

58, SOUTHWOOD LANE,

HIGHGATE. N.

March 21st 1920.

Dear Mrs Bentinck,

May I come up to the Library and return your books on Wednesday morning. I have not been able to come this week. I have not quite finished with the 'Proposals', I am taking rather lengthy extracts, hoping that with all the notes I have made, I may have enough to work out something in Cornwall. 'The Contemporary' has accepted the paper I wrote on Lord Halifax's 'Advice', perhaps they will consider Mary Astell of interest later.

9/31/45a

28. SOUTHWOOD LANE.

HIGHGATE N.

I have been disturbed in mind about that lady, it seemed impossible as I went further in- to it to reconcile the ideas & the outlook in the 'Defence' book with the Mary Astell of her other books. Now that a copy of the book on her by Miss Smith comes from America (the copy I want to give to the Library is on its way they say) I find that she is convinced that the 'Defence' is not by Mary Astell and I think she proves it, & that I see her reasons. If this is so it leaves a very vigorous minded woman (they say M^{rs} Drake) of whom I know nothing, & should like to find out about.

when I come home from Cornwall.

I've been trying to go through
M. A's 'Reflections on Marriage'
in the British Museum. There
are so many editions it is
difficult. I wish, because of its
wit and abandon & wide range
of interest, that Mary Astell had
written the other book; but there
are passages in it that I am
^{sure} would have shocked her,
and she would never have
consented to use her gifts
~~as~~ in a way that would
have displeased 'her Maker',
I am thinking particularly
of a criticism of 'the Divines'.

I was told yesterday that
some Newnham Woman
had written an essay on
Mary Astell in a magazine.

9/31/45b

Do you happen to know it?

I think I can find out where it is?

If Wednesday morning does not suit you, you will tell me to come another time.

Mary Astell is charming about the Duchess of Mazarine. She says, if only her education had been better, she would have found consolation in meditation, & religious joys, which would have been more satisfying than 'running away in disguise with a spruce Cavalier.'

Yours sincerely
Adela Wallas.

I will come on Wednesday, about 12 o'clock unless I hear from you.