

Meredith

AL/83

Excerpt from a letter from George Meredith  
to Miss Annette Calhoun, written to her  
while she was working in the Regulator  
for Women's Suffrage. Miss A.C. wrote to  
ask him for his opinion. He replied

"You have my very hearty sympathy.  
First of all it is, to my mind, thinking  
necessary the education of women  
that they should have all avenues  
open to them. By that means, they  
would soon show that they are as  
capable as men (when they have got  
the better of their nervous system) to  
join in regulating the affairs of this country."

Date of Miss Calhoun's letter  
Sep 20. 1904

Copy of Letter from Mr. George Meredith.

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Coombe Lea,  
Dorking.

May 18th, 1904.

Dear Madam,

[At this present time women need encouragement to look out upon affairs of national interest, and men should do their part in helping them to state publicly what has long been confined to the domestic circle; consequently a wasted force. That it can be a force, men are beginning to feel. That the exercise of it is an education for them, we see already in the enlargement of their views of life and the country's needs.] So there is hope that the coming generation will have more intelligent Mothers. This holds true whatever side in politics they may take, and it is the main point. We who believe in Liberalism do not doubt that as their intellect expands and sharpens they will join with the party of progress; which without rejecting such wisdom as was gained by our forefathers, aims at a condition of things in harmony with the wider and deeper knowledge we have won, the nobler ambitions, and the more humane in the welfare of our fellows.

Accept my assurance that my wishes are heartily in accord with the movement you are about to make. By studying public matters diligently you will soon learn to perceive that there is no natural hostility between the sexes. Their interests are one when they have learned to step forward together. It is among the lessons devolving upon them to teach the male kind who are not yet enough enlightened in that direction.

Yours truly,

(signed) George Meredith.