

Royden

Royden 1916

3 Kerbey Street.
Poplar, E.

24.7.16

AL/1985

24 JUL 1916

Dear Miss Corben,

I do not know how to thank your Committee for their kindness in wishing me to join them. Will you tell them how very & specially grateful I am? And will you explain to them why, for the present at any rate, I feel bound to refuse? My reason is not only (though it is partly) that I am very busy, & feel I should not be of much use to the League; but also that I am trying to get out a book on the present position & the possible future of the Church of England, which won't be very orthodox, & may cause me to be regarded with even greater suspicion by the very religious, than now. I am at present a

free lance. I get no one into trouble
by what I say - except myself, of
course! And I want to feel quite
free for a time at any rate, until
we see how things are going. I suppose
we shall see in time, whether the
future is with Athelstan Riley or
not. In the meantime, a woman has
a rather exceptional freedom, I think,
having nothing to get out of the Church,
& nothing to lose. And I want to
go ahead without feeling that I am
involving any society. If at any
time the Committee wanted me to
attend a meeting specially, as a visitor,
I would very willingly do so.

And in the meantime, very many
thanks to you & to them for so much
Kindness.

Yours sincerely,

A. Maude Royden.