

26, Pembroke Square.

Kensington W.

Jan. 6. 1911.

A2/929

①

Dear Miss Strachey,

We are just now trembling at the prospect of three resignations from the N.U. Cause! Trembling I mean with hope and anticipation but I fear no such luck will attend us. Yesterday afternoon we sat from 2.30 till 7.20! and were treated to a very dramatic scene after the reading of the letter from the Judson Cause - Miss Rendel introduced her Resolution very well - an amendment was moved by Mrs Swanwick - blaming the bad system of our election policy management & expressing regret at the result - Miss Rendel withdrew her Resolution in favour of Mrs Swanwick's amendment. Miss Mason, Bentham declared that they considered the amendment as a vote of censure upon them - Mrs Jewett in order to appease the angry ones - omitted the last words of regret - but it availed nothing and the Mason Bentham combine still persisted in regarding it as a vote of censure - Mrs Bradley Reid left the chair and made her statement, she said if the Cause wished the election some to eat humble pie, she supposed they must do so - that she was accustomed to being attacked - she had heard that she was not re-elected as Chairman of the Judson Exp. that did not matter because she had decided not to stand again for election!!! This did not do her any good it showed such "a nasty temper" - The amendment was carried by 8 votes to 5. Miss Ashton, Miss J. O. Ford and ~~Miss~~ <sup>Miss</sup> Rendel had left before the battle was engaged - Mrs Mason, Bentham & Reid, Miss Leighton & Miss Bryan - are not sure about the latter - but she made two attempts to move the previous question & squash discussion - Mrs B. Reid on the first occasion (which was before she had made her statement.) said it was "out of order" when she had finished - she turned to Miss Bryan & said it is now in order. but Miss Bryan's motion was defeated only two voting for it. When the amendment was carried - Mrs Reid Mason & Bentham departed with every hair erect and peace perfect peace reigned while we finished the rest of the business - Mrs Swanwick & Ashton want to elect Miss Sterling as Chairman of the next Cause of the N.U. - They are tired of Mrs Bradley Reid! This is a triumph for me because I warned Mrs Swanwick that she was not wise in proposing her last time, but she would have it so - I cannot believe that the combine will resign - but they have put themselves into a very ridiculous position - They insist on being censured & to remain on under censure seems absurd - Mason is specially amusing - for she

made it very clear that she had only acted under instruction & the whole cause cordially exonerated her from blame - as well as the Sub-Committee - but Mrs. Mason persisted in being censured - I am of the opinion that <sup>through</sup> no regret will be expressed to the cause - ~~the~~ the Sub-Committee have achieved a triumph through the generosity of the Combine achieved a vote of censure upon them - ~~Committee~~ Committee isn't it? How they (the Combine) managed to twist the exceedingly mild resolution into a vote of censure I do not know - but they accomplished the difficult task with great success -

Meanwhile we are metaphorically holding our breath - I have every confidence that they will come back with their tails (tails) behind them at the next cause.

Mrs. Mason nearly snapped my head off once or twice during the proceedings - she accused me of doubting her word - but I assured her that I never doubted her word but the wisdom of intervening in an election without consulting those in authority who were responsible for the conduct of the election - (uproar)

Mrs. Broadley Reid said in reply to me - that she did not go to see the election agent because she did not want Mrs. Strachey's view of Mrs. Martin's address but Mrs. Martin's view -

She also repeated the puerile accusation that she had never been asked to help in E. St. Pancras!

We shall never get any work done for the suffrage at this rate on the N.U. -

Now you must not have any more suffrage diet during your brief holiday - I will reserve details until we meet - when you return I should be very much pleased if you cared to come to tea with me - time permitting.

I hope you will have a nice restful time. Lady Gaus's letter & the Cromer letter in the 'Times' has near created a sensation - no reply from Mrs. Cromer so far -

Very yours very sincerely  
 Edith Palliser.