

Personal. I Enc.

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*Temple Chambers,
London, E.C.*

January 23rd 1913.

Miss Maud Ingram,
40 Westminster Mansions,
Westminster.
S. W.

Dear Madam,

I am obliged by your letter of the 22nd enclosing me the Opinion which I have read and which is certainly very interesting. Of course the Opinion of the Counsel who have written on the Case carries great weight owing to their status in the Profession.

I cannot help thinking that so far as the Courts are concerned, the ultimate decision will be that the word "person" in the Solicitors' Acts is to be construed in accordance with an inveterate practice not to admit women, which construction is in my opinion the proper one; but I however most certainly think that there is quite a sufficient element of doubt to warrant the case being taken to the House of Lords and anyhow as a matter of Policy I think the step should be taken.

My own opinion is that ultimately by means of an Act of Parliament in the comparatively near future, women

Miss M. Ingram,

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will be admitted to practise in both branches of the profession in England ~~and it appears to me that~~ Assuming that the decision of the House of Lords was unfavourable, which I think will be the case, still I think even in that case the step contemplated ^f would materially assist in the passing of an Act of Parliament to effect the object in view.

Since Lord Wolmer introduced his Bill, I have so to speak, felt the pulse of the Profession so far as I have been able to and I have come to the conclusion that an Act of Parliament enabling women to be admitted as Solicitors can only have any lik^elihood of passing by means of the Law Society either backing it or anyhow declaring themselves neutral - such a Bill would never be passed against the wishes of the Law Society.

My own opinion is that there is no substantial opposition to women being admitted as Solicitors amongst the heads of the Profession - the big firms and other eminent individual Solicitors - but in the general body of the Profession in London and the provinces, there is a most overwhelming dead weight of opposition which will want a great deal of breaking down. *and the thing is to win it achieving that.*

I return the copy Opinion.

I am, dear Madam,

Yours faithfully,

Nick King