



12-8-1917

Letter From John Bassett Moore to Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson, December 8, 1917

John Bassett Moore

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Columbia University
in the City of New York

SCHOOL OF LAW

Dec. 8. 1917.

My dear Wilson:

On reaching my office on Monday last, I found the articles to which you referred. My preoccupations during the week, and particularly the departure of a daughter under the Red Cross for France, have prevented me from reading them till today. The proposal you make is very far-reaching, and involves a great many considerations. It has always been a favorite saying of mine that in international relations there is nothing permanent. I am therefore inclined to look upon alliances rather as expedients than as fixed arrangements. Take, for instance, the "triple entente." It was founded on an alliance, to which an understanding was added. The first thing to disappear was the alliance. Such things count for little when subjected to the ^tstrain of a conflict of interests. Fundamentally, I should think the ~~first~~ first thing to be considered, in attempting to form an opinion as to the feasibility or probable duration of an alliance between two countries, would be to what extent they are to continue to be commercial competitors. If their relations admit of such a thing as a customs union, the practicability of the conception at once reaches an advanced stage. Our last attempt to arrange reciprocity with Canada would indicate that the commercial problem is a very difficult one as between the English-speaking peoples.

Believe me to be, always with kind regards,

Very faithfully yours,

Thetson.
Huntington Wilson,