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Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to William H. Burnham, April 4, 1918

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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THE LINCOLN.

Locust and Thirteenth Streets,

Philadelphia.

April 4, 1918.

Professor William H. Burnham,
Clarke University,
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Professor Burnham:

Your letter of March 28 is before me and I shall now try to give clear answers to the questions which you raise therein.

(1) Each of the four parts of the pamphlet is to be separate and independent of the others. My idea had been that it should not be signed by the writer. I had thought that it could be drafted by one authority and conceivably added to by others and that the only mention of authorship of each section would be a note at the beginning of the pamphlet showing that that section was written by So and So or compiled from the writings of So and So, naming one or more authorities as the fact might be. No section would be included, of course, unless it had been approved in final form by those to whom it was ascribed.

As you will see from the rough scheme of a possible front sheet of the proposed pamphlet, my idea had been to get the most formidable paragraph possible to show backing by official and other authorities, and to have another paragraph indicating authoritative authorship or origin of the respective sections.

The writer or collaborator in the writing of no section need be responsible for anything not in that section. If it were desired that one authority like yourself should alone contribute his section, that would be quite satisfactory if the section so contributed were, in final form, entirely acceptable to the authorities whose backing would be necessary to give the pamphlet the maximum weight.

(2) Your second question I think I have answered above.

(3) My idea is that there should be no copyright in connection with this pamphlet.

I am afraid I have written at unnecessary length in the endeavor to answer your perfectly plain questions.

In regard to the children's welfare section, I have been writing to Dr. Helen Cordelia Putnam, of Providence, Rhode Island, who, I had been told, was peculiarly qualified for the work, but until now I have been unable to gain any response. Can you not suggest

to me some other suitable people to ask to write that section?

Referring again to your questions, I am sure you quite understand that this project is only in a formative and tentative stage and that any suggestions will be most welcome. I earnestly hope you will see your way clear to draft one or two thousand words on the elements of education in the basic sense that we have in mind. My former letter with its enclosures sketched the scheme so fully that I need repeat nothing here. If I can only get the educational and children's welfare sections drafted in the near future, I shall then be able, I think, to give the plan in a sufficiently advanced form into the hands of the Council of National Defense or other authority competent to prosecute it further.

With thanks for your kind interest and with the reiterated hope that you will find it possible to ~~draft~~ ^{write} the educational section, I am, my dear Professor Burnham,

Yours very faithfully,