

9  
November 28, 1921

M. G. Hanotaux  
4, Avenue Hoche  
Paris, France

My dear M. Hanotaux

Accept my thanks for your charming letter of November 14 which reached me a day or two ago. It is a keen pleasure to hear from you and to know that you are well.

The demonstrations in New York in honor of Briand and Marshal Foch have been truly magnificent. Marshal Foch spent three days here, and the only criticism to be made is that the committee of the American Legion, which had him in charge, allowed him to attempt too much and to accept too many quite insignificant invitations and obligations. It was for this reason that he was obliged, after laying the corner stone of the new building of the Academy of Arts and Letters, to withdraw without receiving the company of distinguished guests which had assembled to meet him. This, of course, caused much disappointment, but Marshal Foch was absolutely worn out with fatigue.

At Columbia University his reception was superb. We had taken a very great chance in arrang-

ing for an out-of-door ceremony so late in the year as November 19th, but fortunately the sun shone brightly, there was no wind, and the temperature was like that of May. Some thirty-two thousand persons assembled in the great square before the University and at every point of vantage in the neighborhood, in order to witness the arrival of the Marshal and to see the conferring upon him of the degree of Doctor Juris.

The dinner of the France-America Society in the evening was the most brilliant that we have ever had. The newspaper accounts of it are being sent to you and to M. Jaray by my associate, Mr. Haskell.

M. Briand left Washington on the morning of Thanksgiving Day and was received at Columbia University at four-thirty in the afternoon. Since the day was a national holiday, all business suspended, and the University itself closed, we paid M. Briand the highest honor in our power by receiving him in camera, and conferring the degree of Doctor at a very significant ceremony, but in the most intimate fashion and before only a select company of members of the University and distinguished Americans. M. Briand had promised to dine with me that evening, since we could not arrange a France-America Society dinner at so short notice and for the

evening of a holiday. At the last moment, however, the Lotos Club, of which I am a member, appealed to me to let him dine with them, and I allowed it, since by so doing, I could better serve the cause that we all have at heart. The Lotos Club is an influential social organization composed of prominent men of affairs, men of letters, and artists, which has in years past received many distinguished foreigners. They were particularly anxious to receive M. Briand and to hear him speak. The result was a brilliant and successful evening, of which he will doubtless tell you. The only speakers in addition to M. Briand were former Senator Chauncey M. Depew and myself. M. Briand sailed for France on the following morning.

Despite the professional trouble makers and ill-informed journalists, matters at Washington are marching on toward useful and helpful conclusions. In my judgment, the publicity that has been insisted upon, has injured the significance and public service of the conference, and it has afforded opportunity to the newspapers to set in motion all sorts of one-sided and misleading currents of opinion. We here believe that it is vital to hold France and England together with us in intimate confidence and association, and that we must all resist the efforts that are openly making, both on the

part of the pro-Germans and on the part of the restless and dissatisfied elements in all countries, to separate England, France and America in order to weaken their joint and therefore controlling influence.

I am asking Mr. Haskell to send to you and to M. Jaray representative cuttings and photographs that appear in the public press showing the activity of the France-America Society, and recording the various demonstrations in honor of France.

With warm regard and every good wish, both to you and to Mme. Hanotau, in which my wife and daughter join, I am

Faithfully yours

*Nicholas Murray Butler*