

5-27-1898

Letter from Donald E. Winchester, 1898-05-27, to Adeline Manning

Donald E. Winchester

Wellesley College Archives

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Recommended Citation

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TRINITY CHURCH,

IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

May 27, 1898.

My dear Miss Manning,-

I have signed the petition to the Secretary of War which you were kind enough to send me; but I ought to say that I have drawn my pen through the phrase which begs the Secretary not to purchase goods of any kind bearing the motto "Remember the Maine", for I can readily see that in the urgency of the situation the Secretary might be compelled to purchase goods without scrutiny of any mottoes printed on their labels. The rest of the protest of course meets my most hearty approval.

I think, however, that the asonance of the phrase "Remember the Maine" has quite as much to do with its too widespread use as has popular sympathy with what it expresses. A happy phrase is one of the most dangerous weapons ever put into the hands of man. "Remember the Oregon," or "remember the Terror," could never gain circulation to any great extent among us. I say this with a view to exculpating large numbers of our people from conscious sympathy with a cry of brutal vengeance.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. Mitchell Donah