



1917

Personal Note on War Effort, 1917

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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Purpose: - To be and do what is most worthy of my name - and thus to honor my family, my friends, and my country, and to disappoint my dearest enemy and my other enemies.

- To keep down - and - . To diminish - . To be kind, to think of the other fellow.
- (1) To be cheerful. To be patient. To be maturely quietly wise. To keep occupied and overcome inertia. To be courageous. To be economical.
- (2) To do the best I can for my country at war. How shall I do this?

- (a) Age, physical limitations (heat, over-work, nervous strain, eye-sight) make me unsuited for the trenches, - unless the time comes when we are short of man-power. * Also, my greatest use is intellectual. * [omit Jeffers' gratuitous service, like Red Cross]
- (b) This Administration denies me service in the ways I am qualified to be of special use.

- (c) There remain staff duty or journalism or war industry, executive work, or a business of national benefit.

BUT, one must pay heed to prejudice as well as to truth. To be useful, one must be heeded and respected. After the war, one's standing, as a means to do any good, will be dead



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"MONTBEL" (OPPOSITE GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL)

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upon ^{the} public view of me, - and that will be measured, above all, by the popular prejudiced judgment of what one did during the war. By that judgment, to get into uniform anyhow, and to go across if possible, will be the best thing.