

Oct. 30. 1901

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44, GROSVENOR ROAD,

WESTMINSTER EMBANKMENT.

My dear Annie

I am afraid our President will not be satisfied without a change in the Sub Committee, as things have been very uncomfortable there for some time. But I personally would rather there should not be any change, as I believe the present plan is much the best, and I think with a little consideration and Christian courtesy on the part of some members, all the trouble might easily be overcome.

But I am afraid our President will not be satisfied to keep the present plan, and as I always believe in giving a Leader a free hand, I shall do what I can to help her in this. But I agree with thee that it would be much better to let the seven General Officers act as the Sub, than to adopt Lady Henry's plan. My reasons are two. I - As the Officers are all elected there would be no feeling that the work was being done by women who had not been elected. And II - There would be none of the jealousies that would be

sure to be aroused by the other plan where some would be chosen and some dropped out. I have told Lady Henry this, and she would be entirely willing that it should come as an amendment to her proposal.

My idea would be to change Article ~~XIII~~ Section III, and make it read as follows

"In the interim of these meetings the business of the Association shall be conducted by the seven General Officers, who shall report to the Nat. Exec. Com. 4 times a year. Five of the Officers to form a quorum."

Now the question is who will propose this Amendment? None of the Officers can do it, manifestly. Would they be willing? And if so, would they send it in to Miss Hunt before Nov. 15 to be sent around with the ~~notice~~ Lady Henry's proposal, with the notices of changes of Constitution? They must ^{not} do this of course unless it entirely meets their approval. It is the American plan, and has always worked admirably there, and I believe would here. As a matter of fact the Officers must and do more or less carry on the business, and the Sub Com.

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is not really necessary at all, tho' I have always liked having it.

I want privately to advise thee to take what Mrs. T. Mitchell says with some measure of allowance. I do not know whether she gave thee details of the troubles in the Committee, or mentioned any names, but if she did I am afraid she may have prejudiced thee somewhat against Mrs. Osborn, and I want to say that I have the most perfect confidence in Mrs. O. and consider her almost the most valuable member of the Com. There have been forces at work behind the scenes

against Mrs. Q. of which Mrs. T. Mitchell would not know, and in my opinion Mrs. Q. has behaved in a truly christian-like way. I would like to tell thee all about it if we could have an opportunity. Could thee not come here to dine with me on the evening of the 13th, as I suppose thee will be obliged to come up to London that day. Come as soon as thee can after arriving in London. I shall be free all the afternoon after the Sub Com is over, and thee could wait here for me.

Lovingly thine

H. W. S.

(1911)