

E. 10.

Salcombe

Devon AL/1918

incomplete

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22. Farndon Rd. Devon

Sep 6. 1913

Dear Madam.

I am sorry to have been so long in answering your letter on the question of the admission of women to the priesthood, but I did not wish to do so until I had had considerable time to think about it, and it came at a time of very special persons of work.

To your question a). I am in favour of the admission of women to the priesthood.

b). I do not ^{on the whole} think that the time has come for the formation of a Society to press this. A 'secret' society cannot do much good, and a society which was pressed publicly would I think do a great deal of harm at the present juncture.

The only kind of organization

which I think would be of an
would be one which would promote
the study of the position of women in
the church, & of future possibilities,
especially in regard to missionary
work. The past and present
position of Deaconesses would of course
be ~~an~~ a prominent subject of
study. It seems to me that progress
in the matter can only come on the
lines of evolution, and that the surest
path of progress is probably (I mean
where that I speak very tentatively, for
I have no foundation of scholarship,
nor any claim to speak with a shadow
of authority) along the lines of development
of the diaconate among women. Here
the historical basis is so sure, & the
ground already ^{won} ~~made~~ (I mean, to
secure) that it would not only be the
line of least resistance, but the experience
gained be of the greatest possible value.

I do not know any of the leaders
of the Deaconess movement; if any
of them were "advanced" I should
their sympathy could be enlisted. I should