

Class B. 3.

AL / 1927

2 Southern Hill

Reading.

Nov 19<sup>th</sup>

[1913]

Dear Madam

I am a little perplexed how to answer your letter concerning the admission of women to the priesthood

I don't think that sex should be any barrier to the most complete and responsible service of God, and I have had to deplore, in my own experience, among my friends, the limitation of <sup>their</sup> activity <sup>through</sup> ~~causing~~ being excluded from the possibility of taking orders. But,

reading your letter, I do not feel inclined to take any share in furthering <sup>your</sup> ~~these~~ views.

Perhaps my opinions depend too much on the wider issues of the question for me to be able to give direct answers to the two questions you ask at the end of your

letter. In instance, I don't know, for I have not  
brought the matter out, how far my feeling in favour  
of a celibate clergy is prejudice or conviction. But it is,  
I believe, some such feeling as this in favour of a reform  
of existing conditions that prevents me from wishing to  
consider in its practical aspects the admission of women  
to the priesthood.

From an ideal standpoint I am  
in sympathy with the views of your letter <sup>but</sup> the practical

difficulties just now, obscure for me the ideal standpoint

I am sorry to be of so little use in giving answers  
to your questions. If the matter is ventilated and

discussed I shall probably find it easy to see where

I stand. Yours faithfully

Edwin de Burgh

I wish you good fortune in your  
endeavour.

wife of Professor de Burgh