

E. 18.

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Gene

8. 3. 14

Dear Mrs Roberts,

I agree with you *ex animo*,
except on the subject of free-thinkers!
I don't see what common ground we
should have to start from, ^(about orders) & I think
it would make us quite unnecessarily
obnoxious to the people we have got, in
the course of time, to convert.

The first-objection also applies, I
think, to the presence of non-Church
people. It will be difficult enough
in our Church to discover what we
do all mean by "orders"! We shall
never get started if we begin with
people who reject the word "priest"
altogether! Can't we begin with
ourselves, & see how far we Church-
people are in agreement, & then go
on to consult the free Church people
about their reasons & methods of
admitting women to the ministry? I
do think, of course, that it would be
useful to do this; but not at our
first-Conference. We shall discuss,

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not the priesthood ^{conv} only, but - the whole Sacramental theory, if we are not Church people!

About help for Miss Allen: yes, I feel sure we ought to do it - but we are all so horribly hard up! How many weeks would she want it for? Could she give us any idea? I see you say she can only give 3 or 4 weeks longer herself; would that be all she wants help for, or did she want her helper to go on researching for some time? I would gladly give \$1.

I should very much like to read a paper on the subject you suggest, but I'm afraid I am too "extreme" in my views ~~for~~ to be useful! I think the clergy should be celibate, & I go cheerfully as far as women Bishops & Archbishops & Popes! On the other hand, I have no scholarly knowledge of the subject at all. It would not someone else be more useful?

About dates: at what time of day would the Conference be? If in the evening, I could attend on Oct. 12-13-14

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Oct. 14 being very much the most convenient. I could also attend, though it would be inconvenient, on Oct. 14 afternoon. Practically the same, of the weeks before & after. Mondays & Tuesday ^{evenings} are possible but not easy. Wednesday afternoon is possible, but very difficult. Wednesday evening is perfectly convenient.

What a mountain of work this must all mean for you! We are all so grateful to you for doing it.

Yours very sincerely,
A. Maude Royden.