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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to William G. Sharp, December 1, 1917

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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December 1, 1917.

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Very likely you are far too busy to do any unnecessary outside reading. Nevertheless, I am enclosing an article of mine in two parts on what I think is the obvious wisdom of an alliance of the English speaking peoples, and another on the idea that both now and later the sanctity of small countries should be not absolute but in proportion to their worthiness. My excuse for imposing these articles upon you is simply my feeling of the great importance of both subjects if our diplomacy is to be kept down out of the clouds of unpractical idealism, where it is always in danger of floating. Unless we are going to have all kinds of things "put over" upon us, we have got to remember the realities of human nature and of the world as it is. To safeguard us in these directions and also to direct our policy toward the closest and most durable understanding between the English speaking peoples I imagine that Colonel House is the man who can do most. Inasmuch as I do not know him, may I ask that you take some opportunity just to bring these ideas to his notice? *Some time when you are talking to him?*

I know you well enough to feel pretty sure that there would be no difference of views between us as to the tremendous importance of a rapprochement of the English speaking peoples, nor as to the necessity in our diplomacy of taking our stand on the solid ground of realities instead of floating in the filmy clouds of hopes and of now unrealizable ideals.

With very pleasant recollections of our meeting in 1915, with the hope that all goes well with you, and with warm regards, I am, my dear Mr. Sharp,

Yours sincerely,

The Honorable William G. Sharp,
etc., etc., etc.,
American Embassy,
Paris,
France.