

W. S. Socy.  
Women's Freedom League. A2/515

March 19th, 1909.

Dear Madam,

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and of the London Society for Women's Suffrage desire me to say that at the present juncture they think it wisest not to accept the invitation sent them by the Women's Freedom League. The reason for this decision is the Committees' conviction that, whatever may have been the case some time back the general cause of Women's Suffrage - which all the Societies have equally at heart - is now best promoted by a clear public separation between the two wings of the movement.

Some people are attracted by militant methods and policy; and to these alliance with the older Society would not furnish any additional reason for adherence. Some other people are attracted by the methods and policy of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and to a certain proportion of these any alliance with a militant Society would be actually

AL/515 cont

deterrent. Public co-operation would thus probably not add a single adherent to the general cause, would certainly keep some persons from joining the older Societies and might even cause some members to withdraw.

It has seemed well to set forth the Committees' position rather fully so as to make it clear that no official antagonism whatever is involved. When the great end for which all alike are working is achieved all may join together in rejoicing; but it seems wiser to seek our goal in separate army divisions each recruiting our own sympathisers as we go along.

President of the National Union of  
Women's Suffrage Societies.

President of the London Society for  
Women's Suffrage.

Secretary, National Union of Women's  
Suffrage Societies.

A.S.

Secretary, London Society for Women's  
Suffrage.