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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to James Rowland Angell, October 14, 1932

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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October 14, 1932.

Dr. James Rowland Angell,
President of Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut.

My dear Dr. Angell,

I beg leave to enclose herewith copy of a letter I have just addressed to my classmate Mr. Harkness; and I bespeak for it your more than perfunctory consideration. Very many graduates realize that when Abelard went to Paris that city became Europe's seat of learning, without any university buildings; and that it is no less true today that a university, to be of use to its students and to its country, needs not so much bricks and mortar as men and from this point of view they are grievously disappointed in the Yale of today. It is from this point of view that I urge upon you very earnestly negotiations to secure Professor Gregory.

I write, instead of calling, because the difficulty of seeing you upon other matters when I made the attempt on three of four occasions has discouraged me; and because I have long sensed a certain Chinese Wall between the powers that be at Yale and most graduates whose distinction is not expressed in financial terms, and who do not belong to the Brahmin caste of Ph.D.s, - whatever their other sins may be.

Hoping you will really consider this matter, I am, with all good wishes,

Yours very faithfully