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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to George Vincent, February 22, 1918

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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February 22, 1918.

George Vincent, Esq.,
Secretary of the Rockefeller
Foundation,
61 Broadway, New York City.

My dear Sir:

May I ask you to be so kind as to consider the project indicated in the enclosed article? feel sure you will agree that the four subjects of eugenics, sex hygeine, children's welfare and early education are but four sides of one great problem and can, therefore, be effectively urged as such in a nation-wide campaign to avail of the war's awakening to do an essential work now which might have taken many years in normal times. With the cachet of a measure of preparedness, of governmental approval and of authoritative provenience, the proposed pamphlet of propaganda, however brutally frank, could now, if ever, break through the disastrous reserve of the ultraconservative and stir them up to a realization of the terrible importance of these subjects and could, at the same time, supply to them, including clergy, teachers, and many others, both the incentive and the information necessary to the preaching of a new era.

It is hardly necessary for me to explain that I am not a specialist in any of the subjects covered, that I represent no organization, and that I do not expect myself to figure in the matter at all, but am simply interested as a citizen who believes these things of vital national importance and am trying, if I can, to interest the proper people in order that

the plan may be worked out and realized.

My friends, Professor Irving Fisher of Yale and Dr. Charles B. Davenport are kindly interesting themselves in this scheme, and I am enlisting the cooperation of Major William F. Snow and various other authorities in the hope that there will result a complete draft of the proposed pamphlet. Whereupon, the further work in the matter can be placed in more appropriate and competent hands than my own.

Some day when I am in New York I shall give

myself the pleasure of asking for an opportunity to discuss this matter with you. Meanwhile, I am writing this letter in the hope of enlisting your interest and perhaps that of Mr. Rockefeller in this scheme.

Yours faithfully,