

Columbia University
in the City of New York

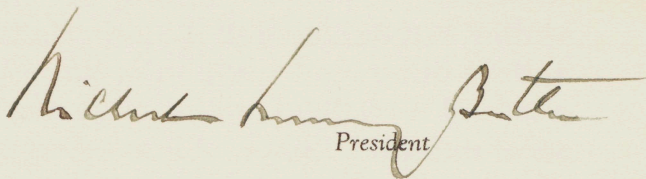
PRESIDENT'S ROOM

To each Columbia man in service

At this Christmas season when the good cheer and good will that should mark it are so sadly absent from the lives and hearts of millions of human beings, Alma Mater has a special word of greeting and encouragement for those of her brave and stalwart sons who have given themselves to the service of the nation, even though their lives be the sacrifice. No contest in which you could possibly be engaged can equal this one in moral significance. Everything which distinguishes right from wrong in public conduct, everything which marks off principle from expediency in national life, everything which draws a line between liberty and despotism, everything which removes human opportunity from the grasping hand of cruel privilege, waits for its safety, and perhaps for its very existence, upon your success and that of the noble men of allied nations who are fighting by your side on land and sea.

Keep a stout heart, no matter how long the waiting, how severe the trials, or how nearby the danger. Life will not be worth living for any of us unless

you win this war. Be assured that you are to win, for the whole moral and patriotic force of America is behind you. Columbia, intensely proud of her share in this struggle and of her notable contribution of men and service to its successful conduct, sends you this word of good cheer and encouragement. When this war shall have been righteously won there will be peace on earth for all men of good will.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Henry Bates". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The word "President" is printed in a small, serif font directly beneath the signature.

President

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1917