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35 Bessborough Street
S.W.

Dec. 31st 1912.

My dear Miss Billingham:

I do not know what
the power is that gives you your
dauntless courage - that puts the
beautiful light behind your eyes -
but whatever it is, it will not
fail you at your trial at the
Old Bailey. It has never failed

you so far, however keen your personal suffering may, no! must, have been. And it will not fail you now.

Knowing, as I do, that your desire is to defend the cause & not yourself, I feel that you would get on infinitely better than yourself, than would any man under the sun. ^{for you} You see, they do not care about the

subject as we do - and as to your idea that you cannot speak in words, as well as in deeds, why that is (-forgive me!-) that is the veriest nonsense. Of course you can speak, and even if you could not, still you remember the words of one of the Lenten hymns
"And all three hours His silence Spoke."

Your silence will speak, even
if your tongue refuses to be
eloquent: but it won't; dear
Miss Billingham. It will tell
the Judge & Jury how women
like yourself are driven to do
these things, only after the
distressing conviction has been
driven home to them that the
men of the country will not
take action in this matter
so long as the suffering all

falls only upon women —
women who are sweated, women
who are the victims of the White
Slave Traffic, women who are
engaged in this agitation to
obtain the means of righting
these wrongs. Men acquiesce
in such things. We are driven,
therefore, to make them share
somewhat in the suffering
involved, in the hope that they
will act in self defence.

of your personality, even as I do,
for your defence.

Of course, if there are actual
technical points of law to be
considered the case would be
different, & I suppose you would
consult Mr. Marshall or someone
like that. but otherwise you
will be your own best advocate.

Do think that you cannot have
a woman to defend you, &
that it would be the same

however delicate, intimate &
personal the charge against
you might chance to be!

I suppose you are too much
occupied to allow me to see
you before your trial? I have
Friday & Sunday free, but am
otherwise rushed to death. & I
am, unfortunately, speaking at
Beckhill on Jan 7th. But my
thoughts will be at the Old
Bailey.

My best wishes for the New Year are
not lightly spoken to you this time. I
really mean them. Your friend Agnes Kel