

April 11, 1916

M. Hanotaux

78, Boulevard de Courcelles

Paris, France

My dear M. Hanotaux:

I have been in the West for some time, and on returning have found awaiting me the charming volume, being the tribute of the artists and writers of France to America, which has come to me with your compliments. It will be the greatest possible pleasure to preserve this important and significant volume, in order that it may serve as a lasting testimonial to the new bonds which the present European war has forged between the peoples of France and of the United States.

We are closely following the heroic struggle at Verdun which, now having lasted fifty days, appears to us at this distance to be approaching its climax. Surely the stubborn and highly scientific defence offered by the French Army will go down in history as one of the greatest incidents in military history. There has been from the very beginning what has seemed to us a surprisingly close analogy between the progress of events in the present European war and that of our own Civil War from 1861 to 1865. On July 3, 1863, after the Civil War had been in progress more than two years, the Confederate Armies made their great attack at Gettysburg, only a few hours' ride from Philadelphia. This

marked what has been called the high tide of the Confederacy. They were beaten back there, and while the war lasted for nearly two years more, yet its end was not in doubt after Gettysburg had been fought. While I sincerely hope that the present war may not drag out another two years, yet I cannot help feeling that its end will not be in doubt when the assault on Verdun comes, as it soon must, to an unsuccessful termination.

With warm regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,

*Nicholas Hammer Butler*