmest regard and every good wish,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

Nicholas Murray Butler