

[1913

AL/1906

6. Girdlers Road

Brook Green

Hampdenmill W.



or Lincoln Inn House

King's Way W.C.

E 26

Dear Mrs Roberts,

Your letters have just been sent to me here, and I am writing this hurriedly in case you are coming up with the deputation.

If you are in this neighbourhood and can possibly spare the time, it would be a pleasure to see you.

(Interview with us 7 persons has been interrupted - It'll take me hours to finish this)  
It was such a pleasure to get your letters.

I came here very hurriedly in response  
to a telegram about a fortnight or  
so ago and arrived to find everyone  
either ill or in Prison.

I shall not be able to return to  
the Midlands until early autumn  
I fear except for a week at the  
end of August - May I see you then.

I was so interested in both letters.  
It is splendid to have Miss Royden  
in sympathy.

Personally I do not think it would  
be advisable to drop B. even for a  
line.

I do not think it would be advisable  
even if it were possible to start a  
big Society but I do think a small  
society for study would be a good  
thing even if carried on by correspondence.

We shall need really articulate  
people — people with definite ideas  
if we are to do any real work and  
a study circle or small society for  
that purpose would be such a help  
I think don't you?

Vague, indefinite ideas will be  
a very real hindrance I think.  
Don't you?

I myself found it such a help  
to find some one in sympathy  
that I feel sure we shall need  
the benefit of the mutual interest  
and interchange of ideas which  
could take place through the  
medium of a small society.

Do tell me what you think  
Miss Taker. who lives at A. & M. Street  
whose name I mentioned in a former  
letter claiming I am to have interesting  
and reliable historical evidence of

the work of women in the early church  
There is such an amount for study,  
that I feel the circle is rather narrow.  
I am quite expecting the opposition  
which Miss Royden mentions.

But think disestablishment will  
probably make the difficulties greater.

I have been writing out my thoughts  
in odd moments & when I have  
put them together more connectedly  
I will send them to you. -

They are just thoughts and not an  
attempt to write a paper.

I was to have postponed my  
holiday until the end of the year but  
life in London is so strenuous that  
I find I shall have to take a rest if  
I am to do any really good work  
I am going away for one holiday  
at the end of this week



2. AL/1906 Conv

I hope to have a fortnight  
or three weeks unless  
they want me back  
here very badly

14 or 21 days for thinking.  
won't it be glorious.

One needs it so much.

I had a lovely long talk  
with M<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Harben the  
other day.

M<sup>rs</sup> Harben is a splendid  
Church woman and has very  
definite ideas on the ordination  
of women. Could you send her.

a copy of your letter.

She seems to me just  
the kind of woman we want.

By the way, Mr. Harben  
is interested in the new Statesmen  
- with <sup>the</sup> Sidney Webb he started  
it I think.

He was interested to know  
that you & Mrs. Roberts liked  
it so much.

I think with you there  
is great need to be very

Careful as to the kind of woman  
whom it is right to have in  
a movement of this sort.

It is so necessary to get  
those who really understand the  
full significance, and the  
great need of this movement  
within the Church.

Do you think, if we had  
a circle, it should be confined  
to women alone.

I have been very interested  
in Miss Royden's anecdote

and it has brought to my  
memory one or two incidents  
which I had almost forgotten.

The really important  
thing seems to me that it  
should be a movement from  
within the Church.

The awakening, as it were  
of the soul of the Church, to a great  
reality. and it would be good  
if this little movement could  
be one which could heal some of  
those overstrained relations which

the women's movement. has been  
AL/1906 cont. <sup>it</sup>  
caused to come to the fore.



I have been thinking a  
great deal lately about vocation  
and that seems to me the keynote  
of it. ~~It~~

I think that just at the present  
moment there is something needed to  
bring the finer things underlying the  
women's movement to the fore and.  
I do think this little "society" if  
it is formed may do much to make  
many women understand better.

the spiritual impulses underlying  
their movement? which they <sup>are</sup> so dimly  
and so vaguely half aware

London, with its surging mass of  
restless, groping womanhood has  
made me feel tenfold the necessity  
of the movement. now. -

It is the same cry as that  
of St. Augustine. but somehow they  
know not where to turn for the rest.

The Limitations within the Church

His lack of vision regarding the  
present great movements and their  
issues involved. all this is very  
real to us women who are trying

<sup>at London.</sup>  
to keep the faith

This has been written at intervals  
between interviews and is very very  
scrappy. When at home I shall  
be able to write more connectedly.

You say you will have to lie  
down much during the coming  
months. I am so sorry and do  
hope that you will soon be much  
stronger.

I know you will have lots of  
people here in London. if you  
Mr. Roberts come up tomorrow.

But in case you should come I  
should be in the neighbour hood

of Kings way. I am expressing



this to let you know where I am;  
and how glad I should be to see  
you if you have a few moments  
to spare.

Will you enquire for me in the  
Central Hall, at Lincoln's Inn House

All good luck to the deputation.

It is splendid of them to come

I am so sorry to have not been able  
to go to Tipton just at present  
but hope to do so in Sept.

I have often laughed over the  
account of the meeting which  
Mr Robert's sent me and am looking

AL/1906  
forward to the meeting conv

How is the Garden - as lovely as  
when I saw it?

Please reserve some brass for  
me to clean when I come - It  
makes me feel a possessive  
interest in the Church. I am  
still proud of my small share.  
and am looking forward to being  
with all of you one day. I shall  
take advantage of your kind  
invitation again if I may.

I am returning your letter.  
I like the Typewritten one so much  
I have copied it.

I think it has put our ideas  
in a very definite way whilst

making them understand that it  
has all to be well thought out  
in the future

Thanks for your offer of  
books. I would have loved  
them only I am so far away.

Have you a specially good one  
you could bring with you in  
your bag to London.

I should be grateful, if  
it were possible.

You have such a number  
that it is rather impossible  
for me to choose from here

but think I would like one which  
might help me in my theological  
difficulties..

But not if you are going to  
have a very busy time and I  
fear that you are.

I am wondering what is  
going to happen if the Deputation  
is not admitted.

This is a budget of scraps,  
but letter writing is going to be  
an holiday luxury

I do hope that you will

will soon be stronger.

Please remember me to  
Mr Roberts. and give him my love  
for good luck.

Many many thanks for the  
letters. It was refreshing  
to get them whilst here

My address ~~is~~ after Saturday  
will be 8. Eton Place. Bath.

I will look after the Bath  
C.S.L whilst I am there.

Yrs. very sincerely

Gertrude Francis

Many thanks for the handkerchiefs!!