

AL/1890

College Hall

15 Nov. 1885

Very dear Mother,

Many thanks for the Education literature which shall be returned when the debate is over, i.e. in a fortnight or less.

There is very little to tell about my doings this week. On Tuesday I went to an Assembly at University College, & enjoyed it very much, - there were a good many people to talk to.

We have of course been hearing & talking a good deal about the Stead case. I will tell you some things which may possibly not have

reached you.

I was shown a ~~notice~~ circular summoning a meeting of the Governors of the British Lying-in Hospital "to take into consideration the recent conduct of Dr Heywood Smith, one of the Physicians to this Hospital". To-day I have heard through the Bunting that he has already been dismissed from one hospital where he had an appointment & that he is losing a great deal of private practice, & will be practically ruined. It is said that he has been disliked ever since he opposed the C.D. Acts, & now they are taking this opportunity of getting rid of him.

~~Mrs. Bunting also says that~~ Lily Sprigg who is a Governor of the Hospital, is going to the meeting, & trying

to get others who will vote right.

Mrs. Bunting says that it is believed that the making Stead a first-class misdemeanant is believed to be due to a letter from the Queen to Cross.

Miss Day tells me that at some of the back-streets are placarded with big bills denouncing Stead.

^{London} I wonder at the way all the newspapers are approving the sentence, while the provincial ones seem the other way: not that I know of many, but I ~~received~~ ^{had sent me} the other day the "Newcastle Leader" - what for I don't know, - but it is very indignant: and the S.R.I. seems to take such a different tone from what it did at first.

What a pity ^(in one way) all this comes just at the Election time when people are so busy otherwise. As you say

it seems hopeless to get up Indignation meetings, - but of course a great deal may be done at the other meetings.

I have mentioned your suggestion about letters to the Queen to one or two, - but they don't seem to see it. I will try again, - though I do not understand why that is preferable to petitions or memorials.

What we felt was, - I suppose you did too, - that the jury could not well give any other verdict than they did, - & that all the blame lay with the judge for not inflicting merely nominal sentence.

I suppose if Stead is released, Jacques & Jarrett will be too, - but I don't know. How is that?

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We heard yesterday the results of the B.A. & B.Sc. Exams. Several of my friends are through, - none that you know ^{about} I think, except Lucy Morland, who I hope will now go in for Honours. Miss Lee of Bedford College has got her B.A., so she is the first woman who has both degrees, B.A. + B.Sc.

The M.D. Exam comes on next month, & women are entering for it for the first time. Two are going to try.

I know no more to say except to grumble at the weather which has been horrid all the week, - the worst series of fog I ever saw. To-day however was

bright & fine, so I hope better things are beginning.

I went this morning to Rev. Edward White's chapel, at Kentish Town. I can't say I was much edified, - the sermon was all about the Scarlet woman, - and three quarters of an hour of simple denunciation of Romish heresies was a little wearying. In fact I was much disappointed.

On the walk up however I was edified by the election placards. The colours are puzzling: the Liberals seem to stick to blue, while the Tories are very non-descript. I can't help wondering whether any good at all is done by placards which simply say "Vote for Goldwin" or "Vote for James". Some do add "the Liberal & Radical candidate"

or "the ~~retail~~ ratepayers' & retail dealer's' candidate". This last description is strikingly appropriate, as it refers to Blundell Maple, & is stuck up in all the multitudinous windows of his ~~own~~ firm's warehouse. But in West St. Pancras they do better. I passed through one street in which ~~to~~ every house had a balcony on the first floor, & on every balcony were one or two blue placards, - "Vote for Lawson & reform of the land laws" "Vote for Lawson & reform of London (mis-) Government." "Vote for Lawson & a peaceful but strong foreign policy" &c &c.

Of other evidence of excitement we see none about. Some of us think of going to an Election meeting.

I am rather disgusted to see

what rowdy meetings there seem
to be in Sheffield & in Hallamshire.
I do think its a shame to disturb
anybody's meeting, & I'm not sure
about always filling up Tory meetings
with Liberals, - at least if any Tories
are thereby kept out. I can't see
what good it does, & I think every
candidate ought to be allowed to
make as fully & as widely known
as possible.

Well I have quite come to the
end of my resources now, - so
Goodnight.

Your loving daughter
Helen M Wilson

Thanks also to Oliver for newspaper
& p c.