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## **PRG 88/7/1-122 Letters by Catherine Helen Spence to Alice Henry 1900-1910**

**Transcribed by Dr Barbara Wall, Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia, 2010**

Catherine Spence (1825-1910), Adelaide journalist, suffragist, tireless worker for women and children, celebrated campaigner for proportional representation, who wished above all to be thought of as a reformer, found a woman of like mind and interests in Alice Henry (1857-1943), a Melbourne journalist, women's rights advocate and lecturer on female suffrage, who later moved to the USA where she became Secretary of the Chicago branch of the National Women's Trade Union League of America.

When Catherine Spence was passing through Melbourne in 1893 on her way to the United States to lecture on proportional representation and to attend the Charities, Correction and Philanthropy Congress held in Chicago in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair, Alice Henry made herself known to Spence. They had much in common: Scots background, interest in proportional representation, activities in journalism and reforms of all kinds. Their friendship meant a great deal to Spence who found in Henry someone who sympathised with her interests and to whom she could speak unreservedly.

Their correspondence, for they were able to meet infrequently, covered many years. Henry preserved many of Spence's letters to her and presented them to the State Library of South Australia. There are 122 items. They have been transcribed without alteration except for the addition of full stops where a following capital letter makes it clear that a sentence has ended. Spence used little punctuation in her letters and frequently ran sentences together without the use of capital letters. In such cases none have been added. She sometimes used spaces as a form of punctuation and these spaces have been retained. No question marks have been added.

Spence's handwriting is difficult to read. She was between 75 and 85 when she wrote these letters and she was writing to someone familiar with the persons and institutions and issues about which she was writing. It is not easy to decipher some of her words; sometimes it is impossible, especially when the words are proper names. The transcriptions reflect these difficulties. But the extraordinary width of her interests, her energy, her commitment to many kinds of reform, her wide circle of friends, acquaintances and correspondents, and her deep affection for Alice Henry are visible for all to see. Her world, from 1900 to 1910, comes alive as we read.

### **Names Frequently Mentioned**

Two South Australian Government institutions for which Spence worked, two organisations, the Unitarian Church, the chief newspapers and periodicals for which she wrote or to which she often referred and some frequently mentioned family members and friends, are glossed here. Others are noted in the annotations. It has not been possible to identify all the people about whom Spence wrote. A brief explanation of proportional representation about which Spence wrote constantly is given at the end of this introduction.

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## Institutions

The Destitute Board

The State Children's Council

The Destitute Board, 'to superintend the relief of the Destitute Poor', was set up in 1849. Spence was appointed to the Board in 1897. She was the only woman member and served until her death in 1910. The Destitute Board met weekly. Spence frequently visited the Destitute Asylum on other days.

The State Children's Council began in 1886. It had twelve honorary members and its task was to administer boarding-out licensing, adoption, and apprenticing of state children, and to supervise the reformatories and industrial schools. Spence was a member from 1886 until her death in 1910. The State Children's Council met monthly.

## Organisations

The Effective Voting League The National Council of Women  
The Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Effective Voting was the name invented by Spence's brother John Brodie Spence for the system of proportional representation based on the work of Thomas Hare. Thomas Hare, (1806-1891), English barrister and member of Parliament, developed the system of proportional representation which is named after him. Spence refers to it as the Hare system or the Hare method. It is at present used in elections in Tasmania, where it is known as the Hare-Clark system. The Effective Voting League was founded by Spence in 1895. Spence frequently used the abbreviations PR, pro rep and EV when writing of proportional representation.

The National Council of Women of South Australia, affiliated with the International Council of Women, was formed in 1902 by Mrs Elizabeth Nicholls, Mrs Rosetta Birks, Miss Catherine Helen Spence, Lady Way and others. It went into abeyance about 1908 but began again in 1920.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union of South Australia, known as W. C. T. U., was founded in 1889 to promote temperance and Christianity in order to improve people's lives. It lobbied for women's rights. Spence, a whisky drinker in a mild way, was not a member but she was closely connected with the organisation and worked with many of its members on many occasions.

## The Unitarian Church

Spence joined the Unitarian Christian Church in Wakefield Street, Adelaide, in 1856 and was an active member until her death. She worked for the Church in many ways, particularly with the Church's Children's Library, which she helped to form in 1859, and with the services. She took the services and preached when the Minister asked for help from the mid 1880s until her death.

## Newspapers and Periodicals

### Adelaide

*The Advertiser*, a daily newspaper.

*The Herald*, formerly *The Weekly Herald*, Labor and Democratic Organ of South Australia, ran from 1894 to 1910 when it became *The Daily Herald*.

*The South Australian Register*, a daily paper, and its weekly paper *The Adelaide Observer*. These two were the papers for which Spence wrote frequently for many years.

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### Melbourne

*The Age*, a daily newspaper.

*The Argus*, a daily newspaper, and its weekly paper *The Australasian*. Alice Henry wrote for these papers

*The Australian Woman's Sphere*: a monthly periodical edited by Vida Goldstein, published in Melbourne 1900-1905.

### Sydney

*The Bulletin*, Australia's most famous weekly, founded in 1880.

*The Daily Telegraph*, a newspaper.

*The Sydney Morning Herald*, a daily newspaper.

**Family** These people are glossed only when they are first mentioned.

### Louie Galloway

Louisa Ruth Galloway (born 1870) was the daughter of Louisa Ferguson Galloway née Cumming, the sister of John Brodie Spence's wife Jessie, and cousin to Elsie Spence, Daisy Stephen and Lucy Morice. She was very close to the family and spent much of her life with one or other of them.

### The Handysides

Andrew Dods Handyside (1835-1904) was Spence's cousin, son of Jane Handyside, née Brodie, sister of Spence's mother Helen Brodie Spence. He arrived in Victoria from Scotland in 1853 and married Mary Ann Murray, daughter of Spence's sister, Jessie Murray. They came to the South East of South Australia in 1868, where Andrew became a pastoralist and Member of Parliament. Of their children one son Charles, born 1874, and three daughters survived them. One daughter married in England, but Jessie Murray Handyside (born 1870) and Jeanie Brodie Handyside (born 1879) saw Spence frequently. Jessie married Herbert Richard Trude in July 1909 and went to live in Western Australia. Jean married Henry Hulatt Bradshaw in December 1907. Arthur Handyside (1843-1904) was Andrew Dods Handyside's brother. He was a medical practitioner, born in Scotland, where he remained.

### Mrs Morice

Louise (Lucy) Morice, née Spence (1859-1951), daughter of Spence's brother John, kindergarten teacher, social reformer and close ally of Spence. She married James Percy Morice in 1886. Her son, John Patrick Spens Morice, known as Pat, was born in 1892. Lucy and James Morice lived in Scarborough Street, New Glenelg.

### The Murrays

Spence's sister Jessie (1821-1888) married Andrew Murray (1813-1880) in 1841. They had ten children, not all of whom survived. From 1877 the family lived at Yarragon, Gippsland, Victoria where Spence often visited. She frequently mentions nieces Catherine Helen Murray, known as Nina (1852-1933), and Margaret Brodie Murray, known as Madge (1858-1935), who worked as a postmistress. John David Murray (1850-1922) and George Houston Murray (1854-1938) are also mentioned. The Miss Madeline Murray whom Spence was much concerned with in her last year or so was no relation.

### Elsie Spence

The unmarried daughter of John and Jessie Spence was Agnes Helen Spence (1865-1949). She was known as Elsie or Helen. She lived with her mother much of the time. Her great friend was her cousin Louie Galloway.

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### John Spence

John Brodie Spence (1824-1902), accountant, company director, Adelaide manager of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank from 1864-1878, member of the Legislative Council, and at his death Chairman of the Board of the State Bank. He was Spence's brother, a year older than Spence, and her close friend and ally all her life. His wife, Jessie Spence, neé Cumming, survived him. She died in 1910, shortly before Catherine herself. John and Jessie Spence lived in High Street, Glenelg.

### Mrs Stephen

Margaret (Daisy) Stephen, née Spence (1865-1936), youngest daughter of Spence's brother John. She married George Alexander Stephen in 1887. Their daughter, Mary Dunbar Stephen, was born in Melbourne in 1899. They lived in Melbourne.

### Laura Symon

Laura Louise Symon, née Stow, was the granddaughter of Spence's uncle, Alexander Brodie. He had emigrated from Scotland at the same time as his sister, Helen Brodie Spence, Catherine's mother. Laura Symon, born 1859, was the daughter of Jourdiana Brodie, Spence's first cousin, and Jefferson Pickman Stow. She married William Symon in April 1884. Herbert Stow Symon, the oldest of her four children, was born in 1885. Her youngest child James Jefferson Keith Symon was born in 1889. Gertrude Eleanore Stow, daughter of Laura's brother, John Wickliffe Stow, born 1886, was married to Harry Midwinter Bray in 1909.

### Charles and Mrs Wren

Charles William Wren (1856-1934), son of Spence's younger sister Mary, had lived with Spence from the deaths of his parents, his father in 1864, and his mother in 1870, until his marriage in 1889. He was employed by the English, Scottish and Australian Bank, at first in South Australia and later in New South Wales and Victoria. He married Eleanor Dora Hall in Melbourne in 1889. Their daughter Aileen Marjorie Wren, known as Marjorie, was born in Melbourne in 1891. He remained close to Spence.

### Eleanor Wren

Eleanor Brodie Wren (1862-1948), Charles's sister, who also had lived with Spence when she was young, now lived with her brother and his wife. It is not always possible to be sure which Eleanor Wren Spence is writing about but she usually refers to her niece as Eleanor and her niece-in-law as Mrs Wren, Nell or Nelly.

### The Wren family in Melbourne.

Charles, his wife, and sister, often visited Melbourne and stayed with relations there. Their names, and the districts in which they lived, are frequently mentioned. Dora Staniforth Hall, sister of Charles Wren's wife, had married Seymour George Pilkington Davies in 1896. S. G. P. Davies was manager of the Melbourne branch of the English Scottish and Australian Bank. They lived at Glenferrie. They had three little children, Dora Seymour Davies, Geoffrey Francis Seymour Davies and John Seymour Davies. Kathleen Florence Watson, née Hall, also Mrs Wren's sister, who had married Thomas Greenlees Watson in 1888, lived in Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick. Their parents, John Hall and his wife, whose house was known as 'Glendora', lived in Point Nepean Road, Elsternwick. Louisa Anne Lang, sister of John Hall, was married to Thomas Lang, and the Wrens also sometimes stayed with the Langs who lived at Elsternwick. Their daughter Margaret Lilian Lang was known as Lily or Lilly.

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**Friends and Colleagues** These people are glossed only when they are first mentioned.

Miss Clark

Caroline Emily Clark (1825- 1911), philanthropist and reformer, Spence's colleague on the Boarding-out Society and the State Children's Council, and friend of many years.

Miss Cocks

Fanny Kate Boadicea Cocks (1875-1954), schoolteacher, welfare worker and in 1915 South Australia's first woman police officer. In 1906 she was appointed the State's first probation officer for juvenile offenders.

Miss Dumas

Mabel Inez Russell Dumas, born in 1871, was a daughter of Victor Edmund Russell Dumas who died in 1882, leaving a wife and 5 children of whom Mabel was the eldest. She was Spence's housekeeper for several years.

Stella Franklin

Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian novelist, born in NSW. She left Australia in 1906 and went to Chicago where she undertook secretarial work for Alice Henry in the National Women's Trade Union League. Spence frequently asked Alice for news of her.

Miss Goldstein

Vida Jane Margaret Goldstein (1869-1949), Victorian feminist and suffragist, editor of *Woman's Sphere* (1900-1905). She campaigned on many social issues, helped found the National Council of Women and was delegate from Australia and New Zealand to the International Woman Suffrage Conference in Washington DC in 1902. She was the first woman in the British Empire to stand for a national Parliament when she stood for the Senate in 1903.

Mr Gray

James Gray, formerly Visiting Officer for the Destitute Asylum, became an Inspector for the State Children's Council. He later became Secretary and later still Chief Executive. He worked closely with Spence for many years.

Miss Gregory

Ellen Louisa Gregory (c.1852-1927), a relation of the Wrens, came to Australia with Spence when she returned from England in 1866. She lived with Spence for many years, moving to Melbourne after Spence's death. She frequently added to her income by staying in homes where she helped with sewing etc.

George, Kitty and Charles Hood

George Frederick Duval Hood, born 1881, and his sister Katherine, sometimes spelled Catherine, known as Kitty, born 1884, had been living with Spence since their mother Rose Hood died in 1899. Their younger brother Charles, born 1885, was also part of the household to begin with. Earlier, after the death of her husband, Rose and her children had lived with Spence from 1889 until Spence left for America in 1893. Spence had known the children all their lives and Kitty's death from suicide in 1904 caused her much sadness.

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### Mrs Fred Martin

Catherine Edith Macauley Martin, née Mackay (1847-1937), teacher, poet and novelist. Born in Scotland, she lived for many years in the South East of South Australia. She married Frederick Martin in 1882. They spent much time in Europe and were close friends and constant correspondents of Catherine Spence. Spence was an enthusiastic admirer of Martin's novels.

### Miss Moule

Sarah Moule was Inspectress of Licensed Foster Mothers and Lying-in Homes in the State Children's Department.

### Professor Nanson

Edward John Nanson (1850-1936) came from England to be Professor of Mathematics at the University of Melbourne. He was the Victorian leader of the electoral reform movement and published books and articles on electoral matters. He was a supporter of Proportional Representation and an ally and correspondent of Spence, though he worried her with his aberrant ideas.

### The Quiltys

Katie Breen and her sister Maggie had been maids in Spence's Trinity Street House in College Town during the lifetime of Spence's mother and after. Katie Breen, aged 26, married John Quilty, a builder, in 1884. After Kitty Hood's death the Quiltys, with their children, welcomed Spence and Ellen Gregory to their house. They lived with them first in Aveland Avenue North Norwood, and later in Queen Street Norwood, where Spence died.

### Mr Rhodes

Thomas Rhodes (1839-1916), businessman and philanthropist, member of the State Children's Council from 1887, and president from 1892 until his retirement in 1913. He was superintendent of the Kent Town Methodist Sunday School for many years, and a member of the Adelaide and Norwood School Boards.

### Dr Rogers

Richard Sanders Rogers, medical practitioner and member of the State Children's Council. He was also Spence's own doctor. She thought very highly of him.

### Miss Scott

Rose Scott (1847-1925), NSW pacifist, feminist, reformer and suffragist, campaigner for better hours and working conditions for shop girls. She became President of the Prisoners' Aid Society and helped to establish Children's Courts in NSW (1918). David Scott Mitchell, benefactor of the NSW State Library was her cousin and close friend. Rose Scott became a friend and correspondent of Spence.

### Miss Stirling

Harriet Adelaide Stirling (1878-1943) devoted her life to the education and welfare of children, to the support of women and women's health. With Dr Helen Mayo she established the School for Mothers in 1909. She was a member of the State Children's Council from 1907-1926 and President from 1922-1926. She was the daughter of Sir Edward Charles Stirling (1848-1919), surgeon, scientist, first Professor of Physiology at the University of Adelaide, member of the House of Assembly. In 1886 he had introduced a Bill to enfranchise women. He had been a friend of Spence for many years.

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Mrs Parkes

Hilma Olivia Edla Johanna Parkes née Ekenberg (1859-1909), NSW political organiser and activist, member of Womanhood Suffrage League of NSW and founder of Women's Liberal League 1902.

Miss Tomkinson

Amy Louisa Tomkinson (born 1856), was one of the twelve children of banker and politician Samuel Tomkinson (1816-1900). She spent 13 years in Europe. In London she became the first Australian student of the London School of Economics. She returned to Australia on the death of her father in 1900 and helped to form the Social Students Society, of which she became secretary and Spence president. She took great interest in social matters, particularly in playgrounds for children. She became involved with, and worked for, the National Council of Women.

Mr Turner

Henry Gyles Turner (1831-1920), Melbourne banker, historian and editor of *Melbourne Review*, was the brother of Martha Turner, later Webster, who encouraged Spence to preach. Spence wrote articles for the *Melbourne Review* and corresponded with Turner who was a trustee and office bearer in the Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1857-1920. Turner married Helen Ramsay.

Mrs Upton

Margaret Mary Breen, known as Maggie, had been, with her sister Kate, a maid in Spence's household in Trinity Street College Park. In 1896 aged 37, she married Robert Upton of Taillem Bend, later a storekeeper at Murray Bridge. She kept in touch with Spence, whose friend Ellen Gregory often stayed with the Uptons to sew.

Mrs Watson Lister

Annie Lister (c.1869-1928) married Philip Sidney Watson and adopted her rather strange name. They lived in Melbourne. She was an early graduate of Melbourne University, a pioneer of the woman suffrage movement, the first secretary of the Victorian National Council of Women, later President, a member of the executive committee of the free Kindergarten Union of Victoria, a member of the Women's Political Association and founder and treasurer of the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Mrs Webster

Martha Webster née Turner (1839-1915), sister of Henry Gyles Turner, came from Victoria to preach in the Unitarian Church in Adelaide in mid 1870s. Her visit encouraged Spence to preach. They became friends.

Mr Whitham

Charles Lawrence Whitham (1845-1908), educationist and formerly minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide, knew Spence well and had been influenced by her ideas on education. He became an Inspector of Schools in South Australia. He worked with Spence in many areas of interest and was treasurer of Minda Home. Whitham and Spence were the two Unitarians who took services when the Minister was unavailable.

Mr Whiting

John Beeby Whiting was Secretary of the State Children's Department and much admired by Spence. In 1903, while on holiday in England, he was appointed Secretary to the Agent-General and Registrar of Inscribed Stock. He remained for

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many years, acting at times as Agent General. He continued in correspondence with Spence and did his best to assist the cause of child protection in England.

#### Mrs Young

Jeanne Forster Young (born Sarah Jane Forster) (1866-1955) was a close friend and ally of Spence from 1897 onwards. She became Secretary of the Effective Voting League and accompanied Spence on tours for Effective Voting. She completed Spence's *Autobiography* after her death and published *Catherine Helen Spence, a Biography*, in 1937. She married Alfred Howard Young who was employed by *The Advertiser* and they had six children. Spence frequently mentions her children: Lindsay Forster Young born 1890, Alfreda Dorothy Young, known as Freda, born 1891, Ralph Blakeney Young, known as Blakeney, born 1894 and the last child Courtney Spence Young, born 1907. Two daughters, Olive Louise Annie Young, born 1893, and Eileen Spence D'Amory Young, born 1904, died a few months after birth.

**American and European Friends** These people are glossed only when they are first mentioned.

#### Reverend and Mrs Ames

Julia Frances (Fanny) Ames (1840-1931) was the wife of Unitarian minister Charles Gordon Ames (1828-1912). They lived at 12 Chestnut Street Boston. Spence had met them in when she was in America in 1893-1894 and corresponded with them for the rest of her life. Rev. Charles Ames had asked Spence to preach in his church when she was in Boston.

#### Michael Flürscheim

Michael Flürscheim (1844-1912), wealthy German industrialist who moved to New Zealand in 1898 to promote monetary reform. His efforts met with little success. Spence had stayed with him and his first wife at Lake Lugano in Switzerland in 1894. He remarried before his move to New Zealand and later moved to Coronado in California.

#### Mr and Mrs Garrison

William Lloyd Garrison (1838-1909) was the son of the great abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (1804-1879), advocate of single tax, woman suffrage and free trade. He and his wife Agnes met Spence when she was in America in 1893-1894, and corresponded with her until Garrison's, and later Spence's, death. They lived in Lexington, Massachusetts.

#### Miss F. D. Hill

Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

#### Dr and Mrs Holmes

Bayard Taylor Holmes (1852-1924), professor of surgical pathology and bacteriology at the College of Physicians in Chicago, popular lecturer and social reformer with a strong interest in education of the labouring classes, factory inspection and child welfare. Spence had met him and his wife when she was in the USA in 1893-1894 and corresponded with them when she returned to Australia.



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### Judge Lindsay (Spence's misspelling of Lindsey)

Benjamin Barr Lindsey (1869-1943), lawyer, judge and reformer, one of the pioneers of the Juvenile Court system in America. Under his administration the Juvenile Court in Denver became famous throughout the civilized world. He was passionate about politics and social justice and a leader in the movement to abolish child labour. Spence admired him and his work enormously, though she consistently misspelled his name. I think Spence had not met him, but she wrote to him, refers constantly to his work and wished Alice Henry to meet him.

### The Lloyds

Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903), lawyer, editor, writer and reformer, described as America's first investigative journalist, strong supporter of woman suffrage and trade unions, and a very wealthy man, met Spence briefly when he was in Australia. He had written some investigative books which Spence admired. After his death she corresponded with his sister Caroline Augusta Lloyd Withington, who later in 1912 published a biography of her brother, and his son, William Bross Lloyd. Spence admired the family very much.

## **Political Matters**

Spence refers frequently to politicians and the various Parliaments in Australia.

### **The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia**

This began in 1901 with two houses

The House of Representatives – the Lower House

The Senate – the Upper House

### **The Parliament of South Australia**

South Australia was granted self-government in 1856 and the first Parliament was elected in 1857. There were two houses

The House of Assembly – the Lower House

The Legislative Council – the Upper House

Spence frequently uses the abbreviations HA and LC and for members MHA and MLC.

## **Proportional Representation**

Catherine Spence has the distinction of being the first person in Australia to advocate the system of Proportional Representation in a publication: *A Plea for Pure Democracy* (1861). She maintained her passion for electoral reform all her life, though her understanding of the system changed over time. She was part of a world wide debate.

For Spence the 'fundamental principle of proportional representation is that majorities must rule, but that minorities shall be adequately represented'. (*Autobiography* p. 88)

Proportional representation or PR is the term that describes a group of electoral systems used to elect candidates in multi-member electorates. Under PR, parties, groups and independent candidates are elected to the Parliament in proportion to their support in the electorate.

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The composition of a legislature where members are elected using PR usually better reflects the proportion of votes received by candidates on a State or Territory-wide basis than legislatures where members are elected to single seat electorates.

There are three main types of PR electoral systems.

- List systems

- Mixed-member proportional systems

- Single transferable vote (STV) systems

All Australian PR electoral systems are STV systems.

Under STV systems each elector's vote can be transferred between candidates in order of the elector's preferences.

A candidate is elected when his or her total number of votes exceeds the quota. The quota is the number of votes a candidate needs to be certain of election. The quota used for all STV systems in Australia is called the 'Droop' formula, first published in 1868 by mathematician and lawyer, Henry R Droop.

Proportional Representation electoral systems are used in Australia to elect candidates to the Senate, the upper houses of NSW, Victoria, SA and WA, the lower house of Tasmania, the ACT Legislative Assembly, and many local government councils.

(Information from the Electoral Council of Australia)

Labour and Labor. Spence herself spelled the word 'labour'. But in South Australian politics the word was usually spelled 'labor'. In some other places, especially in England, 'labour' was the preferred form. I have tried to be consistent in my use of the word, spelling it as it was spelt by those who used it. This means that I use both forms of the word.

## THE LETTERS

**PRG 88/7/1**

29 College Road Kent Town  
7<sup>th</sup> Nov 1900

My Dear Miss Henry

I send you herewith a copy of a little monthly (6d) "The Gleam"<sup>1</sup> which contains an article from Mrs Young<sup>2</sup> with photos of her and of me.

I wanted Melbourne and Sydney friends to help to get 500, 1000 or more reprints of the article for circulation but as yet have had no response. Meantime the publishers want to sell the Gleam as they think it is a draw. Of course Mrs Young has no payment any more than I have for the Arena<sup>3</sup> articles which I hope you have seen – I don't know whether to feel shamefaced when I contrast the very personal nature of my reminiscences with the very outside details of Murray Smith<sup>4</sup> and à 'Beckett<sup>5</sup> and others but people tell me mine are the most interesting -

Mr Cridge<sup>6</sup> of San Francisco writes that he has received from d Alviella<sup>7</sup> a book with the whole history of the Belgian movement<sup>8</sup> which [he] has also sent to me but not received. I have written to d Alviella begging for another copy. He wrote to me with a Revue de la Representation Proportionelle (19<sup>th</sup> Year) with many details of the election of 27<sup>th</sup> May, and an article devoted to the movement in France – where the Liberals who are crushed between the Nationalists (jusqu'au Chauvinists) and the Socialists are agitating for P R for France to allow them adequate representation and to give some stability to politics. D Alviella writes that the success of the system has been beyond their most sanguine expectations, that the counting was quite simple and that all are satisfied.

Cridge says that in the History of the Movement the darkest hour was just before the dawn – Five of its leaders died in 1897 and in 1899 almost on the eve of the bill being carried its advocates had little hope – It was jeopardised by the

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<sup>1</sup> *The Gleam*: a monthly magazine of general interest for young men and maidens. Vol 1-6, July-December 1900. Published in Adelaide, South Australia, by A. F. Pearson.

<sup>2</sup> Jeanne Forster Young (born Sarah Jane Forster) (1866-1955) was a close friend and ally of Spence from 1897 onwards. She became Secretary of the Effective Voting League and accompanied Spence on tours for Effective Voting. She completed Spence's *Autobiography* after her death and published *Catherine Helen Spence, a Biography*, in 1937. She married Alfred Howard Young who was employed by *The Advertiser* and they had six children. Spence frequently mentions the oldest daughter Alfreda Dorothy Young, known as Freda, born 1891, and the oldest son, Lindsay Forster Young born 1890.

<sup>3</sup> *Arena*: a Melbourne periodical, originally published weekly. 6 September 1900-5 February 1903. It merged with the *Sun* on 12 February 1903 and survived as *Arena-Sun* until March 1904. Spence's articles appeared in 1900, 'When I was Young' in September p. 3 and 'From Youth to Age' in October p. 8-9.

<sup>4</sup> Robert Murray Smith (1831-1921), business man and member of Victorian Parliament.

<sup>5</sup> William Arthur Callander à Beckett (1833-1901), barrister and member of Victorian Parliament.

<sup>6</sup> Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco.

<sup>7</sup> Eugène Félicien Albert, Count Goblet d'Alviella (1846-1925), historian, author of a famous book on symbols, Secretary of the Belgian Senate. He wrote to Spence about the Belgian movement for proportional representation.

<sup>8</sup> The Belgian movement for Proportional Representation.

blunders of its friends and helped to success by the blunders of its enemies. I wish you could see the book. Two chapters appeared in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*<sup>9</sup> for January 15 – Perhaps all the book appeared there –

I do not know if our friends or our enemies are making the blunders here – Glynn<sup>10</sup> insists that he is doing right in delaying the division because the movement gains strength – but though he is pretty sure of a resolution affirming the principle on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov – I fear it is too late to have it embodied in law for the Federal elections.

Our enemies Kingston<sup>11</sup> and Holder<sup>12</sup> opposed the division into single electorates which I thought made the way clear for Glynn to have the support of the Country Party but he said on 10<sup>th</sup> Oct that he only could see 17 or 18 votes – The League<sup>13</sup> and its friends moved Heaven and earth to arouse their members – And now at 2 pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> October he saw a clear majority but Govt business took precedence and at 10.30 when he had to bring forward his motion for the use of the Hare system in State elections his supporters had slipped out and left him in a minority – He has sent Mrs Young two problems to solve for two doubting Thomases – Poor Mrs Young was ill when she got them but was going to tackle them yesterday evg – She has had her children with whooping cough – they are well now but Mrs Young has got it now and she was run down partly worry at these delays –

Bowditch<sup>14</sup> writes that on the eve of the elections when they should have been at work vigorously everywhere very little was done – But Sir George Turner<sup>15</sup> is more favorable to P R than McLean<sup>16</sup> was. Bowditch never can contain himself when he writes of the behaviour of Victorian proportionalists to me –

The NSW E V League<sup>17</sup> has done little or nothing – Here our League has been true and zealous but our minority has worn us out by delay – and if we have not the Hare system we shall be worse represented in the Commonwealth Parliament than any of the colonies by the block system for both houses.

What we want is a short embracing<sup>18</sup> Bill on the lines of the Tasmanian to be passed for 12 months as the Tasmanian Electoral bill is passed to tide us over the Federal elections.

Tasmania is all right but do you think any of the Hobart people will take the trouble to communicate with me? They do not answer my questions –

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<sup>9</sup> *La Revue des Deux Mondes*: fortnightly journal published in Paris. Created in 1829 to form a bridge between France and the USA.

<sup>10</sup> Patrick McMahon Glynn (1855-1931), lawyer, member of Parliament in South Australia intermittently between 1887 and 1900, supporter of female suffrage and proportional representation, South Australian delegate to the Federal Convention in 1897 and member of the first Federal House of Representatives.

<sup>11</sup> Charles Cameron Kingston (1850-1908), barrister, radical and quarrelsome politician, federationist, Premier of South Australia 1893-1899, Minister in the first Federal Parliament.

<sup>12</sup> Sir Frederick William Holder (1850-1909), Mayor of Burra, journalist and politician, Premier of South Australia 1892 and 1899-1901, federationist and first Speaker in the Federal House of Representatives.

<sup>13</sup> The Effective Voting League (for Proportional Representation) had been founded by Spence in 1895.

<sup>14</sup> William Lamprey Bowditch (c.1850-1917), Victorian clergyman and teacher of mathematics, an earnest worker for proportional representation whom Spence had met in Melbourne in May 1900.

<sup>15</sup> Sir George Turner (1851-1916), solicitor, Premier of Victoria 19 November 1900-12 February 1901.

<sup>16</sup> Allan McLean (1840-1911), stock and station agent, Premier of Victoria 5 December 1899-19 November 1900.

<sup>17</sup> Effective Voting League.

<sup>18</sup> Spence may have meant to write 'enabling'.

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Mrs Young and I often talk of you as the most whole hearted of reformers in Victoria. Lucy Morice<sup>19</sup> has the same high opinion of you –

I suppose you are not going to have the suffrage and Mr Reid<sup>20</sup> told us last week that the NSW people were not going to get it.

Do you see *United Australia*<sup>21</sup>? I think the most interesting article in the Oct no. is by Stella Allen nee Henderson M.A, LLB - Wellington NZ –

I am writing today at the request of a Miss or Mrs Denbigh Hon Sec Womens Political League of WA Post Office Cottesloe WA in reply to a request for information and hints as to their newly acquired rights and responsibilities. I send a letter and some specimens of literature.

I am taking part in the movement for taking the tramways into public ownership and oppose the proposal to hand over to a company the electrifying of our service - Mrs Young is on the committee – Do you know if the *Woman's Sphere*<sup>22</sup> is paying its way.

Believe me  
Yours heartily  
C H Spence

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<sup>19</sup> Louise (Lucy) Morice, née Spence (1859-1951), daughter of Spence's brother John, kindergarten teacher, social reformer and close ally of Spence. She married James Percy Morice in 1886. Her son, John Patrick Spens Morice, was born in 1892.

<sup>20</sup> George Houston Reid, later Sir George, (1845-1918), barrister, free trader, Premier of NSW 1894-1899, later Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>21</sup> *United Australia*: a quarterly review for thinking men and women. Sydney 1900-1902.

<sup>22</sup> *Australian Woman's Sphere*: a monthly periodical edited by Vida Goldstein, published in Melbourne 1900-1905.

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**PRG 88/7/2**

[Kent Town  
7<sup>th</sup> Jany 1901]

Dear Miss Henry

I know very little indeed personally of H. D. Lloyd<sup>23</sup> though I had three long talks with him. He was introduced to me by a letter from Prof John Commons<sup>24</sup> one of the many who are thrust out of the American plutocratically endowed University who is an Effective Voter and Land Value taxer – I found that he knew Hull House<sup>25</sup> and Miss Jane Addams<sup>26</sup> intimately and that my dear friend Dr Bayard Holmes<sup>27</sup> was his closest friend and also most active supporter when I think he ran for the mayoralty of Chicago but of that I cannot be sure – It was something he ran for – My attention had been called to his *Wealth V. Commonwealth*<sup>28</sup> by one of my most valued correspondents whom I have never seen Mrs Frances E Russell<sup>29</sup> St Paul Minnesota but *Wealth V Commonwealth* I have not seen.

I asked him if he was as poor as other reformers – He said no he had sufficient means to allow him to travel and to write books without needing to make money of them – His son a Harvard youth accompanied him<sup>30</sup> – He impressed me personally very much – I was very sorry that he had only two days to give to S A. but now I see how far ahead in many things N Z is of all of us perhaps it was well to concentrate on that – I tried hard to be allowed to review that book and Kropotkins<sup>31</sup> which I was reading at the same time for the Adelaide Register but had the coldest of cold water thrown at it. I got leave for a short article with the Herald with some difficulty – A copy of the book was sent to Herald – If it has come out Ill send you

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<sup>23</sup> Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903), lawyer, editor, writer and reformer, described as America's first investigative journalist, strong supporter of woman suffrage and trade unions. He was a very wealthy man.

<sup>24</sup> John Roger Commons (1862-1945), American idealist, author, socialist, Christian, single taxer, who had difficulty holding professorships as his employers disagreed with his philosophy.

<sup>25</sup> The settlement of Hull House provided services for a poor residential and industrial neighbourhood in Chicago, services such as kindergartens, day care facilities for working mothers, employment bureau, art gallery, libraries, music and art classes.

<sup>26</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1935) founded the world famous social settlement Hull-House in Chicago's Near West Side in 1889. She became USA's most prominent woman through her writing, settlement work and international efforts for world peace. She was International President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

<sup>27</sup> Bayard Taylor Holmes (1852-1924), professor of surgical pathology and bacteriology at the College of Physicians in Chicago, popular lecturer and social reformer with a strong interest in education of the labouring classes, factory inspection and child welfare. Spence had met him and his wife when she was in USA in 1893-1894 and corresponded with them when she returned to Australia.

<sup>28</sup> *Wealth Against Commonwealth* by Henry Demarest Lloyd (1843-1903) published in 1894 was an indictment of John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil. Lloyd reported on New Zealand in *A Country without Strikes* 1900.

<sup>29</sup> Frances E Russell was an American journalist who corresponded with Spence about her 1894 article for *Arena*, a Boston social reform monthly. She also wrote for *The Woman's Journal*. Her article 'The Shame of Imperialism' appeared on 18 March 1899.

<sup>30</sup> Probably William Bross Lloyd who kept in touch with Spence and sent her pamphlets and papers. He became a socialist and a founder of the communist labor movement in USA.

<sup>31</sup> Petr Alexeevich Kropotkin (1842-1921). The book may have been *Fields, Factories and Workshops*, published 1899 by Hutchinson in London, but Kropotkin wrote many books including *The Autobiography of a Revolutionary* and works on Anarchy.

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Herald but it is miserable work to compress into so short a space such weighty messages as *Newest England*<sup>32</sup> conveys.

Mr Lloyd said he had twice tried to see Michael Flurscheim in Wellington and failed – He thought he was perhaps shy of confessing that his Exchange Bank had not caught on – My copy came from him through the publishers –

I don't know what you mean by the Windsor article – Is it the Windsor Magazine?

I was going to write to you that Lucy Morice and her husband will be in Melbourne soon they were invited guests – and camped in C W Wren's new empty house at Woolahra<sup>33</sup> [sic] – They mean to be a fortnight in Melbourne of their months holiday. I think they will be at the Grand but am not sure –

Mrs Young is resigning the Secretaryship of the Effective Voting League and I am in despair but I cannot press her to stay she has neither the time nor the strength – We were bitterly disappointed that the question was never put to the vote in Assembly<sup>34</sup> – Now we must renew the campaign without her –

I am awfully busy for I have the Unitarian Church for four Sundays<sup>35</sup> that means eight sermons – to small but critical congregations –  
College Road Kent Town 7<sup>th</sup> Jany

Yours in love and haste  
C H Spence

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<sup>32</sup> *Newest England: Notes of a Democratic Traveller in New Zealand with some Australian Comparisons* by Henry Demarest Lloyd (1843-1903) New York 1900. Spence's review appeared in the *Herald* (Adelaide) on 5 January 1901.

<sup>33</sup> Spence's nephew Charles William Wren, who had lived with Spence from babyhood to adulthood, and was now resident inspector in Sydney of the E. S. & A. Bank, went to live at 'Eurota' Edgecliffe Road Woollahra in 1901. The Morices stayed in the Wrens new house before moving on to Melbourne.

<sup>34</sup> House of Assembly, the lower house of the South Australian Parliament.

<sup>35</sup> Spence was taking the services for the Unitarian minister Alexander Wilson who had leave of absence during January 1901.

**PRG 88/7/3**

College Road Kent Town  
6<sup>th</sup> March [1901]

My dear Miss Henry

You must let me know the day of your departure as soon as you ascertain it, so that I may make my arrangements to be as much at leisure as possible while you are with me – I am very glad that you are able to make the visit.

Vida Goldstein<sup>36</sup> wrote me that she had two and a half hours interesting talk with Mrs Martindale<sup>37</sup> and part of the time with her daughters but she was out of Melbourne lecturing when they came – It appears that they went to Sydney first, while I had thought that Melbourne was their first port of call.

Miss Hilda<sup>38</sup> wrote to Mr Whiting<sup>39</sup> of the State Children's Dept that she was more interested in Melbourne institutions than those of Sydney.

Miss Goldstein asked me for an article for the Sphere<sup>40</sup>, and that reminded me that I had purposed to write about our woman inspector of Licenced foster mothers and babies – but had delayed it – Yesterday was the first day after I got her letter that I had leisure and I wrote a letter<sup>41</sup> about the manner in which S. A. utilised the services of women, and restricted the employment of police men, and police courts – I also wrote a short signed article<sup>42</sup> on the excellent prospects for adult suffrage in the Commonwealth.

I fear it is too late – for the March Sphere and it will be of much less value for that of April – Delays are dangerous – but with regard to the article on suffrage, it was only this last week that I saw clearly how the demand for conformity of suffrage will help your cause –

We are hard at work. Mrs Young's pamphlet is in the press and I think we have raised the money to pay £5.5 for the printing – Of 17 candidates for the Representatives<sup>43</sup>, 13 are favourable to Effective Voting, of 11 candidates for the Senate<sup>44</sup> – six are favourable – We send questions to all candidates so as to have a definite written pledge but the figures I give are pretty correct, according to previous records, and replies to questions asked at meetings – We have always more [than] one to put the question. When I compare the active alert, persistent, propaganda work done here with what has been done in Victoria, I think women show pretty well up –

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<sup>36</sup> Vida Goldstein (1869-1949), Victorian feminist and suffragist, editor of *Woman's Sphere*. First woman in the British Empire to stand for a national Parliament.

<sup>37</sup> Louisa Martindale (1839-1914), British suffragist and campaigner for the education of women travelled to Australia and New Zealand in 1900-1901 with her daughters Louisa Martindale (1872-1966) who later became one of the world's leading experts in obstetrics and gynaecology, and Hilda Martindale (1875-1952).

<sup>38</sup> Hilda Martindale became a celebrated social worker for children. Hilda said of Miss Spence and Miss Clark's work with children that they were 'unequalled in energy, sympathy, and devotion to the cause'.

<sup>39</sup> John Beeby Whiting, secretary of the State Children's Council.

<sup>40</sup> *Australian Woman's Sphere*: a monthly periodical edited by Vida Goldstein, published in Melbourne 1900-1905.

<sup>41</sup> 'Children and the State in South Australia' by C. H. Spence appeared in *Australian Woman's Sphere* Vol. 1, No. 7, March 1901.

<sup>42</sup> 'Australia's Opportunity' appeared in *Australian Woman's Sphere* Vol. 1, No. 7, March 1901.

<sup>43</sup> The House of Representatives, the lower house of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>44</sup> The Senate, the upper house of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.



What the cause has owed to Mrs Young these last four years is not to be expressed in words!

I had six weeks ago D'Alviellas<sup>45</sup> account of the Belgian movement and two days ago I got a book on P. R. in the canton of Geneva both of which show that there was oceans of literature and many years of work – but in neither case the popular lecturing with ballot paper which I inaugurated and which my friends in America and Canada have adopted. On Monday I dropped a note to Alfred Deakin<sup>46</sup> saying that I had not been invited to Sydney as a representative Australian woman to be present at the inauguration of the Commonwealth and I believed that unless I reminded people of my existence, I would not be invited to Melbourne<sup>47</sup> –

Personally I do not mind a straw – but for the sake of Effective Voting for the Commonwealth – I desire to be in evidence – Our failure to bring the question to the vote in the Assembly<sup>48</sup> after the great triumph in the Leg Council<sup>49</sup> was a great misfortune but the cause was still strong and growing stronger – So it is probable Mr Deakin may procure me an invitation.

As we are to meet so soon I need not write you a long letter –

Believe me  
Always yours heartily  
C H Spence

Eleanor<sup>50</sup> is still in Melbourne making a slow and struggling recovery – If you enquire about her from Mr Davies<sup>51</sup> Manager E & S Bank you will find out if she is at Glenferrie<sup>52</sup> or at Mrs Langs<sup>53</sup> at Elsternwick – I should like you to see her before you come over.

I shall have H D Lloyds<sup>54</sup> book back from Lucy Morice for you. She and her husband are delighted with it.

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<sup>45</sup> Eugène Félicien Albert, Count Goblet d'Alviella (1846-1925), historian, author of a famous book on symbols, Secretary of the Belgian Senate, advocate of proportional representation.

<sup>46</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>47</sup> For the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia on 9 May 1901.

<sup>48</sup> House of Assembly, the Lower House of the South Australian Parliament.

<sup>49</sup> Legislative Council, the Upper House of the South Australian Parliament.

<sup>50</sup> Eleanor Brodie Wren (1862-1948), sister of Charles Wren, had lived with Spence from childhood to adulthood and now lived in Sydney with her brother and his wife, Eleanor Dora Wren, née Hall.

<sup>51</sup> Seymour George Pilkington Davies had married Dora Staniforth Hall, sister of Charles Wren's wife, in 1896. S. G. P. Davies and his wife were frequently hosts to the Wrens from Sydney.

<sup>52</sup> Kathleen Florence Watson, Mrs Wren's sister, lived at Glenferrie, as did her father, John Hall, whose house was known as 'Glendora'.

<sup>53</sup> Thomas Lang had married Louisa Anne Hall, sister of Eleanor Dora Wren's father, John Hall. Spence's relations frequently stayed with the Langs when in Melbourne.

<sup>54</sup> Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903), American lawyer and journalist who exposed abuses in industrial monopolies. Spence may have been referring to *A Country without Strikes: a visit to the Compulsory Arbitration Court of New Zealand* and *Newest England: notes of a democratic traveller in New Zealand with some Australian comparisons* both of which were published in 1900. Lloyd had written earlier books.

**PRG 88/7/4**

College Road Kent Town  
26<sup>th</sup> April [1901]

My dear Miss Henry

We were indeed glad to hear that you arrived safe though very tired – Sir Josiah Symon<sup>55</sup> whom I saw after the gloomy [?] Minda<sup>56</sup> meeting yesterday told me he had handed you out of your carriage.

He probably thanked you personally for your letter<sup>57</sup> of which he spoke in high terms but which he took care not to read – The suggestions were in the very direction which the Committee had already ~~decided~~ considered advisable as the drawbacks were continued by the restricted accommodation – I saw Mr Whiting in the mg he came to the Destitute Office to show a letter he has written to the Committee threatening to remove the State children because no action had been taken after the discovery of Mrs Barkers<sup>58</sup> unfitness – he was not at the aftn meeting but Mr Rhodes<sup>59</sup> Chairman of St Ch Council came in later – He says all will be put right after the Annual Meeting is over – I send you the report with the Fox<sup>60</sup> and Barker letters in it.

Mrs Barker made herself so unpleasant after the enquiry on Wednesday that Nurse Francis could not stand it and packed up her traps and went home to Kapunda on Saturday – Since then she has been more civil – Brookman<sup>61</sup> said she was not to discharge any - When Symon returned Brookman went away electioneering in the South East. So Mr Whiting could not see him to press the matter – I enclose letter from Lady Tennyson<sup>62</sup> – Lady did not know your address - She also took in my formal invitation from the Federal Govt with Mr Deakin's<sup>63</sup> Compts<sup>64</sup>. I had a long day at the Destitute. Miss Dumas<sup>65</sup> met me there at one but I had to hand her over to Miss Uppington<sup>66</sup> for an hour.

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<sup>55</sup> Sir Josiah Symon (1846-1934), lawyer, member of Parliament, philanthropist and President of Minda Home.

<sup>56</sup> Annual meeting of Minda Home was held on 25 April 1902. Minda Home had been established in 1894 for the care, treatment and special training of 'weak-minded and epileptic' children.

<sup>57</sup> Alice Henry had been in Adelaide speaking about homes for epileptics and had written a letter for the Minda AGM pointing out defects in their system.

<sup>58</sup> Mrs Elizabeth S Barker, first Matron of Minda Home. She had come from Earlswood Asylum, England.

<sup>59</sup> Thomas Rhodes, Chairman of the State Children's Council.

<sup>60</sup> Miss Edna Fox, the first teacher at Minda Home, had come from Royal Albert Asylum, England.

<sup>61</sup> George Brookman, later Sir George, (1850-1927), stockbroker and politician, a member of the Minda Home Committee.

<sup>62</sup> Audrey Georgina Florence Tennyson (1854-1916), wife of Hallam, Lord Tennyson, Governor of South Australia 1899-1903. Lady Tennyson worked to help solve social problems.

<sup>63</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>64</sup> compliments

<sup>65</sup> Mabel Inez Russell Dumas, born in 1871, was a daughter of Victor Edmund Russell Dumas, who died in 1882, leaving a wife and 5 children of whom Mabel was the eldest. She was Spence's housekeeper.

<sup>66</sup> Miss B. Uppington was Matron of the Destitute Asylum.

I have carried my point about making it optional to have 14 oz of rice or 14 oz of oatmeal for one outside ration<sup>67</sup> and the old folks are to have jam once a day next month; it will need a ton yearly - Mr Lindsay<sup>68</sup> says.

I have bought myself a new mantle bonnet cap and pair of slippers – bonnet and cap bought yesterday but we had to buy a trunk for George<sup>69</sup> who on Wednesday evg was ordered off to Appila Yarrowie<sup>70</sup> to start Saturday mornng by first train – I think there is 15 miles coaching after 140 miles train – He does not like it much neither do we. I cannot keep up this house and pay Miss Dumas 8/ a week without his board of 15/ a week – but until I return I can make no changes. I shall leave Miss Dumas in charge - Miss Gregory<sup>71</sup> will probably be at Mrs Jacobs all the time or if that work is done, she will go to Mrs Upton's<sup>72</sup> at Murray Bridge. It will be dull for poor Miss Dumas.

Mr Hawkes<sup>73</sup> the manager says he would not have moved George till the end of the year if it had not been for the dishonesty of Mr Tassie [?] and complicity of his clerk that necessitated a sort of general post [?] – It is a good little country branch with an exceptionally good manager with a nice wife and five little girls who will take an interest in him. He is to get £20 rise for going out of town which makes it £80 – and as he can get board lodging and washing for 18/ a week as the clerk who leaves had it, in a private family he can live on his salary altogether. He will have as much work to do as will keep him busy for his whole office hours. I hope he will take to reading or to some hobby.

He is going to ask leave of today to say good by to his friends. We all feel rather sad – but Mr Hawkes says it will be good for the boy – Kitty<sup>74</sup> is told to put in more time for her studies before Novr when the Exams take place – I think I shall go to Melbourne<sup>75</sup> by the excursion train that goes on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I believe Mrs F. Martin<sup>76</sup> will accompany me – I have not had any invitation from the State Parliament yet.

To return to Minda Dr Russell<sup>77</sup> went out on Thursday and examined the child and saw the bruises after 8 days – he went again another morning at 8.30 in morning and found a good deal of fault – one thing was that the filter had not been used for

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<sup>67</sup> The recipients of outdoor relief were given the choice of taking rice or oatmeal with their rations instead of rice only.

<sup>68</sup> Arthur Lindsay (1828-1909), secretary to the Destitute Board, then Resident Superintendent of the Destitute Asylum, and later Chairman of the Destitute Board for many years.

<sup>69</sup> George Hood, Spence's ward, had been living with her since his mother, Rose Hood's death in 1899.

<sup>70</sup> A town in the mid north of South Australia, now known as Appila.

<sup>71</sup> Ellen Louisa Gregory (c.1852-1927), a relation of the Wrens, came to Australia with Spence when she returned from England in 1866. She lived with Spence for many years, moving to Melbourne after Spence's death. She frequently added to her income by staying in homes where she helped with sewing etc

<sup>72</sup> Maggie Breen, who with her sister had been a servant in Spence's house during her mother's life and after, had married Robert Upton of Tailem Bend. He later became a storekeeper at Murray Bridge.

<sup>73</sup> R. J. Hawkes was the manager of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank in Adelaide. There was a branch of the bank at Appila Yarrowie.

<sup>74</sup> Catherine Hood, known as Kitty, had been living with Spence as her ward since her mother Rose Hood's death in 1899. She was George Hood's sister.

<sup>75</sup> Spence went to Melbourne to attend the opening of the first Federal Parliament.

<sup>76</sup> Catherine Edith Macauley Martin, née Mackay (1847-1937), teacher, poet and novelist. Born in Scotland, she lived for many years in the South East of South Australia. She married Frederick Martin in 1882. They spent much time in Europe and were frequent correspondents and close friends of Catherine Spence.

<sup>77</sup> Dr Alfred Edward James Russell was Honorary Physician at Minda Home.

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months if at all – I had a communication from Vida Goldstein but I don't think I can do anything here. *Newest England*<sup>78</sup> is going into the Book club –  
Miss Dumas sends love.

Always yours C H Spence

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<sup>78</sup> *Newest England: Notes of a Democratic Traveller in New Zealand with some Australian Comparisons* by Henry Demarest Lloyd (1843-1903) New York 1900

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**PRG 88/7/5**

College Road. Kent Town  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 1901

My dear Miss Henry

After 23 hours travelling we reached Adelaide<sup>79</sup> – we took in a girl with a violin at Ballarat which we reached via Geelong – about nine o'clock – We had tea and your sandwiches which sustained us till we got to Murray Bridge at 10.30 and Mrs Upton and Miss Gregory came with delicious tea &c and I made the girl from Broken Hill take a cup – She said she did not like station tea and could not drink it – She never got out for food or anything else till we reached Murray Bridge though I urged her to do so – She said it was too cold and wet – I discovered she had some sandwiches. Miss Dumas came to station at 12 was told it was 2½ hours late and as she met a great friend Mrs Carlyle come to meet the Broken Hill girl, they went to Kindermans<sup>80</sup> and had tea and a rest and then went to Miss Lamberts<sup>81</sup>. Kitty also came to meet at half past two as Miss D<sup>82</sup> had gone to the school – Her skirt had reached before I did with the jacket, and both are perfect fits –

I asked Mrs Upton about Minda. She said nothing had been done. [...] had been away ill with something like housemaid's knee and wanted to go back after a week or two but Mrs Barker<sup>83</sup> had advertised for a new cook – I don't know how that was settled but Mrs Whitham<sup>84</sup> came in on Thursday evg and told me that the girl Nurse Francis from Kapunda had gone back on her fellows and had said she left of her own accord spoke well of Mrs Barker and said the children were all very fond of her – Mrs W said the committee were now inclined to think that a great fuss had been made of very little – but Mr W<sup>85</sup> did not say much to her – I had better speak to him – I thought I had better see Mr Whiting first and went to the office early on Friday – He said that apparently Sir Josiah<sup>86</sup> was too strong for the rest of the Committee and that even Brookman<sup>87</sup> was slackening in his opposition because the place is cleaner and better managed – The only sign of grace is that the Committee want Mr Whiting on their board and he will be a wholesome check but they cannot make Mrs Barker a good woman or Miss Fox<sup>88</sup> into a zealous and efficient teacher – Of course this bears out Mrs Youngs words that the delay would permit the scandal to fizzle out but I am as indignant as ever – I have had a pretty busy time since my return taking up the threads – Our new organ and chancel has an opening night on Friday and the church<sup>89</sup> looks alive or at any rate much more so than Melbourne – I went to the Youngs before I went to the recitals which were wonderfully good – even I enjoyed

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<sup>79</sup> Spence was returning from attending the opening of the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne on 9 May 1901.

<sup>80</sup> Kinderman & Sons had a café at 13-15 Rundle Street, Adelaide.

<sup>81</sup> Miss Lambert was a friend of Mabel Dumas. She also worked as a housekeeper.

<sup>82</sup> Dumas.

<sup>83</sup> The matron of Minda home for children with intellectual disability.

<sup>84</sup> The wife of Charles Whitham (see note seven) was on the Committee of Minda Home.

<sup>85</sup> Charles Lawrence Whitham (1845-1908), educationist and formerly minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide, knew Spence well and had been influenced by her ideas on education. He was treasurer of Minda Home.

<sup>86</sup> Sir Josiah Symon (1846-1934), lawyer, member of Parliament, philanthropist and President of Minda Home.

<sup>87</sup> George Brookman, later Sir George (1850-1927), stockbroker and politician, a member of the Minda Home Committee.

<sup>88</sup> Miss E. Fox, the teacher at Minda, came from England with Mrs Barker and stayed as the Minda teacher until 1922, when she returned to England.

<sup>89</sup> The Unitarian Church in Wakefield Street, Adelaide.

them much<sup>90</sup> – She advised me to plump for Oliver<sup>91</sup> for the two vacancies for the Upper House<sup>92</sup> for my district which I did but he is beaten. Riddoch<sup>93</sup> and Von Doussa<sup>94</sup> two conservatives are in virtually.

But Keogh<sup>95</sup> elected for West Adelaide out of 10 candidates by little more than a tenth of the votes is a P R man and I think by the return E H Coombe<sup>96</sup> a single taxer and an apostle of Effective Voting is pretty sure to get in at Barossa instead of Sir John Downer<sup>97</sup> while Mrs Youngs crusade on the Peninsula<sup>98</sup> is likely to result in the election of an E V man instead of Grainger<sup>99</sup> who like Sir John Downer opposed it. Nanson<sup>100</sup> asked me to send him the attitude of our delegation to the Hare system and I enclose you what I got from Mrs Young which I copied and sent to Nanson on Saturday and to Sir W McMillan<sup>101</sup> today.

I also sent Sir W. M. the details as to informal votes which I was not sure that Johnston<sup>102</sup> had furnished to him. I found the Am<sup>103</sup> mail left on Saturday and I worked all I was worth to write to Cridge San Francisco to Tyson<sup>104</sup> Toronto and to Nanson so you were left out. That day I had to work for my vote – I went to Kent Town and found though I had voted for Assembly Roll, I was not on the roll for L. C.<sup>105</sup> (when I was only a lodger) and was referred to St Peters Town Hall where perhaps I was left when I had freehold property in that subdivision of East Torrens - But there my name was not on – I had been transferred to Norwood – and I had to go to town and go out again to Norwood town Hall and registered my ineffective Vote – Then I went as I had meant to do to my old servant with her much missed two pairs of stockings and made a visit to Laura Gee<sup>106</sup> a contemporary of and schoolfellow of Eleanor Wrens who has a studio in town and painted in water colours the portrait the Wrens have.

Sunday is a dies non for work except that I make up my weeks diary in the morning go to Church and then to Glenelg – I heard there the Fred Martins were not at home but at their unlet furnished house so I hope there is a tenant in view to

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<sup>90</sup> Spence was not sensitive to music.

<sup>91</sup> Thomas Oliver.

<sup>92</sup> Legislative Council.

<sup>93</sup> George Riddoch (1842-1919), pastoralist and politician.

<sup>94</sup> Heinrich Albert Alfred von Doussa (1848-1926), mine director and politician.

<sup>95</sup> Francis Bernard Keogh (c.1859-1927), city councillor, politician, secretary of Licensed Victuallers Association of South Australia 1902-1927.

<sup>96</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician. He became member of the House of Assembly for Barossa.

<sup>97</sup> Sir John William Downer (1843-1915), lawyer and politician, had been elected to the Federal Parliament.

<sup>98</sup> Yorke Peninsula.

<sup>99</sup> Henry William Allerdale Grainger (1848-1923), journalist and politician. He had been appointed Agent General in London.

<sup>100</sup> Edward John Nanson (1850-1936), Professor of Mathematics at University of Melbourne, electoral reformer and advocate of proportional representation.

<sup>101</sup> Sir William McMillan (1850-1926), merchant, free trader, NSW parliamentarian and member of first Federal Parliament.

<sup>102</sup> Walter Lindsay Johnston (1869-1957), Adelaide statistician, secretary to parliamentary committees.

<sup>103</sup> American.

<sup>104</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the Review published by the American Proportional Representation League from 1901-1913. Spence had met him when she was in Canada.

<sup>105</sup> Legislative Council, the Upper House of the South Australian Parliament.

<sup>106</sup> Annie Laura Vernon Gee née Herford (1860-1930), a South Australian artist, was a Unitarian friend of Spence. Her watercolour portrait of Spence was painted in 1900. It became the property of Kathleen Tiller, daughter of Katie and John Quilty with whom Spence was living at the time of her death, and was given to the Art Gallery of South Australia in 1986.

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induce them to break the Sabbath to put it in repair – so I spent the day at my brothers<sup>107</sup>. Miss Dumas went with her mother and brother to Mrs Carlyles where Miss Opie my fellow traveller was and Kitty went to keep Laura and Amy company. The Dumas family are desirous of coming to a two story house near here that I looked at once and thought too dear for me but it is a better house – Today I have been writing to Sir W. Macmillan [sic], to my brother in New Zealand to Miss Gregory at Murray Bridge and to you – I see by Register that Mr Turner<sup>108</sup> has resigned. I suppose he will have a good pension.

Lucy Morice and Mr Young were much interested in the cooking centres – and very indignant about Minda. He thought we should write to the papers. Remember me to Mr and Mrs Freeman Mrs Davis and all friends of suffrage and other reforms in Melbourne.

You are always very near to the heart of yours truly  
C H Spence

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<sup>107</sup> John Brodie Spence (1824-1902), accountant, company director, Adelaide manager of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank from 1864-1878, member of the Legislative Council, and at his death Chairman of the Board of the State Bank. He was a year older than Spence, and her close friend and ally all her life. He and his wife, Jessie Spence, neé Cumming, lived at Glenelg.

<sup>108</sup> Henry Gyles Turner (1831-1920), Melbourne banker, historian and editor of Melbourne Review, brother of Spence's friend Mrs Webster. The *Register* reported on June 10 1901 that Turner had resigned after an accident which affected his health.

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**PRG 88/7/6**

College Road Kent Town  
4<sup>th</sup> July 1901

My dear Miss Henry

Enclosed is a letter on the report of the Electoral experts re Federal elections. I am paying 10/- to have 1000 copies struck off –

Our premier<sup>109</sup> mentioned the opportunity for the Hare system in the elections for the new Legislative Council though he was not disposed to pledge the ministry to it and we are making a supreme effort to get E.V for both Houses or for one amalgamated House which would be better still a single Chamber. But I dare say that is too much to expect though Ontario does well with a single chamber. We are to have a big public meeting in the Town Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Sir Edward Braddon<sup>110</sup> is coming to speak. I am writing to McMillan<sup>111</sup>. Mrs Young has invited Senator Stewart<sup>112</sup> Queensland – This is to be followed by a deputation – We are beating about for impressive weighty speakers – We have one new member E H Coombe<sup>113</sup> a thorough apostle – I could send you as many leaflets as you can distribute to intelligent people –

I had your cutting and am glad you have snared [?] public attention to your contention – I saw Mr Brookman<sup>114</sup> yesterday and spoke about Minda – Things are much better than they were and Mrs Barker<sup>115</sup> can be dismissed on three months notice. He is full of admiration of Mr Whiting and would like him to be Sec of the Hospital<sup>116</sup>. I want him as head of two depts<sup>117</sup> the State Children and the Destitute which ought to be amalgamated under one head – and that head J B Whiting –

Excuse a short letter - Yours truly  
C H Spence

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<sup>109</sup> John Greely Jenkins (1851-1923), Premier of South Australia 1901-1905.

<sup>110</sup> Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon (1829-1904), Tasmanian civil servant and politician, supporter of proportional representation.

<sup>111</sup> Sir William McMillan (1850-1926), merchant, free trader, NSW parliamentarian and member of first Federal Parliament.

<sup>112</sup> James Charles Stewart (1851-1931), Senator for Queensland, supporter of Labour.

<sup>113</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician, recently elected to South Australian Parliament.

<sup>114</sup> George Brookman, later Sir George, (1850-1927), stockbroker and politician, a member of the Minda Home Committee.

<sup>115</sup> The Matron of Minda Home for children with intellectual disabilities.

<sup>116</sup> Probably the Adelaide Children's Hospital. George Brookman was a Governor of the Hospital and on the Board of Management.

<sup>117</sup> Departments.



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**PRG 88/7/7**

[The following fragment of a letter was written on or about 1 August 1901]

The suggestion that an addition to the Hospital<sup>118</sup> would accommodate the improving patients as well as the cancer cases that the Home for Incurables say they cannot deal with because their staff of nurses is too small to let them change as they ought to – is a good one. And there is money left to the Hospital that could make the addition – In the afternoon there was a special meeting of the State Children's Council to consider the yearly report which will be sent to you.

Tomorrow I go on a deputation of the Public Tramways League<sup>119</sup> to the Country Party at Parliament House – to show that it will not be a burden on the country tax payers. On Saturday we hope to have the big meeting<sup>120</sup> at the Town Hall and on Monday a Deputation to the Premier.

Last Sunday at 9 A. M. Harriet Cook<sup>121</sup> came with a message from Mr Wilson<sup>122</sup> that he had no voice at all and would I take the services – which I did. This is a way he has of giving very short notice. I gave a new sermon in the mg and an old one at night and in spite of very bad wet weather had fair congregations. We had no snow in Adelaide but the Mount Lofty Ranges and all the North high lands were covered – the heaviest snow I have seen<sup>123</sup>. It is just 60 years since I recollect seeing it on Mt Lofty – Mr McGeorge has been writing to me about Criminology but my hands are too full and the president was to see him in Melbourne - Kitty has a cold. Miss Dumas is well and sends love –

Yours ever  
C H Spence

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<sup>118</sup> Royal Adelaide Hospital.

<sup>119</sup> Spence was part of a movement to get the Government to buy out the private tramways companies and bring the tramways into public ownership.

<sup>120</sup> The big Effective Voting meeting was held on Saturday 3 August 1901.

<sup>121</sup> Harriet Ann Cook (1855-1943), schoolteacher. The Cooks were Unitarians and had been friends of Spence for many years.

<sup>122</sup> Reverend Alexander Wilson was the Unitarian minister in Adelaide 1893-1902.

<sup>123</sup> There was a heavy fall of snow on Mt Lofty on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July 1901.

**PRG 88/7/8**

College Road Kent Town  
16<sup>th</sup> Sept 1901

My dear Miss Henry

Your letter received on Friday wants more answering than I can give it this mg before I go to an 11 o'clock Committee of the State Children but I shall begin. In the first place my brother John is much better. He was very ill indeed six weeks ago but he is now back to his normal health only that he must be more careful always. They are all in good spirits about him. Mrs Stephen<sup>124</sup> is on a visit and will stay for another fortnight with the little girl –

Eleanor Wren<sup>125</sup> underwent a very serious operation at Craig End<sup>126</sup> [sic] Darlinghurst Sydney a private hospital recommended by Dr Thring<sup>127</sup> - and got through it well. An internal tumour was removed and something straightened that this growth had displaced but her floating kidney was not put in its place. What was done on Tuesday (three weeks ago nearly) was all that could be accomplished while she was under anaesthetics [sic] and the other operation is delayed – I am not sure that she has been told that there is another to come.

So far Dr Thring is satisfied with her progress – but as you may suppose I am still very anxious. My last news was from Charles<sup>128</sup> only a postcard. He had been in bed for four days with a mild attack of influenza the only illness ~~he has had for 20 years or more~~ he had had for 20 years – If she has more than her share of illness and pain he has somewhat less than an average share –

I do not see the speeches of the Federal Parliament only the most boiled down telegraphed report chiefly concerned with our own representatives. I should like to see Higgins<sup>129</sup> on the Defence Bill. I heard Senator Pierce<sup>130</sup> [sic] WA speak on it at the Adelaide Democratic Club<sup>131</sup>. Mrs Young and I went hoping to hear Reps<sup>132</sup> Hughes<sup>133</sup> NSW & he did not come but the young Senators<sup>134</sup> explanation of the problems was well worth going for. I see by today's paper that Higgins spoke strongly on the Alien Immigration bill<sup>135</sup> – lest I forget it I had a lecture myself last night at the Democratic Club to a packed audience on Democracy Autocracy and Plutocracy which was a great success – I took the opportunity to point out that the press which used to be the champion of liberty was now in the hands of capital a great engine

<sup>124</sup> Margaret (Daisy) Stephen, née Spence (1865-1936), youngest daughter of Spence's brother John. She married George Alexander Stephen in 1887. Their daughter, Mary Dunbar Stephen, was born in Melbourne in 1899.

<sup>125</sup> Eleanor Brodie Wren, Spence's niece.

<sup>126</sup> Craighend House.

<sup>127</sup> Dr E. T. Thring, 225 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

<sup>128</sup> Charles Wren, Spence's nephew. In 1901 he was Resident Inspector of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank in Sydney.

<sup>129</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), Judge, Victorian and Federal parliamentarian, supporter of Labour, and later High Court Judge.

<sup>130</sup> George Foster Pearce, later Sir George, (1870-1952), carpenter, union secretary, Federal Senator for WA, supporter of Labour.

<sup>131</sup> An Adelaide Club, founded in 1887, with strong labour and political interests. It also engaged in liberal, educational and cultural activities.

<sup>132</sup> House of Representatives, the Federal Lower House.

<sup>133</sup> William Morris Hughes (1862-1952), NSW labourer and lawyer, union secretary, member of the House of Representatives in the Federal Parliament from 1901-1952. Prime Minister 1915-1923. At this time a supporter of Labour.

<sup>134</sup> Senator Pearce.

<sup>135</sup> Immigration Restriction Act 1901.

of plutocracy and that the drink business instead of being a question of publicans and their customers was an enormous capitalistic ring – 98 per cent of tied houses in Sydney for instance – which had the most lucrative of monopolies and which was a mixed social and political danger – I see my friend Mrs Parkes<sup>136</sup> of Sydney is writing to Sydney Herald for the Gothenburg system<sup>137</sup> and the Sphere wants information. I suppose it will come from many sources – but we should improve on the Gothenburg system which only deals with the sale of spirits and nationalise the business rather than entrust it to companies. Although the companies are limited to earn five per cent there is nothing to prevent members of the companies holding shares in distillery companies –

If my letter will bear it I enclose the manifesto of the State Retail Liquor League which has at the head the Rev J C Kirby<sup>138</sup> who has the credit of being the first to move me to lecture on E. V. to his Baptist Church Literary Society and that Society got up an election of six poets out of 12. The first public test election in South Australia the parent of hundreds since – The W. C. T.U.<sup>139</sup> invited him to speak to them at their convention and I was there and joined the League but the W. C. T. U. will not have any compromises – Have you read Rowntree and Sherwell's<sup>140</sup> book – I bought it for 8d. It shows how plutocracy dominates the drink traffic very clearly.

17<sup>th</sup>. I had a letter from Eleanor herself saying that before all was over she would look as if she had been in the S. A. war<sup>141</sup> for in addition to the great slash that is healing there are to be two incisions made for the operation that awaits her. I think I wrote to you that she was put under the X ray. The doctor thought there was a stone in the right kidney. But such was not the case – only there was a tumour and a floating kidney and some displacement – No wonder she was ill –

Your question as to a delegate to the Washington Conference<sup>142</sup> is reinforced by a letter from Miss Locke<sup>143</sup> enclosing a copy of the letter of Carrie Chapman Catt<sup>144</sup> whom I have heard speak several times. My experience was that I let people know I was open to lecture on Effective Voting. Not so hopeful a subject as Woman

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<sup>136</sup> Hilma Olivia Edla Johanna Parkes née Ekenberg (1859-1909), political organiser and activist, member of Womanhood Suffrage League of NSW and founder of Women's Liberal League 1902.

<sup>137</sup> Gothenburg gave its name to the Scandinavian system of eliminating private profit from the sale of liquor in the belief that it would curb excessive drinking. A monopoly of the sale of liquor was entrusted to a body of citizens who were supposed to have no personal interest in it. The profits were applied to public purposes.

<sup>138</sup> Joseph Coles Kirby (1837-1924), minister of Port Adelaide Congregational Church (not Baptist). He formed the Temperance Alliance of South Australia in 1881, and in 1901 was the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Retail Liquor League.

<sup>139</sup> Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

<sup>140</sup> *British 'Gothenburg' experiments and public -house trusts* by Joseph Rowntree (1836-1925) and Arthur Sherwell (1863-1942), London, 1901.

<sup>141</sup> South African (Boer) war.

<sup>142</sup> The First International Woman Suffrage Conference was held in Washington DC on 12 February 1902.

<sup>143</sup> Lilian Sophia Locke (1869-1950), Melbourne socialist, Secretary of the United Council for Woman's Suffrage on 1890s and organizing secretary of Political Labour Council of Victoria. She was the only female member of the Melbourne Trades Hall Council. She was a friend of Vida Goldstein.

<sup>144</sup> Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), American newspaper reporter, writer, lecturer and skilful political strategist, State organiser of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association. In 1902 she succeeded Susan B. Anthony as President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

Suffrage then I wrote that I was going to the Chicago Congress<sup>145</sup> – but I had to wait till Oct or rather Nov before the lecturing season began – February would be in the middle of it. I took a first class passage through to Glasgow for £60 that took me across the continent to New York – I don't know if the Pacific ocean steamers have 2<sup>nd</sup> class accommodation now but there was some in 1893. I took 2<sup>nd</sup> class German line home from Genoa good enough for any one.

I found people always ready to show me where to live and board cheaply – I did not spend so much at Chicago as I expected because I got into a place where I paid so much for my room 15/- a week and for meals as I had them – At New York I was in the Margaret Louisa Home<sup>146</sup> far more comfortable for the same money. But I had a great deal of hospitality. Of the ten months I spent in the States I was with friends five months – I corresponded for the Adelaide Register<sup>147</sup> and the Sydney Telegraph<sup>148</sup> and got from Register £25 from Telegraph £35 – that was spread over a year and a half – I earned by writing Harpers Mag<sup>149</sup> £15 Christian Advocate<sup>150</sup> £8..6.6 Arena<sup>151</sup> £4..3.4 Voice<sup>152</sup> £ 1..7.

I earned by fourteen paid lectures fee varied from \$10 the commonest – up \$50 in Boston \$260 or £52 – I spoke at a great many places without payment – If I had gone for Woman Suffrage more exclusively I should have had more invitations – the money was all earned between Nov. and April – I sailed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April for Glasgow. I earned nothing in England or Scotland at all – nothing in Canada. I had to travel 3,000 miles extra. Sometimes I had travelling expenses allowed sometimes not. Travelling costs 3 cents a mile except in New York State where it is 2c. in the ordinary cars. Sleeping Pullman cars cost extra - but I never paid it but for one night – I was in the States from May to Nov. before I earned a cent – but I prepared the way for earning –

I wish Vida Goldstein<sup>153</sup> could be sent for I think it would be an education to her – but it would be well if she could see S A and N. Z. to report on the effects of W. S.<sup>154</sup> Only I am afraid she might be disappointed because we are by no means as far superior as the unenfranchised women expect them to be – I have always said the suffrage is educative and education is a gradual thing.

She will find that Am.<sup>155</sup> women want the suffrage to vote for administrators of the law rather than for representative law makers because these officials are elected when they are not appointed by the party in power. Am. women want to have honest

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<sup>145</sup> The International Conference on Charities and Correction was held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893. Spence was a delegate.

<sup>146</sup> The Margaret Louisa Home, a temporary home for self-supporting women, was built for the YWCA in New York.

<sup>147</sup> Spence's articles, 'Miss Spence on her travels', appeared irregularly in the *South Australian Register* and the *Adelaide Observer* from 5 July 1893 till 13 December 1894.

<sup>148</sup> Nine travel articles by Spence appeared in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* from 26 December 1893 till 12 January 1895.

<sup>149</sup> *Harper's Magazine*, an American monthly journal of literature, politics, culture and the arts. 1850-present day. Spence published 'An Australian's Impression of America'. July 1894, vol. 89, p. 244-51.

<sup>150</sup> *The Christian Advocate*, New York. Spence published 'Notes political and social of ten months in America'. 23 August 1894. p. 4-5.

<sup>151</sup> *Arena*, Boston. An American monthly, advocate of social reform. 1889-1909. Spence published 'Effective Voting – the only effective moralizer of politics'. November 1894, vol. x, no. ix. p. 767-776.

<sup>152</sup> *The Voice*, sometimes subtitled 'A Journal of Good Citizenship', Chicago, 1884-96.

<sup>153</sup> Vida Goldstein became the Australian and New Zealand delegate to the Washington Conference.

<sup>154</sup> Woman suffrage.

<sup>155</sup> American.

officials – which we can only indirectly effect by having an honest parliament – Our Civil Service keeps office on good behaviour –

I could give Miss Goldstein letters to good people in the States.

Yesterday I had a Post Card from Melrose<sup>156</sup> dated August 11<sup>th</sup> with a view of Abbotsford<sup>157</sup> and the Tweed. “From your old home we send you our love and greetings Mrs Garrison Agnes and I. We came over the last of April and sail for home on the 27<sup>th</sup> Aug. Have had a beautiful time in France and England and Scotland was a fitting and lovely climax. May this find you well and not cast down by the evil spirit that at present dominates the world. Here’s to you and your good Cause.

Wm Lloyd Garrison”<sup>158</sup>

Miss Locke wants me to consult some association as to the delegate. There is really no assn of women but the W C T U – but I shall talk to Mrs Young and Lucy Morice before I reply. I thought my experiences might be useful – and wrote that to you to tell Miss Goldstein – I think the 20 months I was away, it cost me £200 and what I earned – Miss Goldstein would not be so long – I had another letter yesterday from London Mrs M H. Alexander<sup>159</sup> wanting my aid for the Victoria League, an Imperial union of women for mutual information<sup>160</sup>. I have met her sister Miss Brown and her sister in law<sup>161</sup> is on our S.C Council – but this league seems to be too much of titled ladies – ornamental – not working – I am really too busy to take up this extra work –

I have read with great pleasure the Durham method of pacification– I do not see anything but the most meagre reports of Federal speeches and should like to see Mr Higgins<sup>162</sup> speech. Read a paper on the Drink Problem in the *Transvaal Contemporary*<sup>163</sup> July – There are also three papers by the author of *Drift*<sup>164</sup> in *Contemporary* May June & July well worth reading – Mrs Young is very very busy with varying health – She went to Saddleworth 70 miles N. and had a splendid meeting. I was at Murray Bridge last month and go to Callington on Saturday next. Mrs Young last week spent 1½ hours over a Baptist minister at Telowie 238 North, and lent her diagrams to him to be returned in time for me – She also gave hours of instruction to Mr E H Coombe<sup>165</sup> to prepare him to defend the good cause.

We are at an acute stage of the fight – If we can prevent the State being split up into single electorates we can get the Hare system introduced. Do you note the

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<sup>156</sup> The town in Scotland where Spence was born and spent the first thirteen years of her life.

<sup>157</sup> The home of Sir Walter Scott, near the River Tweed and the town of Melrose.

<sup>158</sup> William Lloyd Garrison (1838-1909), son of the great abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison (1804-1879), advocate of single tax, woman suffrage and free trade. He and his wife Agnes met Spence when she was in America and corresponded with her until Garrison’s, and later Spence’s, death.

<sup>159</sup> Mrs Hirst Alexander was the sister of Tom Brown, whose wife, Ellen Jane Brown née Tucker, was a member of the State Children’s Council. As Miss Hirst Brown she had been a journalist in Melbourne in 1890s and was the founder of the literary arts club, the Austral Salon.

<sup>160</sup> The Victoria League was founded in London in April 1901 to foster friendly understanding between British subjects all over the world. A branch was formed in South Australia in 1911.

<sup>161</sup> Ellen Jane Brown, née Tucker, was the wife of Tom Brown of Nullabor Station. She acted as Lady Mayoress for the four years that her brother, Charles Tucker, was Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

<sup>162</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), Judge, Victorian and Federal parliamentarian, supporter of Labour, and later High Court Judge.

<sup>163</sup> *Contemporary Review* published by The Columbus Co. London ran from 1866 to the present day.

<sup>164</sup> There were three papers in the *Contemporary Review* on the ‘Economic Decay of Great Britain’ by the author of ‘Drifting’.

<sup>165</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician, member of the House of Assembly for Barossa and a proportional representation enthusiast.

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Govt proposals for Tasmanias five districts with seven members each for Assembly 18 to be elected from the whole island – I hope they can carry it.

We are also at an acute stage of the tram ways fight - No one can say whether the Assembly will carry or throw out the Snow bill<sup>166</sup>. The Bulletin is very scathing about it.

I think I have written you a long screed. Miss Dumas sends her love. Kitty does well at short hand and type writing. I hope she is not neglecting her other work – She is not so hard at it as I could wish – George tells us he is 12lb heavier in four months and seems cheerful – Mrs Morice is much happier now her father is well – Mrs F. Martin is talking much about Europe. I suppose she will go there again somehow before very long –

Kind regards to your brother<sup>167</sup> and to Mr and Mrs Freeman and their daughter.

Yours ever C. H. Spence

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<sup>166</sup> Mr Snow was the representative of companies like British Westinghouse Electric Company and Callender's Cable and Construction Company which wished to take the tramways into private ownership. The Tramways Bill to enable this was commonly known as the Snow Bill. It was eventually defeated. Spence was fighting for public ownership.

<sup>167</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

**PRG 88/7/9**

Kent Town  
4<sup>th</sup> Octr [1901]

My dear Miss Henry

After staying in the house the whole of Tuesday and Wednesday Dr & Mrs Elkington<sup>168</sup> called on Thursday about 12 o'clock. I was at the Destitute Office from 10 to 2.20. Miss Gregory and Kitty said they were pleasant looking especially her. I am disappointed –

I send you a District Nurses report also a manifesto of the State Retail Liquor League – which I am much interested in. I see in the last number of the *Charity Review*<sup>169</sup> an excellent article by Dr Strong<sup>170</sup> on the drink business on the same lines – Here there is only five years lease of the licences to buy and they were valued for some English ring that wanted to purchase at 400,000 – The League does not want to buy the houses only the Licences and Dr Magarey's<sup>171</sup> Bill gave only 15 years life to them – Has Vida Goldstein got information about the Gothenburg system<sup>172</sup> from Mrs Parkes or others – I could give information to the Sphere as I have read carefully Rowntree and Sherwell's<sup>173</sup> book but I should prefer that some other women should write on this subject.

Eleanor Wren was to return to her home on Wednesday. She is better but she would not have been alive now if that terrible operation had not been performed – I don't know how long they were cutting at the growth but she was seven hours under ether unconscious – The kidney has since floated into its place but whether it will keep there when she begins to go about is the question – The digestion is the terrible difficulty but it is better – Mrs Wren and Marjorie are in Melbourne for this week of holidays – but there are two good and devoted maids in the house – one they took with them – I am writing today to the Premier of Tasmania about filling up a vacancy by the Hare system – I also refer him to the last page of Mrs Young's pamphlet. The Hare system not only tells what the voter wants done on election day but what he wants done with his vote if his elected member dies or retires – Add to the original primary votes given to the defeated candidates all that would be transferred to them from the man retiring and he who has the most votes should be the substitute. It would take half an hour in Tasmania to do this –

My brother is keeping exceedingly well – Mrs Stephen returned on Thursday with her little girl –

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<sup>168</sup> Dr John Simeon Colebrook Elkington (1871-1955), Victorian public health advocate, and his wife, Mary Cassandra, nee Parkinson.

<sup>169</sup> *Charity Review*, published by the Charity Organization Society in Melbourne.

<sup>170</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church which Spence attended. Alice Henry often went there.

<sup>171</sup> Sylvanus James Magarey (1850-1901), physician specialising in diseases of children, member of South Australian Legislative Council 1888-1897.

<sup>172</sup> Gothenburg gave its name to the Scandinavian system of eliminating private profit from the sale of liquor in the belief that it would curb excessive drinking. A monopoly of the sale of liquor was entrusted to a body of citizens who were supposed to have no personal interest in it. The profits were applied to public purposes.

<sup>173</sup> *British 'Gothenburg' experiments and public -house trusts* by Joseph Rowntree (1836-1925) and Arthur Sherwell (1863-1942), London, 1901.

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Mrs Morice would have liked to see the Elkingtons but I suppose she did not – That day you took me to the University I met Professor Elkington<sup>174</sup> at the Nansons. He bought 12 copies of Mrs Youngs pamphlet to show his interest in the subject.

Have you had any communication about the Victorian League a sort of Imperial Union of Women for education and information. Mrs Hirst Alexander<sup>175</sup> wrote to me to use my great influence to further it – She also wrote to Lady Tennyson<sup>176</sup> and Lady Way<sup>177</sup> – I think it is rather vague – also I am too busy to do any extra work – though it might be useful. Mrs Young is pretty well but her eldest boy has a mild kind of diabetes which demands the strictest dieting and cannot over fatigue himself. He is very good about food because he is so anxious to be well. He is forbidden to swim till he is better and he is exceedingly fond of his morning lessons – I am reading for the first time Lord Tennysons Life which I borrowed from Mrs Young and like it very much indeed. Give my love to my Melbourne friends. Miss Dumas and Kitty send love –

Ever yours C H Spence

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<sup>174</sup> John Simeon Elkington (1841-1922), Professor of History and Political Economy at Melbourne University, father of Dr Elkington.

<sup>175</sup> Mrs Hirst Alexander was the sister-in-law of Mrs Tom Brown, a member of the State Children's Council. As Miss Hirst Brown she had been a journalist in Melbourne in 1890s and was a founder of the Austral Salon of Music, Literature and the Arts (1890 to the present day). The salon was begun by a small group of women journalists in Melbourne as a club for women writers.

<sup>176</sup> Audrey Georgina Florence Tennyson (1854-1916), wife of Hallam, Lord Tennyson, Governor of South Australia 1899-1903.

<sup>177</sup> Katherine, formerly Blue, née Gollan, wife of Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice of South Australia. She was a member of the State Children's Council.



**PRG 88/7/10**

College Road. Kent Town  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Oct [1901]

My dear Miss Henry

I have not yet seen Miss Evelyn Goode<sup>178</sup> but hope to do so. Mrs Young tells me she is a sister of our good Effective Voter and Single Taxer Clarence Goode of Clare<sup>179</sup> and that she helped well to get up a meeting for E V there - She had heard also that she had written some short stories and was advised to write a long book<sup>180</sup> which she is now engaged in. So I feel sure I shall like the young lady when I see her - I ~~may~~ should have been introduced to her at the Henry George Memorial Meeting<sup>181</sup> in Sept. for she was there with her brother. There is a yearly meeting on H G's birthday. I have his name in my birthday book. I had a post card from Michael Flürscheim<sup>182</sup> who is going to Europe from Auckland in the Neckar which leaves Sydney on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> will arrive at Adelaide about 12<sup>th</sup> - I am to go and see him, his new wife<sup>183</sup> and two children, on board. Could you contrive to see him in Melbourne on board - Although he quarrelled with Ignatius Singer<sup>184</sup>, which alienates the Single Taxers from him, I consider Rent Interest & Wages<sup>185</sup> only next to Progress & Poverty<sup>186</sup>, as an epoch making book - He has just completed a new book of 550 pages<sup>187</sup> - I fear it is too long for the general reader - His book on the money question is not half so interesting as R. I. & W.

I am sure that Vida Goldstein and Miss Locke<sup>188</sup> were much disappointed at my letters to them - but in asking my friends all round, they agree with me that money is urgently needed for local reform work, and £30 would be of less real benefit as one-fifth of the cost of one delegate - and she not from an enfranchised state than in other reform directions.

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<sup>178</sup> Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927). Her father was Station Manager on Canowie and Hill River stations west of Hallett. Later they lived at Fullarton.

<sup>179</sup> The family's address was Clare.

<sup>180</sup> *Days that Speak* was published in London by Ward, Lock & Co in 1908.

<sup>181</sup> Henry George (1839-1897) American journalist and crusading reporter who wrote two books which had a tremendous influence: *Our Land and Land Policy* (1870) and *Progress and Poverty* (1877). They recommended a single tax on the value of property.

<sup>182</sup> Michael Flürscheim (1844-1912), wealthy German industrialist, supporter of single tax and monetary reform, writer on social, economic, and monetary reform. He had a number of businesses in New Zealand between 1898 and 1905.

<sup>183</sup> The Mrs Flürscheim with whom Spence had stayed in Europe in 1894 had died.

<sup>184</sup> Ignatius Singer was the author, with Lewis Henry Berens, of *The Story of My Dictatorship: The taxation of land values clearly explained*, a formative work on Single Tax which was published in 1894.

<sup>185</sup> *Rent, Interest and Wages. Or the real bearings of the Land Question: private rent the mother of interest, the cause of commercial depression and social misery*, by Michael Flürscheim, was published in 1891.

<sup>186</sup> *Progress and Poverty: an enquiry into the cause of industrial depressions and of increase of want with increase of wealth; the remedy*, by Henry George.

<sup>187</sup> *The Science of Political Economy* by Henry George was published in 1898. It had 545 pages.

<sup>188</sup> Lilian Sophia Locke (1869-1950), Melbourne socialist, Secretary of the United Council for Woman's Suffrage on 1890s and organizing secretary of Political Labour Council of Victoria. She was the only female member of the Melbourne Trades Hall Council. She was a friend of Vida Goldstein.

For Vida herself it would be a great opportunity for education and information – but I do not know if the American suffragists take any wider view of the question of representation than we do. In fact I sometimes thought them narrower.

The same day I answered Miss Locke, I answered the Victoria League<sup>189</sup> – I said that there was very little imperialism here – but some of my friends Miss Clark<sup>190</sup> and Mrs Brown<sup>191</sup> at the State Childrens Committee in especial say I am mistaken there – for there is a great deal of the imperialistic spirit among women – especially since the war<sup>192</sup>. Yes, that is one among the many evils of the war - but it is not deeply rooted and would not stand any strain –

I suppose Miss Rose Scott<sup>193</sup> has also been communicated with – I have had some correspondence with Mrs Hilma Parkes on the Gothenburg System – I wish she would enlighten the Woman's Sphere on the subject – I could do it, but it might alienate the W C T U from Effective Voting if I took an active part in a reform to which they are strongly opposed – but I am working for it quietly – I enclose a manifesto for your perusal – If Vida Goldstein really wants to understand the question, there is an 8d edition of Rowntree & Sherwells book<sup>194</sup> slightly abridged from the 6/ edition, that could tell her all – And I think all women who are worthy of the vote should study the drink problem.

I don't think the traffic can be ended but it might be restricted.

I am interested in an effort on the part of some tailoresses to get up a Co op Co to get a small gas engine to give motive power to their machines – It will cost £125 and they want to raise it in one pound shares, but find it difficult.

I am going to night with £10 for ten shares from Mrs Barr Smith<sup>195</sup>, and £4 from me and my family at Glenelg. I hope it may come off. I am to explain to them about Effective Voting at their urgent request –

I fear that the duty on calico and flannelette will kill the shirt making business for a while - the margin between material and made up goods duty allowed of some profit – People are all grumbling at different parts of the Tariff – but it is not so bad as I expected. Sargoods<sup>196</sup> statement as to the comparatively high duty on the cheaper hats is very telling -

I am going to borrow Methuens<sup>197</sup> book from Mr Young – I read with great interest Bloch's<sup>198</sup> article in 19<sup>th</sup> Century<sup>199</sup> or Contemporary<sup>200</sup> – I forget which –

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<sup>189</sup> The Victoria League was founded in London in April 1901 to foster friendly understanding between British subjects all over the world. A branch was formed in South Australia in 1911.

<sup>190</sup> Caroline Emily Clark (1825- 1911), philanthropist and reformer, Spence's colleague on the Boarding-out Society and the State Children's Council, and friend of many years.

<sup>191</sup> Ellen Jane Brown, née Tucker, was the wife of Tom Brown of Nullabor Station. She acted as Lady Mayoress for the four years that her brother, Charles Tucker, was Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

<sup>192</sup> i.e. the Boer War.

<sup>193</sup> Rose Scott (1847-1925), NSW pacifist, feminist, reformer and suffragist, campaigner for better conditions for working women.

<sup>194</sup> *British 'Gothenburg' experiments and public -house trusts* by Joseph Rowntree (1836-1925) and Arthur Sherwell (1863-1942), London, 1901.

<sup>195</sup> Joanna Barr Smith (1835-1919), wife of Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915). They were much travelled wealthy philanthropists, friends of Spence, who helped her and her causes in many ways.

<sup>196</sup> Sir Frederick Thomas Sargood (1834-1903), merchant and member of Victorian Legislative Council, later elected to Federal Senate. Sargood was a dominant soft goods firm.

<sup>197</sup> *Peace or War in South Africa* by Algernon Marshall Stedman Methuen, 1901.

<sup>198</sup> 'The Wars of the Future' by French author Jean de Bloch appeared in *Contemporary Review* September 1901.

<sup>199</sup> *Nineteenth Century*, a periodical published in London, ran from 1877 to 1900.

You may have heard we had a meeting on the Defence bill on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Percy Billings New Church was very eloquent agst conscription & other things. It was a small room but full – about 100 people a great many of them Single Taxers. Very unanimous in favour of Higgins<sup>201</sup> Amendment – Did I tell you Mrs Hartley<sup>202</sup> and I went to Mrs Hills' [?] Cooking class – only the fourth week – I dare say it is doing good – but only one gas stove and one other stove for 25 to 30 girls – I have from Mr Whitham Annual Education report – I am inclined to tear out two leaves and send them to you about the University training for our pupil teachers.

My neice [sic] Lucy Morice read a paper to the Woman's League now defunct on the Gothenburg system and the Carolina Dispensary system but I think the plan proposed by Mr Kirby's<sup>203</sup> State retail Liquor League is better than either.

By Magarey's<sup>204</sup> Act there were only 15 years lease of the licences; 10 have expired so that now there are only 5 unexpired years to buy up – That was valued lately by an Adelaide valuator for an English syndicate who wished to buy it – at £400,000 – not the houses – but the licences only – Of course if Govt bought them, they would at once shut up one third – cut throat competition would end – and the drink would be pure and the regulations as to hours &c would be enforced – I think I once read that if an Angel from Heaven desired to do good work in England he would seek to keep a decent public house. I read this somewhere long before Joseph Chamberlain's some what similar utterance twenty five years ago.

I see in this mornings paper that the Federal Govt proposes voting by figures for Single electorates House of Representatives and the block vote or at least crosses without alternative for the Senate<sup>205</sup> – I am very anxious over our own Constitution bill the debate stretches out – I dare not hope for success, but yet failure here would be terrible –

I am asked to go and speak at a free trade meeting tomorrow night at the Adelaide Town Hall –

I am not a free trader – but I think the Tariff wants some mending.

With love from Miss Dumas the only one at home

Yours in love

C H Spence

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<sup>200</sup> *Contemporary Review* published by The Columbus Co. London ran from 1866 to the present day.

<sup>201</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), Judge, Victorian and Federal parliamentarian, supporter of Labour, and later High Court Judge.

<sup>202</sup> Elizabeth Annie Hartley, née Green, widow of John Anderson Hartley (1844-1896) who had been Inspector-General of Schools and head of South Australian Education Department. He and his wife had been personal friends of Spence who lived near them. Spence had championed Hartley when his authority was challenged.

<sup>203</sup> Joseph Coles Kirby (1837-1924), minister of Port Adelaide Congregational Church. He formed the Temperance Alliance of South Australia in 1881, and in 1901 was the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Retail Liquor League.

<sup>204</sup> Sylvanus James Magarey (1850-1901), physician specialising in diseases of children, member of South Australian Legislative Council 1888-1897.

<sup>205</sup> This account appeared in the *Register* on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901. Spence obviously did not finish her letter on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**PRG 88/7/11**

~~Ken~~ College Road Kent Town  
19 [December 1901]

My dear Miss Henry

I had three hours with Mr & Mrs Flürsheim<sup>206</sup> on board the Neckar on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup><sup>207</sup>. He told me A. J. Ogilvy<sup>208</sup> has come express from Tasmania to go through the new book<sup>209</sup> – He made some criticisms and suggested some alterations which Flürsheim adopted but said the book was splendid – I hope it is so indeed. Flürsheim has lost a good deal of money in New Zealand but he says it has been an invaluable experience which he would not have been without for the world – His business is at Rotorua and they propose to return in a year – when I shall see them again. I like Mrs Flürsheim very much and admire her children – He thinks New Zealand has come to the end of her tether in borrowing and believes that a crisis is impending when people will listen to the voice of wisdom – He did go to town on Friday and saw Mr Proud<sup>210</sup> who told him the details of his hard campaign for public ownership of the Tramways and took him to the House of Parliament where he shook hands with the members who had fought against the Snow Bill<sup>211</sup>.

You say Vida Goldstein is likely to go to Washington.<sup>212</sup> If so I should like to contribute a little – 10/ is all I can spare and that not very well as I have gone in for helping a Co operative Clothing Factory to the extent of £5 to get electric power applied to their machines, so as to be able to compete with workers in big factories –

Kitty Hood went up for five subjects and failed in Mathematics and English but passed in French Latin and Greek – the last with credit. She was met in Melbourne by Lilly Lang<sup>213</sup> and stayed a night – She arrived on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> all right.

I am staying at Mrs Dumas who now lives three doors off – As Kitty is in Sydney and Miss Gregory at Murray Bridge for five weeks I have shut up the house and board here till they come back. This was meant to give Miss Dumas a holiday but she has gone to take the situation of her friend Miss Lambert for a fortnight as Miss Lambert is ill – She is keeping house for a German jeweller and finds the cooking wonderful and not always appetising.

Did you see the hopes for the Federal Electoral Bill – And as the Leg<sup>214</sup> Council has made large withdrawals I believe our Constitution Bill is going to pass

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<sup>206</sup> Michael Flürsheim (1844-1912), wealthy German industrialist, supporter of single tax and monetary reform, writer on social, economic, and monetary reform. He had a number of businesses in New Zealand between 1898 and 1905.

<sup>207</sup> The *Neckar* left Adelaide on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1901.

<sup>208</sup> Arthur James Ogilvy (1834-1914), Tasmanian writer on land reform, labour and capital, author of *The Cause of a Crisis (Flürsheim's Theory)*, Hobart 1894.

<sup>209</sup> Probably *Clue to the Economic Labyrinth* which was published in 1902.

<sup>210</sup> Cornelius Proud (1854-1905), shorthand writer, sharebroker and literary man, helped to establish the Adelaide Stock Exchange and presented to the House of Assembly the petition carrying 11000 signatures supporting women's suffrage.

<sup>211</sup> Mr Snow was the representative of companies like British Westinghouse Electric Company and Callender's Cable and Construction Company which wished to take the tramways into private ownership. The Tramways Bill to enable this was commonly known as the Snow Bill. It was eventually defeated.

<sup>212</sup> Vida Goldstein represented Australia and New Zealand at the International Suffrage Conference in Washington DC in 1902.

<sup>213</sup> Margaret Lillian Lang, daughter of Thomas Lang and Louisa Annie Hall, cousin of Mrs Charles Wren.

<sup>214</sup> South Australian Legislative Council.

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with the multiple electorates which will lead to preferential voting and proportional representation.<sup>215</sup>

I am writing against time. Let me know by post card about Vida and I will send a postal note – but I don't want to send money if she is not going – Eleanor said that Mrs Wren was contributing through Miss Scott.

Excuse this hurried scrawl.

Always yours  
C H Spence

I hope you go to Hobart.

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<sup>215</sup> The South Australian Constitution Bill was passed on 21 December 1901 after several months of debate.

**PRG 88/7/12**

College Road Kent Town  
29<sup>th</sup> Jany 1902

My dear Miss Henry

How do you feel about the Electoral Bill which Nanson and Robert Garran<sup>216</sup> have been working at which Nanson wrote me three times about as if it would please me. We think it is likely to kill the Hare principle of the quota altogether – Mrs Young and I feel we are wounded in the house of our friends – When it has been proved in Tasmania<sup>217</sup> that the Straight-Up [?]- figures and nothing else and different figures for each preference resulted in the smallest proportion of informal votes in the Commonwealth – the concession of the bill to allow bracketing and scoring out is nothing less than contemptible. Of course I prefer the Hare quota to the Droop<sup>218</sup> – the electors will see that 25% of the votes are wasted – under majority representation with the contingent vote it is possible for 49 per cent to be wasted – under the Hare quota the waste is very slight through exhausted votes – I have just written an indignant letter to Nanson – I waited till we had a meeting of the Effective Voting League thinking I might cool down a little but I don't think I have done so –

I wrote yesterday to Senator Keating<sup>219</sup> asking if the objectionable features could be worked out in committee and something like the Tasmanian system adopted – Unfortunately Johnston's<sup>220</sup> paper tried to prove too much – He said that the men elected to the Commonwealth could have had a majority in the districts and that will be brought forward to show that there is no need for the change.

He put the candidates where he pleased – where they had most votes but strong men would have contested important districts and weak men would have been elected in small or unimportant districts because the strong men were being beaten elsewhere –

Here we have a general election at the beginning of May and we have our work to do to get men returned favourable to the Hare Spence or Hare Clark system of voting – The Houses were favourable to the principle of Effective Voting when the Constitution Bill was debated but not so favourable as to secure a two thirds majority so lest we should imperil the bill for the reduction of numbers of both houses and for the creation of multiple electorates Mr E H Coombe's<sup>221</sup> resolution was dropped – We are in hope that after the experiences of the elections under the multiple vote with permission to plump<sup>222</sup> given the waste of voting power will be so great as to dispose

<sup>216</sup> Sir Robert Randolph Garran (1867-1957), lawyer, parliamentary draftsman and first Commonwealth public servant as secretary to the Attorney-General's Department.

<sup>217</sup> By 1897 Tasmania was using the Hare-Clark system of voting, acknowledging Spence's contribution in her long fight for Proportional Representation. See Robert Mackenzie Johnston (1844-1918), Tasmanian Government Statistician, *Observations on the working results of the Hare system of election in Tasmania*.

<sup>218</sup> The 'Droop' is the formula that is used to calculate the minimum number of votes required to capture a seat in a multi-member constituency using proportional representation through the single transferable vote. It was devised in 1868 by English lawyer and mathematician Henry Richmond Droop (1831-1884).

<sup>219</sup> John Henry Keating (1872-1940), Tasmanian lawyer and politician, youngest member of first Commonwealth parliament.

<sup>220</sup> Robert Mackenzie Johnston (1844-1918) Tasmanian Statistician. *Observations on the working results of the Hare system of election*. Tasmania, Office of the Government Statistician, Hobart, 1897.

<sup>221</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), South Australian journalist and politician.

<sup>222</sup> To plump was to vote at an election for one candidate only when two or more could have been voted for.

electors and elected to adopt scientific suffrage – as Dr Auvergne Llans Astor [?] one leading advocate in California calls it.

I hope you enjoyed your visit to Tasmania and had a good hearing for your paper on Epileptic Homes.

Kitty Hood was enjoying herself in Sydney with the Wrens when she had a letter from Mr Woodhouse Crompton<sup>223</sup> nephew of Miss Clark's asking her to be type writer and short hand writer in his office Bunyip Soap Co – Hides and Skins – Fire and Marine Insurance to succeed Tessa Smith his sister in law with 10/ a week for half day six days a week – She joyfully accepted it and came back on the 16<sup>th</sup> and went to business that afternoon – She is taking lessons in book keeping and in short hand to increase her speed practice is sufficient for the typing – She likes the work and the people. Her intelligence will come into play but at present Latin French and Greek are in abeyance. She failed in English and in Mathematics but passed in French in Latin and got a credit for Greek – It was the higher Public Service Exam equal to the first year of a University course and she could obtain an evening scholarship on the strength of her languages but at present she wants to improve her business capacity –

While she was away Miss Gregory was absent at Murray Bridge where she is now in her eighth week but we expect her home any day – I went for five weeks as a boarder to Miss Dumas' mother who lives three doors off, so as to give Miss Dumas and myself more liberty – Her mother asked me to let Mabel come home in the evenings after she has washed up – and I conceded the point though I miss her society – She is greatly loved by her mother and brothers and sisters<sup>224</sup>. Laura Dumas<sup>225</sup> still teaches all day for 6/ a week at the Church school.

Kitty was lucky to make so good a beginning especially as the executors think she should be earning her living soon. I let her spend 6/ and keep the 4/ for her instruction.

George<sup>226</sup> comes to town for a fortnight's holiday on the 10<sup>th</sup> - We hope after April that he may come back to town – Kitty reports Eleanor Wren as improving slowly. She is now at Clifton on the Illawarra Road<sup>227</sup> with Marjorie for the rest of M' s holidays – Dr Thring<sup>228</sup> gave her an overhaul before he took six months for Europe – and said the kidney had slipped out of place again.

He ordered a pad – digestion medicine and an immediate change of air – let us hope she will benefit. Mrs Morice and husband and Pat are quite well – All the Glenelg family have greatly enjoyed a visit from English cousins – of six weeks – Col. and Mrs Cottell and two young daughters 16 and 14 and Louie Murray sister of Mrs Cottell<sup>229</sup> – they are going to China and Japan where the Cottells met and lived.

Mrs Spences sister<sup>230</sup> married Mr Murray of D & W Murray Lim<sup>231</sup> – of Adelaide Melbourne Perth, Brisbane Broken Hill – I suppose you never see Daisy Stephen – Miss Dumas and Kitty send love.

Yours ever

C H Spence

Did you see Mr S Clark and his daughter at Hobart.

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<sup>223</sup> Henry Woodhouse Crompton, born 1867.

<sup>224</sup> Victor Edgar Dumas 1873-1935, Aimee Russell Dumas, born 1876, Allan Russell Dumas, born 1878, Edmund Russell Dumas, 1880-1955.

<sup>225</sup> Mabel Dumas' mother.

<sup>226</sup> George Hood.

<sup>227</sup> A resort in the hills south of Sydney.

<sup>228</sup> Dr E. T. Thring, 225 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

<sup>229</sup> Helen MacIntosh Murray, daughter of William MacIntosh Murray, had married Arthur Bowdich Cottell, surgeon, on 18 June 1885.

<sup>230</sup> Helen Morrison Cumming had married William McIntosh Murray in 1857.

<sup>231</sup> Limited.

**PRG 88/7/13**

College Road Kent Town  
24<sup>th</sup> Feby [1902]

My dear Miss Henry

I cannot help thinking that you have paid me twice for some pamphlets but cannot find any clear record of it – Perhaps you may have a memo of it. I think about the beginning of the year. In future you need not mind about S A stamps for I can always change Victorian stamps for cash at the E & S Bank. Senator Charleston<sup>232</sup> thinks the Electoral Bill will pass the Senate complications and all – but the Representatives may amend it – He says Nanson watches the debates with intense interest. We are hopeful for P.R. after our elections are over – We are badly in need of money for the campaign – and must start collecting. I cut out a par<sup>233</sup> in today's paper about a Womans Co operative clothing factory<sup>234</sup> which I have done a lot of work for – I am to start the machinery this afternoon. I hope the women will get enough of work from the warehouse to keep the machines going. Electricity costs £61 to have just to instal – A gas engine would have cost £80 – I don't know which will be cheapest for the power in working –

About Massachusetts I knew it was the pioneer in childrens courts but I was told that it was not compulsory and when I was in Boston there was a great tendency to think it. It was not then part of the law of the State as it is in South Australia – I think the other things you mention are unique in S. A. and come as near General Booths<sup>235</sup> poor man's lawyer as any Govt department in the world –

I read your Manchester Guardian letter to Mr Whiting Mr Rhodes Mr Hutchison M.P.<sup>236</sup> Dr Rogers<sup>237</sup> and Lady Bonython<sup>238</sup> on the way to Kapunda on the 14<sup>th</sup> Feb – We went to inspect the Catholic Reformatory at St Johns several miles from Kapunda. Everything was right and straight but we thought the girls were duller than Mrs Holden's<sup>239</sup> at Redruth, and of course of a much lower class than those in the Probationary school at Woodville under the Salvation Army which Lady Bonython and I had visited ten days before – But everywhere we see the firm hand of the Department dominant and everywhere we see the managers apparently glad that it is so. Mr Rhodes our State Children's President is on the Minda Committee and he had to hear Mr Whiting and myself express our opinion of Mrs Barker and Miss Fox<sup>240</sup>.

He says Minda is doing good work. Children have been fitted for ordinary schools and parents write grateful letters but we are not convinced – There are 50 applications for the post of housekeeper at £50 a year and quarters – She is to be

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<sup>232</sup> David Morley Charleston (1848-1934), engineer, unionist, State and Federal Parliamentarian, supporter of proportional representation.

<sup>233</sup> paragraph.

<sup>234</sup> The South Australian Co-operative Clothing Factory, a shirt making factory, had been organised by Agnes Milne to help working women get fair wages. Spence became first President of the Board.

<sup>235</sup> General William Booth (1829-1912), founder of the volunteer army which in 1878 became known as the Salvation Army.

<sup>236</sup> James Hutchison (1859-1909), printer and politician, supporter of United Labor Party, member of State Children's Council, member of Federal House of Representatives 1906-9.

<sup>237</sup> Richard Sanders Rogers, medical practitioner, member of the State Children's Council. He was Spence's own doctor.

<sup>238</sup> Mary Louisa Bonython née Balthasar (died 1924), member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>239</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden was the matron in charge of the reformatory at Redruth, the former gaol on the Burra copperfield, which was run by the State Children's Council.

<sup>240</sup> The matron and teacher at Minda Home for children with intellectual difficulties.



under Miss Fox who apparently is to run the show – Miss Grant<sup>241</sup>, our inspector went to Minda to visit our two girls and did not think much of the place.

I shall ask Mr Gray<sup>242</sup> what he thinks of Mr Dickson's strictures on boarded out infants – We have no wet nurses, all our babies are bottle babies, but the death rate is very small, owing to the excellent inspection and the strict regulations as to feeding.

What are you going to do when Dr Strong<sup>243</sup> is absent for six months. Have you arranged for one or for more to supply the pulpit – I see the Australian Herald<sup>244</sup> has difficulty in keeping alive – If it is still going on I should like to send it a review of *The Hearts of Men* by H Fielding<sup>245</sup> author of the *Soul of a People* – It is a study in comparative religion. Most interesting a good sequel to the first beautiful book about the Burmese. Lucy Morice urged me to try the Register once more with a notice of a really good new book – I enclose the reply of our friend Mr Sowden<sup>246</sup> to show how I am boycotted by the press.

We have Mr John Reid<sup>247</sup> here as a locum tenens. Mr Wilson<sup>248</sup> resigned suddenly to go to South Africa and went away on the 18 January.

There was a meeting<sup>249</sup> to know whether the congregation would ask him to withdraw his resignation after he had been to his brother who was wounded dangerously – but the majority of 33 to 21 thought it should be accepted – He was a little off his head I think at the time he went away. I like him very much and I liked his sermons but he put up the backs of the committee and though I spoke and voted for his return I believe it is best that he should go – In the mean time the Rev John Reid pleases most of the people very well though he is not quite enough of a Unitarian for me.

I preached the first Sunday before Mr Reid could be obtained and felt a strange conviction that I should never more be in that pulpit.

If we get a new man by the time he wants a holiday I shall be nearly eighty and rather superannuated – Perhaps it is as well but I rather enjoyed the opportunity of saying a few things that I thought needed saying from a good vantage ground – I hope that the friends of Mr Wilson will bow to the decision of the majority and not stir up factious opposition to the new minister –

There were about 100 at the meeting but only 54 voted –

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<sup>241</sup> Annabella Sinclair Grant was an inspector for the State Children's Department.

<sup>242</sup> James Gray had been Visiting Officer for the Destitute Asylum and was now relieving officer for the State Children's Council. He later became Secretary and later still Chief Executive.

<sup>243</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church which Spence attended. Alice Henry often went there.

<sup>244</sup> *Australian Herald: a religious social magazine* was published in Melbourne 1889-1908, edited by Rev. Charles Strong until 1902 and issued by the Australian Church which he founded.

<sup>245</sup> Harold Fielding, pseudonym of Harold Fielding Patrick Hall (1859-1917). *The Hearts of Men* was published in 1901 and *The Soul of a People*, the 'beautiful book about the Burmese' in 1898.

<sup>246</sup> William Sowden, later Sir William, (1858-1943), editor of the *Register*.

<sup>247</sup> Reverend John Reid MA came from Melbourne, entered on his duties on Sunday January 19<sup>th</sup> 1902 and remained until 1907.

<sup>248</sup> Reverend Alexander Wilson had been Unitarian minister in Adelaide since 1893. He resigned on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1902. Spence took the services on 12th January.

<sup>249</sup> This meeting was held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 1902.

I congratulate you on the new light in Bernard O'Dowd<sup>250</sup>. The name is associated with *Vanity Fair*<sup>251</sup> Mrs Major O'Dowd is one of the characters – Where was Democracy and Conscience delivered. Was it at the Australian Church? I should have liked to have heard it.

Mrs Young wants her husband to go to Sydney for his holiday – He does not want to have it without her and suggests a house at the seaside but that always give her more to do and will cost far more than his single holiday – When he goes to Melbourne he tires of it and comes back in four or five days. She has a brother married in Sydney at Waverley with whom she stayed – I hope he may go for it will be a little rest to her – Her boy is doing well at Alfred College<sup>252</sup> and she helps him with his Latin.

Eleanor Wren enjoyed three weeks at Clifton with Marjorie very much but I hear she is not so well since she returned – She varies much. Lilly Lang is going over, if she is not already there for a longish visit –

Kitty Hood likes her work still very much. She has three hours a day at Higgs Commercial and Short Hand school as well as the half day at Messrs Crompton and Sons.

Mrs Martin has lost one brother a squatter in the N W of West Australia and her only surviving brother the one with whom she was in Melbourne last May is very seriously ill I think hopelessly. There were four brothers and four sisters. The eldest and the youngest were drowned – the youngest in the *Gothenburg*<sup>253</sup> coming from the Northern Territory the eldest off the Westralian coast in a willy willy<sup>254</sup> –

My brother is keeping very well. Mrs Morice does not think her husband can take his holiday next year as Mr Halcombe his superior officer wants his then – It may be 1904 before they go they mean to take Pat with them -

Has Miss Freeman's husband returned to her? I don't recall her married name – Mrs Hills' husband has not passed his exams and she has to live without him – I don't think I can enlighten the Bulletin. I am sending a letter to United Australia.

Mrs Young thinks I should write a resume of the movement for Fitchetts Review of Reviews<sup>255</sup> but I cannot grapple with it.

Ever yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>250</sup> Bernard Patrick O'Dowd (1866-1953), socialist, political activist and poet.

<sup>251</sup> *Vanity Fair* by William Makepeace Thackeray (1811-1863) was published 1847-8.

<sup>252</sup> Prince Alfred College.

<sup>253</sup> The *Gothenburg* which brought the first printing press to Darwin was wrecked off the Queensland coast in February 1875.

<sup>254</sup> A cyclonic storm [aboriginal term].

<sup>255</sup> *The Review of Reviews for Australasia*, started by English editor W. T. Stead (1849-1912) and published in Melbourne by T. Shaw Fitchett, from 1892 to 1914. William Henry Fitchett (1841-1928) writer and businessman, was the Australian editor.

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**PRG 88/7/14**

College Road Kent Town  
19 March 1902

My dear Miss Henry

I should like you to look up Miss Florence Balgarnie<sup>256</sup> to be heard of at Headquarters W.C.T.U. She is lecturing in Temperance, but in 1891 she was in America on the Suffrage crusade and she stayed in the houses I stayed in and knows most of the people in public work whose names are in my Birthday book. She is bound mainly for New Zealand to work for Local Option previous to the General elections – She is a connection by marriage of Miss Jane Hume Clapperton<sup>257</sup> and although apparently orthodox she was much mixed up with Unitarians in America – I have not seen as much of her as I should like to do, as she had only seven days and those seven were more closely packed with public work than any week I have had for a year back while the W C T U people had engagements for her every day – I hear her work is badly organised for Victoria – so much travelling which might have been lessened by right arrangements – She has a very fine voice and is a ready and impressive speaker. She objects to reformed public houses while I believe in State Control – or successful control – and more sensible methods with offenders. Boston has initiated a system of probation for the fines imposed on drunkenness instead of imprisonment which in so many cases is demoralising, which is always costly and which punishes the innocent more than the guilty – I tried the Register with a short leader on the subject<sup>258</sup> and will send it to you if published.

I have an article on the Electoral Bill<sup>259</sup> in type for United Australia and Bruce Smith<sup>260</sup> says I may have copies printed for distribution – He promises to give each of the members of the Federal Parliament a copy of the article. I see he has asked for a month's leave of absence but I hope that instructions are left – I had better write to the publishers on the matter.

Mrs Young saw Mr Glynn<sup>261</sup> at a Free trade gathering on Friday – He says that she and I ought to get to Melbourne. I don't know if our Victorian friends would guarantee our expenses – He said there was some talk of that – Mrs Young is looking and feeling ill – Her husband came home from a fortnights holiday in Sydney with a day or so in Melbourne. He spent it mostly in libraries and book shops and bought 100 books. It is a possessin!![sic] as the Scotch folk say. He spends on books what would give his wife a good stout servant to save her for better work –

I have once ventured to speak to him about it but it had no effect –

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<sup>256</sup> Florence Balgarnie, a suffragist and temperance worker, was visiting from England.

<sup>257</sup> Jane Hume Clapperton (1832-1914), British novelist, writer on ethics, social conditions, women's rights and suffrage. Spence stayed with her when she was in the UK in 1894. Her work influenced Spence in her futuristic novel *A Week in the Future*, 1888.

<sup>258</sup> Spence's anonymous leader 'Should Drunkards be Punished?' was published in *The Register* on 21 March 1902.

<sup>259</sup> Spence's article 'The Federal Electoral Bill' was published in *United Australia* vol. 2, no.9, p. 3-5, 20<sup>th</sup> March 1902.

<sup>260</sup> Arthur Bruce Smith (1851-1937), barrister, member of NSW Parliament and later of Federal Parliament.

<sup>261</sup> Patrick McMahon Glynn (1855-1931), lawyer, member of Parliament, supporter of female suffrage and proportional representation, South Australian delegate to the Federal Convention and member of the first Federal House of Representatives.

I see by the Aust. Herald<sup>262</sup> that Dr Strong<sup>263</sup> is going and by the public news that he is not – Did you offer my M.S. to the Herald?

I had a call at last from Miss Evelyn Goode who was brought here by Crawford Vaughan's sister<sup>264</sup>. She seems a very fine girl, but you do not get very much out of any one in a call.

I feel sorry I did not get out of Miss Balgarnie her views on the Land question and monopolies generally but she is a real democrat. In the lecture on Joan of Arc, the democratic spirit comes out strong – I scarcely ever had her quite to myself – She wanted to understand the Hare system and I tried twice to explain it with voting papers – But the first time she had letters to write for England and the second appt<sup>265</sup> I made was thwarted by her staying at Belair on Mt Lofty over Sunday for which aftn the time was fixed.

I have a letter from Mrs Goldstein<sup>266</sup> asking me to try to get people here to subscribe to the Woman's Sphere and to take an interest in the Womans Movement so that Vida will see some improvement when she returns – She obviously feels sore that S.A. did so little towards sending Vida to America. I feel sorry but really I have my hands so full – I am kept at such strain and stress that I cannot act as a canvasser for the 'Sphere'. The half dozen of S.A. subscribers are four of them mine and three friends –

I have launched a Co operative Clothing Factory into active work since October and my friend Mrs Barr Smith<sup>267</sup> through Mrs Morice and Mrs Morice through me has aided it to the extent of £50 – and I think that now we have the electric power in efficient working it ought to be a success. Of course we depend on the custom of the big warehouses. Each worker must be a shareholder so that she will have an interest in the concern beyond her weekly wages. I am amazed at the low price given by the warehouses but the electric power makes it possible to live on them as it is so much more speedy.

I do not hear very good news of Eleanor Wren – She still has more or less pain more if she takes any fatigue less when she is very quiet – Her trusted doctor Thring<sup>268</sup> is absent on 6 months holiday two months of which have expired. Mrs Wren is on a month or five weeks visit to her sister and mother. I think Kitty Watson's<sup>269</sup> is her headquarters. Owing to Charlie going to Melbourne with gold and his wife going with him they could not accept Miss Rose Scotts invitation to meet Mrs Young at dinner on Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

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<sup>262</sup> *Australian Herald: a religious social magazine* was published in Melbourne 1889-1908, edited by Rev. Charles Strong until 1902 and issued by the Australian Church which he founded.

<sup>263</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church which Spence attended. Alice Henry often went there.

<sup>264</sup> Seymour George Pilkington Davies had married Dora Staniforth Hall, sister of Charles Wren's wife, Eleanor, in 1896. S. G. P. Davies and his wife, who lived at Glenferrie, were frequently hosts to the Wrens from Sydney, including Charles Wren's sister, Eleanor. His sister Dorothy Vaughan (1881-1974) became a noted social reformer.

<sup>265</sup> appointment.

<sup>266</sup> Isabella Goldstein, née Hawkins, (1849-1916), Vida's mother, a woman greatly interested in social issues, particularly woman suffrage and the emancipation of women.

<sup>267</sup> Joanna Barr Smith (1835-1919), wife of Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915). They were much travelled wealthy philanthropists, friends of Spence, who helped her and her causes in many ways.

<sup>268</sup> Dr E. T. Thring, 225 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

<sup>269</sup> Kathleen Florence Watson, née Hall, was Mrs Charles Wren's sister.

Kitty Hood still likes her work very much but she finds the study of Short Hand Book Keeping Commercial Geography – and by and by Commercial Law is rather hard work. She has entered on a course for a Commercial Scholarship or Certificate to be given by the Adelaide University.

She has a cold, and is looking rather white and thin – George was down for his fortnights holiday which he thoroughly enjoyed –

Miss Gregory is at home and pretty busy – Miss Dumas spends her evenings at home now – Mother and brothers want her – I miss her society especially as I am so much out during the day –

Yesterday five members of the S. C. Council with the Secretary went to inspect the Salvation Army Probationary Home for boys at Mount Barker – A three hours drive there – We think all is going on rightly – Recently they have got a teacher of their own from New Zealand instead of sending 22 boys to the nearest public school under care of an officer. This girl has been trained in the N. Z. methods, and used the Zealander books and she finds ours different. She looked sufficiently bright and intelligent. They have 21 state children and 9 truants placed with them by parents. They get from us a subsidy of 6/6 a week – and they appear to be giving good training.

You see daylight is let in upon all our institutions (except Minda).

We left at 8.30 – and went four miles beyond Mt Barker up their hills. Had dinner at Mt Barker at 2. rested the horses till 3 – made the slightest detour to have afternoon tea with Mrs Ed Hawker (He is a member of the S C Council and she is a daughter of Judge Stawell<sup>270</sup>). Lady Bonython kept me to have dinner with her at 7 o'clock and I went afterwards to hear Miss Baggart on Joan of Arc. She went to see a State School Flinders St on Monday and to see Magill<sup>271</sup> yesterday morning and was much pleased with both. She had heard from Hilda Martindale<sup>272</sup> who is a great friend of hers of the Childrens Courts and our other excellent machinery – but she had not time to see more than Magill.

I am going to reply to Mrs Goldstein after I have talked her letter over with Lucy Morice – People think because I can do something that I can do everything and at any time –

I must stop – though I always run to length with you.

Always yours faithfully  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>270</sup> Edward William Hawker (1850-1940), barrister, grazier, politician, metallurgist, member of State Children's Council 1898-1909, married Mary Letitia Stawell.

<sup>271</sup> The boys' reformatory at Magill.

<sup>272</sup> Hilda Martindale (1875-1952) became a celebrated social worker for children. She and her mother travelled in Australia and New Zealand in 1901.

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**PRG 88/7/15**

Kent Town  
March 21<sup>st</sup> [1902]

My dear Miss Henry

I enclose leading article<sup>273</sup> the first thing I have been lucky enough to get inserted for nearly three years and that was "How shall we vote"<sup>274</sup> written to order – I also enclose capital letter by Mrs Young on the Federal Electoral defeat of the proportional voting in the Senate – I wonder what the three senators Glynn<sup>275</sup> Playford<sup>276</sup> and Baker<sup>277</sup> will think of their pledges before election – I saw the defeat by a two to one vote in the Register yesterday but had to go to the Destitute Office from 10 till nearly 2 and had other business to do but Mrs Young aided by her husband is always alive -

I hope that in spite of the defeat of the clauses that United Australia<sup>278</sup> will publish my article with a postscript – for it was the complications that lead [sic] the Hare method to defeat – I have not seen the voting by names – I should not be sorry if the whole thing was delayed but I suppose the Senate will pass it – I see this mg that plumping<sup>279</sup> is not to be allowed – that throws the whole three seats into the hand of the dominant party –

Yesterday I met by accident Miss Fox<sup>280</sup> who recognised me at the Savings Bank. She invited me to come and see Minda – I may but at present I have not time or strength to do more than I do. I have added a postscript to the article in United Australia which I hope is in time – I fancy Miss Balgarnie<sup>281</sup> took Ballarat on her way to Melbourne, but she will be heard of at Headquarters WCTU. Our Factory people<sup>282</sup> are overjoyed at Mrs Barr Smiths<sup>283</sup> liberality – They ought to go on and prosper now. It was on their business I was at Savings Bank.

Yours in love  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>273</sup> Spence's leader, 'How Should Drunkards be Punished' appeared in the South Australian Register 21 March 1902, p. 4c.

<sup>274</sup> 'How should we vote' appeared in the *South Australian Register* 23 August 1899.

<sup>275</sup> Patrick McMahon Glynn (1855-1931), lawyer, member of Parliament, supporter of female suffrage and proportional representation, South Australian delegate to the Federal Convention and member of the first Federal House of Representatives.

<sup>276</sup> Thomas Playford (1837-1915), South Australian politician and orchardist, Senator in the first Federal Parliament.

<sup>277</sup> Richard Chaffey Baker, later Sir Richard, (1841-1911), South Australian barrister, pastoralist and politician, President of the Senate in the first Federal Parliament.

<sup>278</sup> *United Australia*: a quarterly review for thinking men and women. Sydney 1900-1902. Spence's article 'The Federal Electoral Bill' appeared in Vol. 2, no. 9, 20 March 1902.

<sup>279</sup> 'plumping': voting at an election for one candidate only, when two or three could have been voted for.

<sup>280</sup> Miss E. Fox, from England, was the first teacher at Minda, a home for children with intellectual disabilities.

<sup>281</sup> Florence Balgarnie, a suffragist and temperance worker, was visiting from England.

<sup>282</sup> The South Australian Co-operative Clothing Factory, a shirt-making factory, was being organised by Agnes Milne to help working women get fair wages. In 1902 Spence became the first President of the Board.

<sup>283</sup> Joanna Barr Smith (1835-1919), wife of Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915). They were much travelled wealthy philanthropists, friends of Spence, who helped her and her causes in many ways.

**PRG 88/7/16**

College Road Kent Town  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July [1902]

My dear Miss Henry

I told Eleanor<sup>284</sup> to send you one of two collars I had made one was in lace braid the other in French braid – She was to take her choice and send you the other.

I have also intimated to Mrs Gough<sup>285</sup> to deliver to you one of the photos – I think it is very happy as a likeness but rather flattering – but you wont quarrel with that –

Miss Scott has something of mine she wants to get printed. Perhaps if she had the block to give the photo also – she might succeed in finding a paper to publish the digest of my long address in Melbourne – I shall write to her today saying the Sphere has the block but that she may probably get it on application.

I think the reproduction in the Sun<sup>286</sup> is excellent –

Some one has sent me Tocsins<sup>287</sup> with \paragraph/ Vida Goldstein– and with Mrs Fawcett Stories<sup>288</sup> [sic] address – and another I don't know why – dates June 5<sup>th</sup> – (Oh now I see Rentouls<sup>289</sup> Gospel of Labour is the cause) – July 17 – and 24.

I have not got through the arrears of newspapers and pamphlets that pile up my writing table – nor have I got rid of my cold –

I hope Dr Greswell<sup>290</sup> will see the excellence of our plans for supervision – I spoke at the Annual meeting of the District Trained Nursing Society the only woman on the platform along with twenty men – I said I felt very lonely but I had promised to speak – Our Association is on the London lines – We have now 12 nurses. I shall send you the full report when it is out – Meantime I send proof of part of it –

Mrs Nicholls<sup>291</sup> W.C. T U. Australasian Pres. is moving towards the formation of a National Council of Women of South Australia. What I fear is that we have too few organisations to send delegates, but we are to have a meeting soon to start the thing.

I am terribly troubled about this Divorce Case<sup>292</sup> in which Mr Wilson is co-respondent – It will last all next week. We have had two days of it already. I liked Mr

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<sup>284</sup> Eleanor Brodie Wren, Spence's niece.

<sup>285</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues. In 1899 she became co-proprietor of *The Sun*. She published *Non-represented Female Labour* in Melbourne in 1901.

<sup>286</sup> *The Sun: an Australian Illustrated Newspser for the Home and Society*, a Sydney and Melbourne weekly journal, 7 December 1888-4 February 1903. C. H. Thomson and E. Gough took over in January 1899. The paper merged with *Arena* in February 1903 and survived as *Arena-Sun* until March 1904.

<sup>287</sup> *Tocsin: The People's Penny Paper*, Victorian Labor paper 1897 to 1906, when it became *Labor Call* until 1953.

<sup>288</sup> Ann Fawcett Story, née Morris, (1846-1911) English born lecturer and demonstrator in domestic economy. She had come from Sydney to establish Victoria's school cookery centres.

<sup>289</sup> John Laurence Rentoul (1846-1926), Irish born Presbyterian minister, known as 'Fighting Harry' for his argumentative stance in the many causes he took up.

<sup>290</sup> Dr Dan Astley Gresswell, President of the Victorian Board of Health.

<sup>291</sup> Elizabeth Webb Nicholls née Bakewell (1850-1943), activist, suffragist and temperance worker. She became Colonial President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She worked with Spence on many occasions.

<sup>292</sup> George William Hall of Medindie petitioned for a divorce from his wife Martha Mary Hall on the grounds of misconduct with Rev. Alexander Wilson of Rose Park. Wilson was the

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Wilson very much indeed – but he has been awfully foolish or worse – Mr Reid<sup>293</sup> had a good congregation on Sunday and thanked me for giving him a Sunday off. They are settling in Norwood.

I am glad I have had few visitors for I don't want to talk about the case – till it is over and perhaps not then –

Remember me to all friends – and believe me

Yours afftely  
C H Spence

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Unitarian minister and the Halls had been members of the Unitarian Congregation since 1896. Mr Hall was the manager of London and Westralia Mines and Finance Agency. His business took him often to WA and London. The case was reported in the *Register* from the opening of proceedings on Friday 25 July 1902. Mrs Hall did not remain with the Unitarian church after the divorce, but Mr Hall was a member of the congregation until 1906.

<sup>293</sup> John Reid, the Unitarian minister who had replaced Mr Wilson.



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**PRG88 7/17**

College Road Kent Town  
30<sup>th</sup> July [1902]

My dear Miss Henry

I was going to send the enclosed cut out of two newspapers as printed matter only but my heart relented and I shall pen a few lines – The letter I enclose is intended to remind the Advertiser of its encouragement six years ago when we founded the Effective Voting as well as to emphasise the dangers of single electorates – Mrs Young is working up the figures of the recent N.S. W. elections into a diagram as well as Mr Homburg<sup>294</sup> the leader of the opposition's proposal of 3 member electorates for reconstructed assembly to be chosen by the block vote. She will enlarge the diagrams in her own pamphlet. The caretaker at the Town Hall says he will put them up – though that is never done by him in other cases – because he has heard Mrs Young on Effective Voting and would do anything for her. Miss Leeworthy (engaged to Crawford Vaughan<sup>295</sup>) who has the Adelaide branch of Stott & Hoare<sup>296</sup> typewriting business typed over 200 special invitations to prominent citizens M. Ps and others as her contribution. Her cousin Alice Sutherland (You saw both girls that Sunday) has helped to address envelopes – They have saved postage when they could but 26/ has been spent.

Don't you think S. A. women have put up a grand record for this reform. I wanted to help with the work but was told that if I would only collect money I would do my share – We were in debt £10 for Advertisements a fortnight ago – I got £5 from Barr Smith<sup>297</sup> and £5 as an unbirthday present from C. W. Wren to do what I liked with not for E. V which I had asked for

20/ from a hopeful W. A. apostle

20/ from Mr Brookman<sup>298</sup> – that was given in stamps and such – am promised

20/ from Rev Wilson<sup>299</sup>

21/ from my brother

10/ from another member

and have collected 15/ more – and am still on the war path -

I enclose one of 7,000 handbills that we have to pay for – the Hall we got for nothing in a requisition of 125 rate payers –

My brother is very far from well. I am anxious about him – It is a weak heart that is the trouble.

Elsie Spence<sup>300</sup> returned last week. She says she saw you and thought you were not looking very well. Daisy Stephen is coming soon with her little one. Eleanor

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<sup>294</sup> Robert Homburg (1848-1912), South Australian lawyer, parliamentarian, attorney-general and judge.

<sup>295</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee. He married Evelyn Goode in 1906, not Miss Leeworthy.

<sup>296</sup> Stott & Hoare, Sydney agents for typewriters and shorthand writers.

<sup>297</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), husband of Spence's friend Joanna Barr Smith (835-1919). They were much travelled wealthy philanthropists, who helped her and her causes in many ways.

<sup>298</sup> George Brookman, later Sir George, (1850-1927), stockbroker and politician, a member of the Minda Home Committee.

<sup>299</sup> Alexander Wilson had been the minister of the Unitarian Church from 1893 to January 1902.

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makes very slow progress. Elsie says she has a great deal of pain which she bears well – This week the Destitute Board went in a body to talk to the Premier Jenkins<sup>301</sup> on the urgent need of more room for there are many old people who should be accommodated inside whom we cannot take in.

There has not been a meeting of committee since Mr Whiting was put on - Lizzie Breen has been dismissed and there is not one employe [sic] left who was there when you saw the place.

[There is no signature but the letter appears to be complete.]

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<sup>300</sup> Agnes Helen Spence (1865-1949) was the unmarried daughter of John and Jessie Spence . She was known as Elsie or Helen. She lived with her mother much of the time.

<sup>301</sup> John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923), Premier of South Australia 1901-1905, Agent General in London 1905-1906.

**PRG 88/7/18**

College Road Kent Town  
22<sup>nd</sup> August 1902

My dear Miss Henry

I had your letter yesterday or the day before – The book arrived by the previous post, and I saw it was from N S W – I shall get postal notes for it to enclose – I see it is “78% of illegitimate births in certain Hospitals in London” and not 78% of all illegitimate births from the ranks of Domestic servants – I am glad to have the book. I shall read it all more carefully and lend it. I enclose some extracts from the 1901.2 Report – I cannot have the whole for some time – I want to learn from Mr Millar<sup>302</sup> what he means by boarding out mothers of illegitimate children with their infants in foster homes. This is in his report – You see the Victorian law lays down that State infants must be wet-nursed – and as I think about the half of Australian children are brought up on the bottle – it seems a costly thing to enjoin breast-milk for our little waifs – because generally the other baby (if it ~~does~~ has not died) has to be bottle fed.

Did you get the photo? Do you like it? The Critic Adelaide<sup>303</sup> had a replica of the photo and a paragraph mostly made out of the Sun<sup>304</sup> – they did not ask my leave. Can you tell me if they could do this without having the block from the Sun –

I wrote to Mrs Goldstein<sup>305</sup> to get the block for the Sphere – but she had Miss Sutherland instead – I also wrote Mrs Gough<sup>306</sup> for Mrs Love's<sup>307</sup> address that I might write to her about the photo – that was sent for her – I did not address them on the back which I should have done. They were for the Writers Club

Miss Henry  
Mrs Watson Lister  
Mrs Gough  
Miss Thomson<sup>308</sup>  
Mrs Love  
6 in all.

I have had another dozen sent and they are mostly gone, and I fear I must have more – but I have had no bill in. I sent 13/6 for the block – and postage on the first dozen – to Mrs Gough –

The Critic had in the previous issue portraits of Mr and of Mrs Hall and of Mr Wilson, and when I heard of mine being in I connected it somehow with the Divorce

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<sup>302</sup> Thomas M. Millar, secretary of the Victorian Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools Department.

<sup>303</sup> *The Critic: The Federal Weekly*, published in Adelaide 1897-1924.

<sup>304</sup> *The Sun: an Australian Illustrated Newspser for the Home and Society*, a Sydney and Melbourne weekly journal, 7 December 1888-4 February 1903. Mrs Gough and Miss Thomson were co-proprietors.

<sup>305</sup> Isabella Goldstein, née Hawkins, (1849-1916), Vida's mother, a woman greatly interested in social issues, particularly woman suffrage and the emancipation of women.

<sup>306</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues.

<sup>307</sup> Mary Love moved to Melbourne from USA in 1886 after her husband's death. She became foundation president of Victorian WCTU and helped in the formation of the Victorian Woman's Suffrage League.

<sup>308</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She was co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist.

case<sup>309</sup> – My name has been kept out of the newspaper till today – when both the papers give Mrs Halls evidence that Miss Spence had the pulpit on the Sunday after Wilson resigned. I think I told you Symon<sup>310</sup> subpoenaed me nearly three weeks ago but did not call me as I could not tell him what he wanted to get out of me – Piper<sup>311</sup> made a splendid speech in defence of Mrs Hall but she is weak under Symon's merciless cross examination – His playfulness is fiendish – Telling a woman on trial for her reputation for her whole standing in the world – that was going to have a little pleasant chat with her – and promising to resume the chat next day – producing a wig in court – Oh how I wish he may be non suited!<sup>312</sup> – I think – I may say I believe – Wilson is innocent of adultery – but the bogus cablegram alienated the church people from him – I thought he was running away from danger, for I fancied the woman was very fond of him – and I excused him even the cablegram, for he had to make some excuse for his sudden departure and he hoped to get away on the Saturday – before I preached for him. When he came back I thought all was cleared up and rejoiced over him like a mother. He looks miserably ill – I think he takes it far harder than she does.

I agree with you about the wickedness of publishing the case, and having the court open to the public – Mrs Fred. Martin says nowhere in the world but England the U S and the colonies are these cases held in open court or reported in daily papers –

You say truly that I have been most unhappy about the whole affair. I'd like to see him and speak to him but he is too sensitive to come to see people with this cloud over him. He does not ride in trams or trains – He walks from North Adelaide to court and sits there all day from 10 to 4. 30 with an hour off for lunch – My friend John Macdonald a recent convert of his, walks with him out of the court every day and sometimes takes him home to his house at Goodwood and the husband and wife walk with him to N A<sup>313</sup> where he boards with Mrs Mary Lee<sup>314</sup> Sec to the W S League in old times she is now over eighty – and a little childish. Mrs Macdonald had a stratagem that I should meet Mr Wilson at her house last night but it fell through for he was not up to going to Goodwood that evg – They are plain people living in a little house of their own – daughter learning dress making – He is a book keeper and teacher of book keeping but is not in a situation nor has he an office of his own – He goes to make up people's books –

I don't like going out, lest people should talk about the case – I could not do reading properly – Knitting was no soother. I found point lace the best thing for me to do – But public work I have kept up. I have helped Mrs Young to supervise criticise and suggest the drafting for Howard Vaughan<sup>315</sup> of the Proportional Representation Bill.

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<sup>309</sup> George William Hall of Medindie had petitioned for a divorce from his wife Martha Mary Hall on the grounds of misconduct with Rev. Alexander Wilson of Rose Park.

<sup>310</sup> Sir Josiah Symon (1846-1934), lawyer, member of Parliament, philanthropist and President of Minda Home. He was counsel for the petitioner George William Hall in the Hall divorce case.

<sup>311</sup> Arthur William Piper (1865-1936) was counsel for the respondent Martha Mary Hall.

<sup>312</sup> non-suited, a legal term meaning 'found without a case to answer'.

<sup>313</sup> North Adelaide.

<sup>314</sup> Mary Lee née Walsh (1821-1909), single-minded worker for political and social reform, particularly for women's suffrage. She proposed the establishment of the Women's Suffrage League and was secretary from 1888 to 1895. Mrs Lee was living at 124 Molesworth Street North Adelaide.

<sup>315</sup> Howard Vaughan (1879-1955), brother of Crawford Vaughan, was a lawyer and member of the Effective Voting League. He drafted the proposed legislation for proportional representation in the South Australian Parliament. He later entered Parliament himself.

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We are planning a great meeting for the 13<sup>th</sup> Sept with diagrams and illustrations by lime light. We are hoping to make an impression. The Hon Joseph Vardon<sup>316</sup> who is to introduce the Bill next week is much pleased with it and thinks it simple –

Mrs Birks<sup>317</sup> Mrs Nicholls<sup>318</sup> and I are going to have our inaugural meeting for National Council of Women on last Wednesday of Sept. Lady Way<sup>319</sup> will preside and will consent to be nominated as president – Is Miss Tomkinson still in Melbourne. I want her help here for this work –

Well I must stop this

Always Yours in love  
C H. Spence

Letter too heavy for postal note. Will send it next week and save myself a long walk.

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<sup>316</sup> Joseph Vardon (1843-1913), printer and politician, sometime president of the Effective Voting League.

<sup>317</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

<sup>318</sup> Elizabeth Webb Nicholls née Bakewell (1850-1943), activist, suffragist and temperance worker. She became Colonial President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She worked with Spence on many occasions.

<sup>319</sup> Katherine, formerly Blue, née Gollan, wife of Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice of South Australia.

**PRG 88/7/19**

Kent Town  
28<sup>th</sup> August [1902]

My dear Miss Henry

I enclose postal notes for Miss Addams<sup>320</sup> book with thanks – I have been reading Leffingwell's book on Illegitimacy<sup>321</sup> borrowed from Mrs Young with great interest and took both books to Mr Whiting for his consideration.

The divorce case<sup>322</sup> is over – at least a rule nisi<sup>323</sup> – but I am thoroughly convinced that Mrs Hall and Mr Wilson are innocent – Mrs Fred Martin and I went to see him yesterday and she agrees with me – All the witnesses were tainted – The Judge<sup>324</sup> went by the telegrams which were open to a different interpretation –

Downer<sup>325</sup> had not a chance to put his client's case – It is too long to go into, but I am convinced that there has been a failure in justice – I told you how Symon<sup>326</sup> crucified that woman<sup>327</sup> in the witness box and he had to sit and listen. But he says he would rather have been there than absent –

Hall sent his love to his wife yesterday!!!

I may say that Mr Whiting thought Wilson innocent the last day I spoke to him on the subject. He was at the Burra<sup>328</sup> on Monday when I left the books and wrote him a note –

Mrs Martin invited Mr Wilson to her home at Glenelg on Sunday and I shall meet him there – Some few of his flock are loyal to him but nine tenths of them cut him in the street.

Well well this is a virtuous world.

I am just off to the Destitute Board for a three or four hours sitting – I have done a lot of point lace work because it distracted my mind as knitting cannot do.

Mrs Morice was delighted with O Dowd's<sup>329</sup> lecture – It is in Mrs Young's hands now –

Mrs Young is very busy over preparations for the big meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. P

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<sup>320</sup> *Democracy and Social Ethics* by Jane Addams (1860-1935), world famous American social reformer. She founded Hull House in 1889 and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

<sup>321</sup> *Illegitimacy, and the Influence of the Seasons upon Conduct*. Social Science Series 49. By Albert Leffingwell, published in London 1892.

<sup>322</sup> George William Hall of Medindie had petitioned for a divorce from his wife Martha Mary Hall on the grounds of misconduct with Rev. Alexander Wilson of Rose Park. Wilson had been the Unitarian minister until January 1902.

<sup>323</sup> A rule nisi becomes valid after a certain interval unless something intervenes to prevent it.

<sup>324</sup> Sir James Penn Boucaut (1831-1916), politician and judge, at different times Premier, Attorney-General and Chief Justice.

<sup>325</sup> Sir John William Downer (1843-1915), lawyer, South Australian and Federal politician, was counsel for Wilson.

<sup>326</sup> Sir Josiah Symon (1846-1934), lawyer, member of Parliament, philanthropist and President of Minda Home. He was counsel for the petitioner George William Hall in the Hall divorce case.

<sup>327</sup> Mrs Hall.

<sup>328</sup> The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls at Redruth, the former gaol on the Burra copperfield.

<sup>329</sup> Bernard Patrick O'Dowd (1866-1953), Melbourne anarchist and poet, co-editor and financial supporter of the radical paper *Tocsin*. In 1902 he published a pamphlet 'Conscience and Democracy' which opposed the Boer War. This may be what Spence refers to.

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I wrote Mrs Gough<sup>330</sup> about the block going to the Sphere yesterday – Every body likes the photo much – There are no dissentient voice [sic] as there often is –

Always yours affectionately  
C H Spence

Miss Dumas sends her love –

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<sup>330</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues. In 1898 she became co-proprietor of the Melbourne weekly journal *The Sun: an Illustrated Journal for Home and Society*. She published *Non-represented Female Labour* in Melbourne in 1901.

**PRG 88/7/20**

Kent Town  
17<sup>th</sup> September [1902]

My dear Miss Henry

I had your post card and at once went to Miss Cook<sup>331</sup>. Unfortunately she had read and allowed to be destroyed all Young Oxford<sup>332</sup> for this year but had six of 1901 ending Decr – I sent the three last to Dr Strong<sup>333</sup> with a post card. Miss Giles who appears to keep up correspondence with outside students is Miss Cooks friend who sends her the monthly serial – It is I think very interesting –

I send you three copies of the Annual Report of District Trained Nurses Assn. to give to the addresses named and one also for yourself – I want you and your friends to note the strength of the local committees and the federation with the central organisation – The money is collected by members of committee going from house to house in small sums even as little as 3d. You will note that the Melbourne Trained Nurses have about 90 subscribers and these are men and women who give to everything – In S. A. there are thousands who contribute to it and people have a living interest in it – The State Childrens Report is not yet available for the public though it has been laid on the table of the House. Tell Miss Locke<sup>334</sup> and other friends they shall have it as soon as I can get it.

I sent you a Register with a capital report of our meeting – It will be reproduced as a leaflet with some corrections as to detail. The Advertiser report was short but it gave us a leading article – Mrs Young's wonderful diagrams and representation of the various stages in an election were well produced on slides – We had to pay for the reproduction of the nine photographs 25/ and something for Deakin<sup>335</sup> (6/) besides – but the artist who made the 30 slides for the diagrams and the voting did it for love of the cause and only charged for the material.

We had 10,000 Voting papers and 10,000 handbills or dodgers printed and it cost pounds (two or three) for postage and delivery – 30/ for the magic lantern. John my brother could not go as the demonstration was up stairs but he sent £5 in addition to £2 the month before for our expenses. I myself strained a point and gave £4, as the occasion was important – We had the Town Hall free, but could make no appeal for funds. I sent both papers to Prof. Nanson with a post card on Monday. Mr and Mrs Young think the results repay the enormous effort that has been made.

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<sup>331</sup> Harriet Ann Cook (1855-1943), schoolteacher and member of the Unitarian Church. Spence was very friendly with the Cook family.

<sup>332</sup> Young Oxford: a monthly magazine of constructive thought devoted to the Ruskin Hall movement. Published in London 1899-1903.

<sup>333</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues.

<sup>334</sup> Lilian Sophia Locke (1869-1950), Melbourne socialist, Secretary of the United Council for Woman's Suffrage on 1890s and organizing secretary of Political Labour Council of Victoria. She was the only female member of the Melbourne Trades Hall Council. She was a friend of Vida Goldstein.

<sup>335</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia. His photograph was one of those thrown on a screen by magic lantern and introduced by Spence.



I have gone through more than three weeks of great agitation – and even sorrow – After the decision in the Divorce suit<sup>336</sup> I saw Mr Wilson and he convinced me that there had been a miscarriage of justice and that he and Mrs Hall were innocent – but since that time other facts have come to my knowledge and I have given him up - not without anguish of heart – Now he looks on me as a traitor – I wrote to Mr Lambley<sup>337</sup> a fortnight ago and asked him to show the letter to Dr Strong and to H G Turner but I wrote again last Friday going back on my old opinion – He says he has been practically engaged to Miss Florence Wigg – a good and noble woman for two years, and that it was for her he came back – Miss Wigg was loyal to him – was kind to Mrs Hall – and left Adelaide for London with her single sister on Thursday last week. It was on Wednesday night that my eyes were opened and I felt convinced that A Wilson had told me lies, and traded on my feelings of sympathy and compassion and love of justice – I don't like the petitioner<sup>338</sup> much better – There is an indecency in his going to the theatre with his daughter of 18 the evg after the rule nisi was granted – and Violet herself is odious in her callousness to all but her lover Ford White<sup>339</sup>. G W Hall and Violet had taken their passage in the same boat as the Wiggs but they delay for a fortnight to let G W H watch A. Wilson's filing his schedule for the little money he has is swallowed up in costs. Symon's<sup>340</sup> were between £1100 and £1200 untaxed. Wilson gave £250 to Nesbit<sup>341</sup> who did nothing and Sir John Downer<sup>342</sup> was not allowed to do anything but a little cross examining. My friend Mr Piper<sup>343</sup> made a splendid speech in defence of Mrs Hall but the cablegrams stuck in Boucauts<sup>344</sup> throat – Wilson told me he told a lie about the cablegram which was a letter from his sister to save Mrs Hall and the church from a scandal – that he returned to Adelaide because he was attached and practically engaged to Miss Wigg – that the cablegrams that passed between him and Mrs Hall were to ascertain if she would be on her way to London or out of Adelaide before he came back – that if the Judge had allowed the case to go on – his innocence would have been proved – and I believed him.

But I now think he has been entangled with Mrs H. for years – the love mostly if not all on her side – and he has been engaged in the difficult business of keeping two women on one string. What Miss Wigg will think of me I can only guess. I have lost a great deal of sleep over the affair ever since the day 11<sup>th</sup> Jany when ~~excited~~ ~~and~~ he asked me to take the pulpit for him on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> because he had a cable that his brother was ill – injured in South Africa. He would not be too late to see

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<sup>336</sup> George William Hall of Medindie had petitioned for a divorce from his wife Martha Mary Hall on the grounds of misconduct with Rev. Alexander Wilson, formerly minister of the Unitarian Church.

<sup>337</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906, editor of the *Month by Month* Journal of the Unitarian Church at the turn of the century. He was a member of the Anti-sweating League and a close associate of Dr Strong.

<sup>338</sup> Mr Hall.

<sup>339</sup> Violet Hasheen Hall, daughter of George William Hall and Martha Mary Hall, married Leslie Ford White in May 1904.

<sup>340</sup> Sir Josiah Symon (1846-1934), lawyer, member of Parliament, philanthropist and President of Minda Home. He was counsel for the petitioner George William Hall in the Hall divorce case.

<sup>341</sup> Edward Paris(s) Nesbit, KC, (1852-1927), controversial Adelaide lawyer, was counsel for the co-respondent, Alexander Wilson,

<sup>342</sup> Sir John William Downer (1843-1915), lawyer, South Australian and Federal politician, was counsel for Wilson.

<sup>343</sup> Arthur William Piper (1865-1936) was counsel for Mrs Hall.

<sup>344</sup> Sir James Penn Boucaut (1831-1916), South Australian politician and judge, was the presiding judge. He had been a judge since 1878.

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him alive as he had been in the case of his father in 1899 and said he had resigned the church as he could not ask for a long holiday again so soon.

During the trial Mrs Hall showed great pluck – Symons brutal cross examination and insulting remarks might have easily upset her – Miss Wigg notes Mrs Joyner<sup>345</sup> her solicitor's wife is almost her only friend – She has an annuity of £3 a week instead of the £100 a month she had to keep house on – The three boys are sent to a college at Hahndorf 28 miles off in the hills and Violet goes with her father.

Well Well. I dare say you have had enough of this – but I have suffered so much over it. It is well Mrs Young had the big meeting in hand – I was of little use – You will note what Keating<sup>346</sup> said of this backward move in Tasmania.

Remember me to all friends – I have a note from Miss Tomkinson that she will not be in Adelaide for the 24<sup>th</sup>.

I have the block of my photo which will be used next week in the Adelaide Observer (Weekly) after that I shall send it to Vida Goldstein.

Always yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>345</sup> Mrs Hall's solicitor was Frederick Allen Joyner (born 1863) who had married Annie Adelaide Wigg, sister of Florence Wigg, in 1889.

<sup>346</sup> John Henry Keating (1872-1940), Tasmanian lawyer and politician, was the speaker at the Effective Voting meeting. In an interview reported in the *Register* Keating spoke of the movement in Tasmania for separation from the Commonwealth.

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**PRG 88/7/21**

[This fragment of a letter was written on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1902.]

for Mrs Stephen and her cousin Louie Galloway, who was on a visit of two months in Melbourne. They arrive this morning. The Doctor is not alarmed about him<sup>347</sup> but he has insisted on a nurse – as Mrs Spence was getting worn out partly because she would not have as much help as Elsie and Lucy could give her, and partly because she took too gloomy a too anxious view – I hear the nurse is a success – she is cheery.

I had cut out for you a letter<sup>348</sup> from Mr Whiting from both our papers, but the most diligent search has failed to find them where I believe a [sic] put them. There were some strictures from the magistrate on the form of notice sent by Mr Gray to warn defaulters of that a summons would be issued which Gordon<sup>349</sup> characterised as intimidation and this gave Mr Whiting an opportunity to tell the public the work that was done at “our advice shop”. It is the professional jealousy that crops up in the legal mind – that would like these poor affiliation cases to be taken up by lawyers, and payment to be enforced by lawyers – I must buy another paper and send it to you.

I told Mr Whiting on Monday at our Committee meeting that you had a successful deputation ‘re’ babies to your Premier – I see Wise<sup>350</sup> is trying to have Children’s Courts in NSW. He wrote here for information and literature – I think that what I said at two meetings in Sydney must have done some good and I am sure that I raised your progressive League to effective action in Victoria.

Yesterday the 4<sup>th</sup> Nov was the anniversary of our landing in South Australia 63 years ago. I think we imagined we were going to make our fortunes, and return to the old country to enjoy them – But events have been much better than we dreamed of. Shall I say with Mrs Browning<sup>351</sup> in her Sonnet from the Portuguese “Because God’s gifts put men’s best dreams to shame”? Well, any how – I, an enfranchised woman, took the chair<sup>352</sup> at the National Council of Women of S. A. soon to be federated into a N C of W of Australia – A Commonwealth – virtually a nation – where women have the full rights of citizenship.

And yet Drink and Sweating are gigantic evils – But again our eyes are open to the evils, and we can react and we can reform. Miss Williams who wrote an excellent paper on Sweating is a Single Taxer a delegate for the Womans Land Reform League and she thinks the settlement of the Land question would gradually extinguish Sweating and absorb the Unemployed. But I think Factory Laws and Wages Boards are needed in the meantime. The good employers \Warehouses/

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<sup>347</sup> Spence’s brother, John Brodie Spence.

<sup>348</sup> Mr Whiting’s letter appeared in the *Register* on 1 November 1902 under the heading ‘Alleged Intimidation’.

<sup>349</sup> Mr Gordon was the magistrate hearing a maintenance case in which methods used by the State Children’s Department were criticised.

<sup>350</sup> Bernard Ringrose Wise (1858-1916), NSW barrister, politician and federationist, supporter of woman suffrage and child welfare reform. He was one of the framers of the Australian constitution.

<sup>351</sup> Elizabeth Barrett Browning, née Barrett (1806-1861), English poet, published *Sonnets from the Portuguese* in 1850, 44 sonnets recording the growth of her love for Robert Browning. He sometimes referred to her as ‘my little Portuguese’ because of her dark colouring.

<sup>352</sup> Spence had said in an earlier letter that Lady Way was to be President, but Lady Way was unable to attend the meeting held on 4 November 1902 and Spence presided in her place.

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would welcome a reasonable tariff of prices that would allow of a living wage, and stop the competition of unscrupulous employers – and of starving men and women –

I am going to hear Tom Mann<sup>353</sup> tonight and hope to get beside Miss Tomkinson as I did last time at Norwood Town Hall – He has not been well supported here – She says he has improved since she heard him in England – he is more eloquent and more moderate in his attacks on capitalists, though not on capitalism – It is the principle rather than the individuals that is to blame.

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<sup>353</sup> Thomas Mann (1856-1941), trade unionist and socialist, a leader in 1889 in the London Dock Strike. He came to Australia from New Zealand and worked mainly in Victoria as organiser for the Political Labor Council. He visited South Australia in 1902 and gave a number of lectures.

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**PRG 88/7/22**

College Road Kent Town  
18 Nov 1902

My dear Miss Henry

I am sure you are wondering when I am going to send you back *Concerning Children*<sup>354</sup> – The book has got stranded at Glenelg. My brother who is very ill has had it read to him in little bits – and it has interested him. He wants Daisy Stephen to read it to help her to bring up little Mary –

You will be sorry with me that although the original illness sciatica is not dangerous the state of his heart is most alarming and we have no hope of his recovery – Mrs Stephen and her cousin Louie Galloway who is visiting her were telegraphed for on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and came the following day.

He does not rally though he has better and worse days. They have two nurses now though Mrs Spence held out a long time against having a stranger but the strain was too much for her and she would not let her daughters do what she consents to let the nurses do – It was after your visit to Adelaide that my brother had the serious illness from weakness of heart and I never thought to see him about and at business again but he has had a year of fair health. Though he always said he was so easily tired he was in town most days of the week – The doctor in attendance has been sanguine but the family were alarmed and on Sunday had another doctor called in consultation and he told Jessie it was hopeless and that Mr Spence might die at any moment. I was at Glenelg that day – He was quite collected and interested in what I told him. A week ago I had a letter from an American old lady of 88<sup>355</sup> which he read and seemed to understand – I copy it because it has been the greatest encouragement to me and I think it will please you. Could any extracts from it appear in the Sphere. I have ordered 4 extra copies of the Sphere. I sent my own to Mrs Collins both because it was a specially good No and because it had my photo. I was told in Jan'y 1894 that Mrs Emily Collins had educated in reform principles three generations of women and not a few men in Hartford, Conn.

I was asked to a garden party given at my own old house in College Town<sup>356</sup> which I sold for £1200 to Mr Gavin Gardner and I met John Darling MP<sup>357</sup> leader of the Conservative opposition on whose sufferance the Jenkins ministry<sup>358</sup> has been allowed to live. He is opposed to Effective Voting – I never had the chance of a conversation with him before. I took advantage of it for an hour and a half. I had Mrs Collins' letter in my little bag. I told him her age and that she encouraged my work then showed the beautiful regular writing on the envelope and he asked if he might see the inside – and I gave leave and so indirectly I put E V before him. He returned it saying it was a wonderful letter and most encouraging to me. I talked on all other subjects to show that I took an interest in many matters and was not a mere E.V. faddist – The conservatives think I am hand and glove with the Labour party and

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<sup>354</sup> *Concerning Children* by Charlotte Perkins Stetson (later Charlotte Perkins Gilman) (1860-1935), American economist, lecturer, novelist and theorist of the feminist movement, was published in Boston in 1900. Spence had met her in the USA in 1893-4. In *Concerning Children* Stetson advocated professional child care.

<sup>355</sup> Emily Parmely Collins (1814-1909), American suffragist, abolitionist and writer, of Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

<sup>356</sup> Spence's house at 9 Trinity Street, College Park, Adelaide, still stands.

<sup>357</sup> John Darling (1852-1914), grain merchant, member of South Australian Parliament, and a director of BHP.

<sup>358</sup> John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923) was Premier of South Australia 1901-1905.

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suspect me – so I was most glad to have a chance to show this able and I think honest man how much I could agree with him –

I am sorry to say Mrs Young is very much out of health. Her husband has his worries in the Advertiser office – and she shares them – and the work she has to do is quite too much for her – They cannot afford to pay for a competent servant and don't want an incompetent one. I have favourable reports of Eleanor Wren who had been home for a week when she wrote last – she is now able to dress herself and to get down stairs by the bannisters and a stick – The drive home shook her terribly – I think she should have stayed another week but the hospital was very full and I dare say she wanted to get home – She says Marjorie is growing very fast –

I sent you a Register with an article 'Concerning Children' –

I was glad to see in the Sphere a report of your deputation re babies. I hope it will bear fruit.

In all my work these many years my brother has given me the fullest sympathy – he has never advised me or encouraged me to hang back but has rather urged me on – We never have had a quarrel or even a difference. Even as children we never quarrelled. He is eighteen months older than I am and it will be a great wrench to lose him – He has no uneasiness about money [?] for himself or those he must leave – I don't think he cares to live. There would be more hope of recovery if he had a strong desire for life – There never was a more devoted wife than he has, and the three daughters and neice [sic] who is like a daughter are all just absorbed in him. The two sonsinlaw are very good too – There are many all over the Colony who will miss him much.

Could I get a copy of Concerning Children to buy in Melbourne or must it be ordered? In that case I might order it here.

Always yours afftely  
C. H. Spence

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**PRG 88/7/23**

This letter, dated 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1902, is a copy in Spence's handwriting of a letter written to her by Emily Parmely Collins (1814-1909), American suffragist, abolitionist and writer, of Hartford, Connecticut, USA. Spence sent it to Alice Henry with her letter of 18<sup>th</sup> November 1902.

Copy letter from Hartford Con. U S A

My dear Miss Spence

Though many years have passed<sup>359</sup> since I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance personally, when you favoured our Equal Rights Club and others in our city with a lecture illustrative of Proportional Representation, yet I have no more forgotten you than I have your system of Effective Voting, with which your name is identified.

Not many years since I received from you two or three Nos of interesting Australian newspapers, and should have acknowledged the receipt of them, but was not quite sure of your address and now find it in the 'Proportional Representation Review' which magazine is now united with the Direct Legislation Record. It is with pleasure that I see your name in different journals and I feel that you are deserving of all the credit you receive for your untiring efforts in securing this most necessary of all political reforms.

Since my first correspondence twenty years ago with the late lamented Alfred Cridge who brought your system of Effective Voting to my notice, I have been astonished that people who believe in self government and the right of every voter to equal representation, and his choice of representatives should hesitate to adopt a mode that would put an end to machine politics, ring rule, and all political corruption. Direct Legislation is an excellent safeguard of the rights of the people, but requires more time and effort to put it in execution than P. R. which if used, would almost always render Direct Legislation unnecessary. You must be proud of your country, for Australia sets the pace for all civilized nations to follow. And with her recent almost complete enfranchisement of women she leads the world.

I sincerely hope your efforts in the Parliament for Proportional Representation will be successful. But if not now, success will not be long delayed.

I am now in my 89<sup>th</sup> year and in fair health. If I could live to see the full rights of citizenship extended to women in all our states with the full exercise of self government through P R, and a few other reforms for the betterment of the human family, I would die content. I am summering here at Collinsville 20 miles from Hartford, where my old home is at 187 High St to which place I return in a few days. With earnest wishes for your personal welfare and for the success of your cause. Sincerely your friend,

Emily P Collins  
30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1902

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<sup>359</sup> Spence was in USA in 1893 and 1894.

**PRG 88/7/24**

College Road Kent Town  
31<sup>st</sup> Decr 1902

My dear Miss Henry

I cannot answer your enquiries about Tom Mann<sup>360</sup> – I never had any doubt myself as to his honesty and sincerity – Mrs Morice says the Frosts have complete faith in him – As to the public house neither Mrs Morice nor I have any prejudices against a man who keeps a decent inn – I think I read in my youth that if an angel from Heaven wanted a good work to do on earth he would ask to be allowed to keep a decent public house – the poor mans club – his social centre –

From the Tocsin<sup>361</sup> which you were so good as to send to me I see that H. H. Champion<sup>362</sup> is able to write again, and I could not note any falling off. I was most interested not only in the labour platform but in H. B. Higgins<sup>363</sup> article on the Public Service vote – But is he quite correct in his deductions as to the attitude of Labour.

The Labour interests are no doubt really advantaged by no borrowing – by no scamping of work on Govt undertakings and by no over-payment of employes [sic] – But the Labour Party and especially the Labour members are always opposing retrenchments which affect wages and hours and which involve dismissals – I must take the Clarion<sup>364</sup> to Mrs Young and her husband for their consideration.

I sent you an Advertiser with a very good obituary of my dear brother's life<sup>365</sup>. I thought Mr Young had written but it was from the pen of the man in the office that they like most –

It makes a terrible blank in the home. Mrs Spence especially had so lived for her husband all her married life and of recent years when his health declined she seemed absorbed in him – the blow to her is most severe – Her daughters have to put aside their own grief to try to cheer her up. Daisy Stephen came over six weeks before the death and was a great comfort. She stayed till the day before Xmas – There was some business to get through – I should have liked if my sister in law could have gone with Lucy and Mr Morice and Pat to England the beginning of Feby but she will not hear of it – She promises to go and pay a long visit to Daisy Stephen in March when I hope you will manage to go to see her corner of Alexandra St the house is called "Thornton". If it were not a wooden house and hot Jessie would go in February.

She will miss Lucy and Pat and Jim Morice who are always out and in and eight months is a long time to be away though short enough for all they have to do – I

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<sup>360</sup> Thomas Mann (1856-1941), trade unionist and socialist, a leader in 1889 in the London Dock Strike. He came to Australia from New Zealand and worked mainly in Victoria as organiser for the Political Labor Council. He visited South Australia in 1902.

<sup>361</sup> *Tocsin: The People's Penny Paper*, Victorian Labor paper 1897 to 1906, when it became *Labor Call* until 1953.

<sup>362</sup> Henry Hyde Champion (1859-1928), journalist and socialist propagandist, married to Elsie, Vida Goldstein's sister. He suffered a stroke in 1901 which affected his speech and limbs but he later became prominent in the Victorian Socialist Party.

<sup>363</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), Judge, Victorian and Federal parliamentarian, supporter of Labour, and later High Court Judge.

<sup>364</sup> *The Clarion* was the unified title of the five parts of *Australia Federated, the union states*, Melbourne, ed. Randolph Bedford, Victorian number 27 April 1901, New South Wales 25 May 1901, Queensland 27 December 1901, South Australia 26 march 1902, Tasmania 15 May 1903.

<sup>365</sup> John Brodie Spence, Spence's brother and close friend, died on 7 December 1902.



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think Elsie Spence the single daughter will probably go to the Wrens in Sydney at the time her mother is in Melbourne.

Did I write out for you a Sonnet "Wanted a Poet". I sent it to the Register with a leading article on the Australian in Literature but the acting editor did not find room for it and Crawford Vaughan<sup>366</sup> wants it for 'Quiz'<sup>367</sup> which he has undertaken and which he has improved –

I sent both to H G Turner who has been lecturing on a kindred subject at the Salon<sup>368</sup> –

I am writing against time which is not so common with me as with you.  
When are you going to visit Adelaide again.

Miss Tomkinsons other half of her report somewhat altered appeared recently.

Mr Whiting is going away for eight months leaves in March goes through America –

Always yours  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>366</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia

<sup>367</sup> *Quiz*, a South Australian satirical, social and sporting journal, appeared weekly in various forms from 1889 to 1914.

<sup>368</sup> The Austral Salon of Music, Literature and the Arts, founded in Melbourne in 1890 and still extant.

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**PRG 88/7/25**

College Road Kent Town  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feby [1903]

My dear Miss Henry

Lucy Morice tells me you did not receive the newspaper I posted to you with the notice of my brothers life<sup>369</sup> and she forgot to insert the slip in her letter so I write to you to enclose it – She will tell you that her mother has decided to accompany the Morices to Europe and that they leave on Saturday – I am more than pleased – I have not been satisfied with the way my dear sister in law was getting on. The blow to her was very sore and she did not seem to rally – There has been a good deal of pressure from the other side from her sister Mrs W Murray her two neices [sic] her two great neices and her two nephews. Also some old S A friends living in the old country.

I feel sure that the long and thorough change will set her up – Her single daughter Elsie and her neice [sic] Louie Galloway will follow by next German Boat three weeks after. I shall miss them all of course, but shall look for letters. I hope Lucy will see Miss Jane Hume Clapperton<sup>370</sup> and some other of my friends –

I suppose you saw the notice in the Bulletin. I thought it very good and very kindly to me as well as to him but it posed me as a philanthropist when I want to be regarded as a reformer –

We are having a great stirring up in the State Children's Council about the increase of juvenile delinquency which the papers will call depravity and have considered it first at an ordinary meeting and then at two adjourned meetings. I feel now that it was an exaggerated scare due partly to more efficiency or activity on the part of the police – and to other causes. Mr Glynn<sup>371</sup> yesterday pointed out that in 1900 when the departmental calendar was very light Mr Gordon<sup>372</sup> was absent on 9 months leave and his locum tenens and the J Ps who held the courts were more lenient – To those who say the evil is due to the secular teaching in the state schools we may say that in N S W where for 22 years there has been Bible reading and teaching the young people are no better but worse – and after 25 years of secular instruction here the number of prisoners in the Stockade at Dry Creek<sup>373</sup> our Pentridge<sup>374</sup> is 90 – I don't know what it was 25 years ago but a dozen years since it was 150 or 160 – Some of our members blamed the law which allows boys to leave school at 13 or earlier if compulsory certificate is obtained and the trades unions which will not allow a boy to go into a factory till 14 – It is not the bright boys who get certificates at 11 or 12 who get into trouble it is the truants and idlers. 97 per cent of

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<sup>369</sup> John Brodie Spence, Spence's brother and close friend, died on 7 December 1902.

<sup>370</sup> Jane Hume Clapperton (1832-1914), British novelist, writer on ethics, social conditions, women's rights and suffrage. Spence stayed with her when she was in the UK in 1894. Her work influenced Spence in her futuristic novel *A Week in the Future*, 1888.

<sup>371</sup> Patrick McMahon Glynn (1855-1931), lawyer, member of Parliament, supporter of female suffrage and proportional representation, South Australian delegate to the Federal Convention and member of the first Federal House of Representatives. He was a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>372</sup> Mr Gordon was the magistrate who presided over cases related to the work of the State Children's Council.

<sup>373</sup> Yatala labour prison in the northern suburbs of Adelaide.

<sup>374</sup> The notorious Pentridge gaol began as a Stockade in Victoria in 1850. The prison proper was built 1857-64. It finally closed in 1997.

the boys in the Reformatory<sup>375</sup> have been truants and scarcely any of them have passed the compulsory standard when sentenced.

The proceedings will be published this week and I shall send a copy of the paper to you and one to Dr Strong<sup>376</sup> – A recently appointed member of the State Childrens Council is Tom Price<sup>377</sup> leader of the Labour Party and he took the trouble to hunt up a dozen or more of the cases and found that the sinners were many of them from good homes where they had religious instruction – Truancy and the gambling spirit and cigarette smoking he thinks are the main causes of the evils –

Glynn says that his experiences in the Australian cities leads him to think our boys are better than elsewhere and makes the same point that I did of the fact that adult crime is decreasing. But dishonesty is on the increase not only with street boys but with employe's [sic] of a so called better class – and he too blames the gambling spirit for it –

We lose Mr Whiting for eight months from the end of March – but if any man deserves a holiday he does –

Mrs Young has got a good young maid and feels how great is the benefit – I hope she will stay with her for years – I have not seen her for a long time but must go today – The weather has been very hot – and nothing has been doing in Effective Voting.

We will miss my brothers good subscriptions to the Cause – I miss the letters of my faithful friend Alfred Cridge of San Francisco who died twelve months ago and who has left no one of like energy and zeal.

Mr Reid<sup>378</sup> told me he was asking for a holiday and the committee seemed surprised – but an old man needs one as much as a young one – and I think if he perseveres he will obtain it – And it seems I ought to start a sermon – and the text is It is good to be zealously affected in a good thing – We need to verify the compass – so that the zeal should be directed towards what is really good. The difficulty in sermon writing is to find a subject.

Miss Gratton [?] was here last Friday. She asked if there was any chance of seeing you here soon – She is as usual very busy –

Yours ever  
C H Spence

Did I write out for you my sonnet Wanted A Poet<sup>379</sup> for if not I shall do so. I think Eleanor Wren is benefiting by 5 weeks at Mittagong in the hills. I have lost your letter with your address but surely it will be forwarded from South Yarra.

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<sup>375</sup> The Magill Reformatory in the eastern suburbs of Adelaide.

<sup>376</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church which Spence attended. Alice Henry often went there.

<sup>377</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of parliament 1893-1909. He became South Australia's first Labor Premier.

<sup>378</sup> John Reid MA was the minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide 1902-1907.

<sup>379</sup> Spence's sonnet 'Wanted a Poet' was published in the *Register* 8 January 1903.

**PRG 88/7/26**

College Road Kent Town  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb [1903]

My dear Miss Henry

I had yours yesterday and hasten to answer it though there is no mail today – In the first place Madame Jaunay did not go first class – it was a mistake in the newspaper. She had three cables about her mother who was dying. She may not see her alive but in case of her death she ought to be there on business connected with inheritance – She had only two days to prepare after she made up her mind to. She will be a pleasant fellow passenger – I have a cheerful post card from Free mantle [sic]. All well boat most comfortable from Mrs Spence. Mrs Morice says she will write when there is anything to say.

Of course I could have had lots to say between Adelaide and Free mantle [sic] but Lucy Morice is not so fond of her pen as I am.

Here is the Sonnet

Wanted a Poet

When will some new Australian poet rise  
To all the height and glory of his theme?  
Nor on the sombre side for ever dream –  
Our bare baked plains – our pitiless blue skies  
'Neath which the haggard bushman strains his eyes  
To find some water hole or hidden stream  
To save himself and flock in want extreme  
This is not all Australia! Let us prize  
Our grand inheritance! Had sunny Greece  
More light more glow – more freedom or more mirth  
Ours are wide vistas seen through clearest air  
Youth's outdoor pleasures – Age's indoor peace  
Where could we find a fairer home on earth  
Which we ourselves are free to make more fair?

I wrote to Sir John Logan Campbell (The Father of Auckland)<sup>380</sup> who was the young indeed the boy doctor of our barque Palmyra in 1839 whom I had never seen since but whom my brother had looked up twenty years ago on his only visit to Auckland – about his death enclosing the Advertiser obituary notice. And this has opened up an interesting correspondence with this old man whose dream of life to give a park to Auckland has been realised – 300 acres of lovely park was handed over to trustees by the Duke of York and Cornwall – He is a keen and good photographer. When we meet whether in Adelaide or Melbourne I shall show them to you – But if you can come here we can give you the same modest hospitality as before and Mrs Benham<sup>381</sup> has just gone 2<sup>nd</sup> class return for 30/ so it would not be a costly change of air and scene –

I think you are a little mistaken in saying that our foster children are sent out singly – Miss Moule certifies the home as for one or for two and on rare occasions for three of them a grown up daughter or other responsible person to take a share in the

<sup>380</sup> Sir John Logan Campbell (1817-1912), doctor, business man, publisher and banker, member of New Zealand Parliament, arrived in Auckland the year of its foundation. He played many commercial and civic roles, being elected Superintendent of Auckland Province in 1855 and Mayor in 1901.

<sup>381</sup> Agnes Mary Matilda Benham née Nesbit (1850-1932), Adelaide radical thinker and opponent of the social oppression of women, writer for left-wing newspapers.

care of the babies – A good many foster mothers have two – I was very glad indeed you got the paragraph into the Bulletin especially considering its attitude on the question.

As for your idea of making money by photographing there appears to be far more competition in that than in journalism and I should think your talent for the latter is greater than for the new pursuit – but the photographing would help the journalism.

Still I daresay you are rather sick of the Australasian<sup>382</sup>. When Miss Dumas brought your letter downstairs I said – Now I shall hear about the Arena Sun<sup>383</sup> – She will tell me how Miss Thomson and Mrs Gough have arranged – whether for good or ill – but you do not mention it at all.

I am and always have been disappointed with the Arena which only took up free trade – a question open to doubt – as its reform movement and was too timid to discuss the land question or the money question –

I heard George Reid<sup>384</sup> in the Adelaide Town Hall but he was very inferior to what he was in 1901 – and more like what I heard from him in a no confidence motion in 1900 – So destructive and not constructive – and carping at everything –

Elsie Spence and Louie Galloway her cousin go in Frederick the Great this day week – I write to the care of D & W Murray Ltd<sup>385</sup> Finsbury St E. C. who will forward to address.

It is all very fine for the writer of Ecclesiastes to tell us to cast our bread upon the waters that we may find it after many days – but your experience is that you don't find it – It is most provoking to lose sight of your MSS.

When I see Mr Whiting I will tell him of your offer of letters – but he is rather shy of doing work on his holiday and says he will not visit institutions or at anyrate will not promise to do so.

Thompsons Wild Animals I have Known<sup>386</sup> I have read and have promised to buy it from the book club sale for Pat Morice – I hope to see Homes of the Hunted.

Here is a strong Canadian – I am at work on a paper for the Girls Literary Society<sup>387</sup> on Poets of the Younger Generation mostly from William Archers<sup>388</sup> book. He complains that Australia does not give a living poet of the first class or first class enough to be included with his 33 – Two Canadians Douglas Scott<sup>389</sup> and Roberts<sup>390</sup>

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<sup>382</sup> Alice Henry was a journalist on the *Australasian*, the weekly paper of the Melbourne *Argus*.

<sup>383</sup> *The Sun: an Australian Illustrated Newspaper for the Home and Society*, a Sydney and Melbourne weekly journal, ran from 7 December 1888 to 4 February 1903. C. Hay Thomson and Evelyn Gough became co-proprietors in January 1899. The paper merged with *Arena* in February 1903 and survived as *Arena-Sun* until March 1904.

<sup>384</sup> George Houston Reid, later Sir George, (1845-1918), barrister, free trader, Premier of NSW 1894-1899, later Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>385</sup> D & W Murray Ltd was a large Adelaide import and export firm. David Murray (1829-1907) of Scottish origin was a member of the South Australian Parliament for many years. His brother William McIntosh Murray had married Jessie Spence's sister Helen Morrison Cumming.

<sup>386</sup> *Wild Animals I have Known* by Ernest Thompson, pseudonym of Ernest Thompson Seton, was published in London in 1900. By *Homes of the Hunted* Spence probably meant *Lives of the Hunted*, also by Seton, which was published in London in 1901.

<sup>387</sup> The Girls' Literary Society began in Adelaide in 1883 and continued into the 1900s. The group met fortnightly from May to October. Spence was a constant supporter and lecturer. She was a vice-president in 1890 and president 1892-3. She maintained an interest in the girls who were members.

<sup>388</sup> *Poets of the Younger Generation: with 33 full-page portraits from woodcuts* by Robert Bryden, London 1902, by William Archer (1856-1924), critic and journalist.

<sup>389</sup> Probably Spence meant Duncan Campbell Scott (1862-1947).

<sup>390</sup> Charles G. D. Roberts (1860-1943)

are included – I don't know if my paper will be very critical. I will be more a voice than anything else – but the book has introduced me to men I never heard of – There are a few women – ~~but~~ perhaps E. Nesbit<sup>391</sup> is the best – But I think William Watson's<sup>392</sup> *To the Unknown God* the highest in merit of all –

This has been a very busy week and next week about the same pressure will come – I must finish my literary paper in the fortnight that I have the book though I hope to buy it and the life of Sir William Molesworth<sup>393</sup> at the sale in May.

Mr Young is at Port Victor for his yearly holiday of a fortnight his wife is with him and one of the children – She has a good girl whom she can leave in charge of the others –

Freda<sup>394</sup> is 11½ in a bursary class at Norwood State school – this if gained will give her three years free tuition at the Advanced School for Girls – Lindsay nearly 13<sup>395</sup> is entering for a scholarship obtainable at 15 at Prince Alfred College – this will take him to the University I think though not at once.

My Womans Co operative Clothing Factory has to have its first years Annual meeting on Tuesday – I think it is holding its own – Receipts for work £36 more the second half year than the first – but the prices are very low – 3/ a doz for shirts soft shirts and furnish buttons and thread – but the electric power works well and saves back and legs –

Always yours in love  
C H. Spence

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<sup>391</sup> Edith Bland née Nesbit ( 1858-1924), poet, novelist and celebrated writer for children, political activist and founding member of the Fabian Society.

<sup>392</sup> Sir (John) William Watson (1858-1935), English poet.

<sup>393</sup> *The Life of the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth* by Mrs Fawcett LLD was published by Macmillan in London in 1901. Mrs Fawcett became Dame Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847-1929). She was for fifty years the leader of the woman suffrage movement in England.

<sup>394</sup> Alfreda Dorothy Young, born 1891.

<sup>395</sup> Lindsay Forster Young, born 1890.

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**PRG 88/7/27**

College Road Kent Town  
20<sup>th</sup> May [1903]

My dear Miss Henry

Your long and most interesting letter was unanswered when I received your little one about the unfortunate strike<sup>396</sup> – and now that the express<sup>397</sup> is again running I must try to give you some response.

I was indeed very anxious – and feared from the first that it was a blunder for the great inconveniences and loss entailed by a railway strike tends to make people unreasonably exasperated against the strikers – Our railway men cannot strike owing to a clause in the Act – but our railway men have not been treated as yours have been – Yet the impression has gone about that your railway men have been pampered more than ours and were disposed to dictate to their superiors and to the Govt. The splendid speech of some labour man in the Parliament which you sent me, I had lost sight of and I fear the Tocsin<sup>398</sup> may have been destroyed but I saw some of the points reproduced in a recent Bulletin. If his figures are correct our Australian railway service is on the whole more profitable than the Canadian – but here we see the whole of the cost – the whole of the profit- or loss – and do not give credit for the incidental and indirect advantage of a state owned railway service – Whereas in subsidised lines – no one can see the whole especially when the subsidy takes the shape of land grants – Here in S. A. the railways have been taking seed wheat and chaff to drought stricken farmers and carrying starving stock for nothing – the Service gets a money credit for carrying sick people to hospital old people to the Asylum in Adelaide and travelling State children and their attendants and that is added to the vote for State Children and for Destitute Department and sometimes for Hospital but generally the Destitute Dept is charged for travelling to & from Hospitals – In countless directions the railways benefit the people – and it is when they stop running that the public realises what these amount to. In the United States the amount paid by Uncle Sam to the Railway companies for carrying the mails is enormous owing to the political influence of their corporations – Our State railways carry them for nothing – It is one of the crying grievances of the Reform party that this overcharge is levied on the U. S. Postal Dept.

Well I do hope that the men will have fair consideration – I see by the morning paper that the Strike Bill is materially modified – It was too severe altogether – but there will I hope be a merciful interpretation of even the modified bill.

My last news of Mrs Spence and Mrs Morice was dated Good Friday and they were at Lausanne for a fortnight with their dear old friends Dr and Mrs Singleton<sup>399</sup> from Glenelg and Mr and Mrs Grant (née Singleton) and they are probably nearer and dearer to Mrs Spence than any one except her children her sisters and myself – She was laid up in the pension where they all are with a severe cold and writes that she is pampered and waited on by her friends most sedulously. Jim Morice also had a feverish cold and had been in bed three days but was well again. Lucy said she felt Switzerland very cold after Italy – The other two Elsie Spence and Louie Galloway

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<sup>396</sup> The Victorian Government had attempted to force railway workers to withdraw from Trades Hall, in effect to destroy the right of workers to combine for their own protection.

<sup>397</sup> The express train from Adelaide to Melbourne.

<sup>398</sup> *Tocsin: The People's Penny Paper*; Victorian Labor paper 1897 to 1906, when it became *Labor Call* until 1953.

<sup>399</sup> Dr Francis Elliot Corbet Singleton and his wife. They lived at Broadway, Glenelg, quite close to the Spences in High Street.

were enjoying Holy Week in Rome – We are now in the fourth month of their absence – and eight months is Jim Morice's leave –

I had the church for one Sunday during Mr Reids<sup>400</sup> fortnight's holiday. Mr Whitham took the other – I made a pretty good lecture for the evg out of notes from Fielding's *Soul of a People and Hearts of Men*<sup>401</sup>. I think my lecture<sup>402</sup> on Contemporary Poets was fairly good. At any rate I enjoyed giving it – We are waiting for Vida Goldstein to give us a date for a meeting of the National Council of Women to take us on the way to and from Broken Hill where she is to lecture under the auspices of Josiah Thomas<sup>403</sup>. We shall have another when Mrs May Wright Sewall<sup>404</sup> arrives. Miss Tomkinson says she is a woman of much determination – Did not I see that Lady Aberdeen<sup>405</sup> is again elected to be President of the International –

I have promised to speak at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Suburban association of District Nurses and I made a condition that one or two or more women should sit with me on the platform – even if they do not speak and I understand that two nurses will do so – I mean to quote from Lady Aberdeen's address to the Society of Arts (not Fine Arts) which is admirable – You know I have been much displeased that on two similar occasions not one woman could countenance me on the platform. I should like to know if you have any more district nurses in Melbourne. I know that a young locum tenens from Victoria at Gawler was astounded and delighted to find that a district nurse had visited a little boy very seriously cut in the head washed him cut his hair put clean clothes on him and on the bed and taken the temperature and left other memoranda. There was nothing like it where he came from.

I will send you our Annual report next Sept – a young friend neice [sic] of Mrs Fred Martin is a relieving nurse and has been at Gawler and at Port Adelaide and says the work is the most interesting in the world and she has been three years in the Adelaide hospital and nearly three at Prince Alfred in Sydney – But she is going to be married the beginning of next year to John or rather Harry Cook<sup>406</sup> a year and a half younger than herself but rather delicate so she will take care of him. The Cooks are life long friends of our family.

My last news from Daisy was that she met you going to bed to nurse a cold. I hope it is a thing of the past –

Mr Young had a short sharp illness ten days ago but is well – Mrs Young wanted to have a Committee meeting on Monday but sent Freda to say she was not well enough to arrange it – Freda is working hard for a bursary which means two or perhaps three years free instruction in the Advanced School for Girls – The eldest boy Lindsay is working for a university scholarship at Prince Alfred College and the

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<sup>400</sup> John Reid, minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>401</sup> Harold Fielding, pseudonym of Harold Fielding Patrick Hall (1859-1917). *The Hearts of Men* was published in 1901 and *The Soul of a People* in 1898.

<sup>402</sup> To the Girls' Literary Society.

<sup>403</sup> Josiah Thomas (1863-1933), President of the Amalgamated Miner's Association, Member for NSW of the federal House of Representatives, later of the Senate.

<sup>404</sup> May Eliza Wright Sewall (1844-1920), American educator and reformer, suffragist and peace advocate.

<sup>405</sup> Ishbel Maria Marjoribanks, Countess of Aberdeen (1857-1939), wife of John Campbell Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada 1893-1898. Lady Aberdeen was President of the National Council of Women of Canada, and longtime President of the International Council of Women.

<sup>406</sup> Harry Ayshford Cook (1870-1965), bank manager, who was known as John, married Jessie Bethune on 3 March 1904. He was a brother of Spence's friends Harriet Cook and Edith Hübbe.



little fellow<sup>407</sup> was moved up to 3<sup>rd</sup> class at Easter and a month after to fourth class which is equal to your fifth and is the compulsory standard – He is not nine yet –

I hear good things of Marjorie Wren at school – Eleanor strained her shoulder and got her brother to write to me that the doctor said it would soon be better with rest, but his letter was written on the 8<sup>th</sup> and reached me on the 15<sup>th</sup> coming by sea – I hope to hear from herself soon – Kitty Hood has not been very well. She has a delicate throat and she had something the matter with her left eye and is consulting a specialist – She is woefully untidy but she can do her work well – She typed our Articles of Association for the Co operative Clothing Factory very nicely and she opened a complete set of books for the manager who is also the secretary.

George<sup>408</sup> came back to us from the country three months ago and though he rejoiced at first he now says he would like to be back in the country to a less dull place – for he says he wants more fresh air – but I don't see that he suffers in health – The youngest boy Charlie<sup>409</sup> left his place near Seymour<sup>410</sup> after staying nearly three years and after a holiday of sixteen days went to Woods Point on the Murray not far from Murray Bridge where my dear faithful old Maggie Breen now Mrs Upton with her husband has a successful country store – He says he likes the place and thinks the Messrs Morphett are satisfied with him. Miss Dumas has a brother who works on Artesian bores he came home for a spell two days after Charles Hood with three or four months wages but before Charles left he had but a shilling in his pocket – not drinking at least not much but betting on everything. He has been three weeks at home – and never pays a penny or makes even a little gift to his mother. This Allan Dumas<sup>411</sup> comes at intervals and stays till he gets something suitable to do – The brothers who keep up the house get somewhat restive – He is a capital worker – He went with one contingent and drew some £70 or £80 when he left but gambled it almost all away on the voyage –

Agnes Whitham<sup>412</sup> was married after a long engagement just after Easter – There will be another wedding in our church in July – Milly Kay's<sup>413</sup> after a three months engagement – I am making her a point lace collar – I gave Agnes a knitted eireula [?]toilet cover<sup>414</sup> – The Whithams are not knitters – but Mrs Kay is a great knitter – Shes the youngest of eight Misses Kay and the first to be married of two families<sup>415</sup> one five girls the youngest older than Eleanor Wren the other four sons two married and three daughters – It is indeed an event to have a Miss Kay married.

Well I must not make my letter double

Always yours in love [sic]

C H Spence

I quoted most of W Watsons<sup>416</sup> Hymn to the Unknown God in my lecture – I think it is grand – I think a certain stoicism is the clear activator of our contemporary poets. Also a feeling of the greatness of Life whether eternal or not.

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<sup>407</sup> Ralph Blakeney Young, born 1894.

<sup>408</sup> George Hood

<sup>409</sup> Charles Hood

<sup>410</sup> An area east of the Murray River and Taillem Bend.

<sup>411</sup> Allan Russell Dumas (born 1878).

<sup>412</sup> Agnes Helen, daughter of Spence's friend Charles Whitham, married Ernest Ralph Woolnough in April 1903.

<sup>413</sup> Emily Kay, aged 37, married Edward Jonathan Glyde, aged 44, at the Unitarian Christian Church on 10 July 1903.

<sup>414</sup> A cover for a dressing table.

<sup>415</sup> William Kay and his wife Sarah, née Catcheside, had five sons and three daughters. Robert Kay and his wife Ann, née Catcheside, had five daughters. All seven girls were older than Emily (Milly) Kay.

<sup>416</sup> Sir (John) William Watson (1858-1935), English poet.

**PRG 88/7/28**

College Road Kent Town  
24<sup>th</sup> June 1903

My dear Miss Henry,

Your article<sup>417</sup> appeared in the Advertiser of Thursday last week acknowledged - by Alice Henry in Melbourne Argus and I got nine copies from Lady Bonython<sup>418</sup> and she gave Miss Clark two - I gave Mr Gray one slip which he is going to paste into the book which Mr Whiting kept for all newspaper writings and paragraphs connected with children of the State - You may not have heard that we have lost Mr Whiting from the department. One morning last week it was telegraphed that Mr Snell, secretary to the Agent General had to leave on acct of irregularities and that Mr J B Whiting then in London had been appointed in his place and had at once gone to his duties - Shortening his holiday by more than four months -

The rise in salary is only £30 for he had risen to £395 and was to get £425 but it is in London which has its attraction. He is an unmarried man living with a widowed mother who will miss him much. I think the Council will appoint Mr Gray. As no one else is fit for the position - but the difficulty will be to fill Mr Gray's place. A legal Govt officer has been doing the Court business temporarily but has got very tired of it after three months - though he has not half as many cases as Mr Gray used to have -

Of course Mr Whiting was one of the ablest men in the Service and it seems a pity that all his knowledge experience and enterprise should be lost to the Department - He will have charge of the Finances in the Stock department in the Agent General's office and he will be valuable anywhere but if our Premier Mr. Jenkins<sup>419</sup> had acted on my suggestion and amalgamated the Destitute Board and the State Children's Dept under him as the permanent Head of both leaving the staffs separate he would have been in such a good position that this would not have tempted him -

It will be ~~m~~ost still advisable for the sake of economy and of efficiency to amalgamate the two departments, but I cannot put my finger on the man for the head - I see in today's paper that the Wesleyans have bought Brookside<sup>420</sup> for £1,324 - Surely that is cheap for land and buildings. Thank you for the newspapers you send especially for the last with the speeches of the Labour men in defence of the strikers - Mrs Webster writes that the daily papers lied as they always do - I think she is hotter than you on this matter -

I hear that Eleanor is going to venture to Melbourne with Marjorie for her midwinter holidays - She likes the idea of it, but not the thought of the journey so that there is little chance of her coming on to Adelaide. Her head quarters will be at Glendora<sup>421</sup> or perhaps with Mrs Tom Watson<sup>422</sup> who is in the neighbourhood - I

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<sup>417</sup> 'The Silver Lining' an article by Alice Henry about a special children's ward in Austin Hospital in Melbourne appeared in the *Advertiser*, 16 June 1903, p.8.

<sup>418</sup> Mary Louisa Bonython née Balthasar (died 1924), a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>419</sup> John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923), Premier of South Australia 1901-1905, Agent General in London 1905-1906.

<sup>420</sup> Brookside near Ballarat, set up in 1887, was Victoria's first privately run Protestant home for wayward girls. Alice Henry, in an article in the *Argus* on 2 August 1899, exposed the cruel way the girls were treated. The public outcry eventually led to the closure of the home.

<sup>421</sup> 'Glendora' was the residence of Eleanor Dora Wren's father, John Hall, and her mother, Dora.

<sup>422</sup> Mrs Thomas Greenlees Watson was the married name of Kathleen Florence Hall, known as Kitty, a sister of Eleanor Dora Wren, née Hall.

might be tempted to go over to see her but there is a press of engagements - Vida Goldstein's meeting is for the 6th or 7th of July - and there is to be another larger affair in the Victoria Hall when she returns from Broken Hill date still unfixed.

And on the 15th we have our Annual meeting of the Effective Voting League which takes the form of a Concert and Social in the Town Hall the Mayor Mr Cohen<sup>423</sup> in the chair - in which short speeches will be made by Hon Mr Vardon<sup>424</sup> who introduces the Bill again the coming session and Hon Mr. Bice<sup>425</sup> who will vote for it and I must briefly thank the Mayor for presiding - Vardon is most hopeful of carrying the bill early in the session so as to let it go to the Assembly where it may be carried - but we must do our very utmost to make the gathering large and representative and we are also arranging for meetings at the suburban town Halls where the system will be explained with the aid of the lantern slides - all our country supporters have been written to both for moral and financial support - We will have good music and hope to sell enough of shilling tickets as will clear expenses - The weather however is a terrible uncertainty this winter - and the winter is the busy season for meetings.

Mrs Young has been very poorly lately but she has a maid - She went with her husband to the Mayor's ball which was a very grand affair and well organised. It was a great compliment Lord and Lady Tennyson coming for it - The Tennysons<sup>426</sup> have been a great success both in S.A. and for the Commonwealth.

Miss Tomkinson is virtually the corresponding secretary for the National Council of Women and will be of great value to it - Mrs Birks<sup>427</sup> is in bed ill but hopes to be better soon - I think it is the climacteric with her - the time of life - which tries many women severely. Miss Dumas' mother suffers a great deal from it.

You took your camera to the Childrens Ward in the Austin Hospital - Had you any of your pictures in the Australasian. I think they would have been effective -

Well I know I have your good wishes for the Effective Voting Campaign -

Miss Dumas and Kitty send love to you - they were both much interested in the Silver Lining.

Always yours in love  
C H Spence

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<sup>423</sup> Lewis, later Sir Lewis, Cohen (1849-1933), politician, merchant, Mayor of Adelaide seven times.

<sup>424</sup> Joseph Vardon (1843-1913), printer and politician, sometime president of the Effective voting League.

<sup>425</sup> John, later Sir John, George Bice (1853-1923), member of the South Australian Legislative Council 1894-1923.

<sup>426</sup> Hallam, Lord Tennyson (1852-1928), Governor of South Australia 1899-1902, later Governor-General, and his wife Audrey Georgina Florence Tennyson (1854-1916). Lady Tennyson was interested in the poor and sick and raised money for the Queen's Home, a maternity hospital in Rose Park.

<sup>427</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League and of the National Council of Women. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

**PRG88/7/29**

College Road Kent Town  
14<sup>th</sup> July 1903

My dear Miss Henry

I wrote to Miss Groves yesterday saying I did not know any one in Melbourne with any experience in counting votes. Professor Nanson recommended a Mr Martin but I don't think he knew much about it – He had always an engagement when I wanted him and his address was always changing. I think he was a Single Taxer and strong Free-trader. I could have given you a name in Sydney of a Mr Robert Scott who learned enough from letters and literature to conduct elections at Hillgrove<sup>428</sup> near Bakers Creek mine and was always carrying voting papers with and exemplifying the system in the dinner hour – he was a house carpenter. Curiously enough Robert Scott had his first idea of P R from the Rev Mr Garst<sup>429</sup> of Japan who learned all he knew from letters and literature sent by Alfred Cridge and myself.

He is now living in Sydney and Mrs Young and I were glad indeed to make his acquaintance and that of his wife – But with regard to Miss Groves you must come down from your pedestal and help her if she needs it – A black board is helpful but the person at the board does not need to understand it. He has only to note down the fall of each ~~board~~ vote to check the counting and to let the audience see the allotment and the transfers – I think it would be well for you to take the surplus by chance and the easiest way is to find out the quota and when the quota is made up to give each vote of surplusage to the second choice unless that man has a quota already, ~~(or has been eliminated as hopeless but)~~– When you begin no one is eliminated until the whole surplusage has been distributed – After that the elimination begins with the votes of the man who has fewest – But explain that there is an absolutely correct and equitable method of allotting surplusage both in Nanson's Bill and in that before the S A Legislature –

Use the Hare quota if you please but the Droop<sup>430</sup> is what we have adopted in our P R bill – It is far more easy to explain the Hare than the Droop but I think the result in an election will be the same. Mr Sheriff Boothby<sup>431</sup> the first to apply the secret ballot died suddenly on Sunday after 49 years public service. He devised the cross within the square which is the form of the Australian ballot adopted in most of the states in America and which I prefer to striking out the names of those we vote for – but I prefer to every other device the voting by figures.

With regard to the other part of your letter I scarcely know what to say – Do you really think that we are so far ahead of other people that you could make a little book or large pamphlet of it?

In regard to protection of infant life – to the ramifications of our State Children's department – the advice grates – the collection of contributions from relatives – the supervision of lying in homes which might be made stronger – the stringent inspection of foster homes for babies – I think South Australia leads the

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<sup>428</sup> An old gold mining town east of Armidale in northern New South Wales.

<sup>429</sup> Reverend Charles Elias Garst (1853-1898), and his wife Laura née Delany, both from Ohio USA, were the first Christian missionaries in Japan. Garst died there.

<sup>430</sup> The 'Droop' is the formula that is used to calculate the minimum number of votes required to capture a seat in a multi-member constituency using proportional representation through the single transferable vote. It was devised in 1868 by English lawyer and mathematician Henry Richmond Droop (1831-1884).

<sup>431</sup> William Robinson Boothby (1829-1903), South Australian Sheriff and Returning Officer, was the author of the SA method of voting by ballot which was copied elsewhere in Australia and the world.

world and that the administration of out door relief, though on too small a scale, is most careful through continuous enquiry and visitation- But we have no police matrons in S A nor have we the Silver Lining<sup>432</sup> at the Home for Incurables – I gave your sketch to Mr Claridge<sup>433</sup> who is on the committee and he said the funds could never maintain such a costly branch. Our Deaf and Dumb institution is excellent and I know that the Industrial School for the Blind is admirably managed – There is a Blind farm where they grow the best of potatoes and osiers to supply the basketmakers – There is also a farm for Deaf Mutes so that none of them need be beggars if they have health –

I am not at all sure about our prisons – I think Mr Sheriff Boothby thought the students of Penology were sentimental faddists and those of us who wanted reform felt that while he was at the head we would not get it –

But our taking all the reformatories under the responsible charge of the State Children's Council and not delegating too much power either to the Catholic or the protestant bodies whom we subsidise for their maintenance is an improvement on the practice in Victoria – I showed your letter to Miss Tomkinson who came to see me on Sunday and she thoroughly agreed with you about the R. C. laundries and other religious bodies who may be sweating<sup>434</sup> when not inspected – They do not come under our Factory Acts here which have not much scope – because we have no Wages Board. The Inspector and Inspectress can only regulate hours and sanitary conditions – Mrs Milne<sup>435</sup> the Inspectress is praying for a Wages Board.–

I should much like a month's visit from you in Adelaide – September is a lovely month here and would be the most convenient for me - I have no doubt I could help you towards collecting your facts – Indeed you have a good many unused already. I think Miss Rose Scott had something to learn in Melbourne as well as something to teach. Her personality is very winning but I think that Mrs Parkes whom she does not like has wider views –

Eleanor wrote that she was very tired with the journey but rested on Saturday and Sunday – She has the three weeks to stay – I fear Mrs Morice is not going to see any of your friends – Mr Nobleman [?] appeared to be inaccessible – I did so want her to see Miss Jane Hume Clapperton.

I enclose a cutting from this mornings Register about the Smyrna figs<sup>436</sup> written by Mr Grady an old State School teacher now editor of the Garden and Field an exceedingly valuable monthly –

I see we are going to have ground oil wells<sup>437</sup> from Mannum to the Coorong and that the non fertility of large tracts of country is the result of the soil being permeated with oil – Is this going to be the new resource of South Australia? It sounds well - but we have been disappointed before – I am in extreme anxiety about our Social for the Effective Voting League tomorrow evg. If the weather is fine we may have a good gathering. If not we shall lose financially and lose the fillip that a large meeting gives to the cause.

Yours affectionately C H Spence

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<sup>432</sup> 'The Silver Lining' an article by Alice Henry about a special children's ward in Austin Hospital in Melbourne had appeared in the *Advertiser*, 16 June 1903, p.8.

<sup>433</sup> G. F. Claridge J.P. was treasurer for the Home for Incurables.

<sup>434</sup> Employing workers, frequently female, at low wages, for long hours or under unfavourable, sometimes unsanitary, conditions.

<sup>435</sup> Agnes Anderson Milne, née Inglis (1850-1919), shirtmaker, factory owner, factory inspector and confectioner, founder and vice president of Working Women's Trades Union, for 21 years president of the Bowden branch of the W. C. T. U.

<sup>436</sup> The article in the *Register* On 11 July 1903 on Smyrna Figs mentions Alice Henry.

<sup>437</sup> It was announced by Mr Pelham Rogers and Mr A. L. Harrold that oil had been discovered at Mannum.

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**PRG88/7/30**

Clark St Norwood  
15<sup>th</sup> August 1903

My dear Miss Henry

I wrote a post card yesterday to the Bulletin saying that I was getting well and hoped to do a good deal more for Effective Voting and other things – I am not fit for much work yet but am glad to write my own letters and do a little reading and knitting – You will see I have changed my address. I have moved a quarter of a mile nearer Mrs Young and that will be the first longish walk I take –

I am getting on very well but it takes time to gather my strength – I get up after breakfast in bed sit up till lunch time take an hour or rather two hours rest and then can sit up till 8.30. The doctor says I am recovering from the shock of the discovery that there was anything wrong with me – and no doubt it was a shock. Some of my work I will have to give up – my friends say I must abandon the Destitute Board and that is the most important work I do – but far the most laborious.

I am casting about for another woman to go on the Board. It would be terrible to be replaced by a man, or by an incompetent woman –

I see your minister was willing to have unpaid inspectresses of licensed foster mothers but would have no paid women. He makes a terrible mistake. The volunteers have not half the authority and the paid woman who makes it her life work if she is at all competent learns how to see through subterfuges and also learns to appreciate the really good foster mother. The wider experience makes her an expert – Besides it is the old masculine idea – as much unpaid work as possible from women but no poaching on our offices – I read in the Chicago Teachers Bulletin the first speech Susan B Anthony<sup>438</sup> made at a Teachers Conference 50 years ago at Rochester N Y. Two thirds of the delegates were women and they sat at the back – All the speakers were men the women did not even vote – When she got up to make some remarks the assembly was paralysed. There were doubts as to whether she had a right to open her mouth – but she was at last allowed to speak and great results have followed.

By the by this Bulletin says that after the wonderful tax fight won by the two women delegates the salaries of the teachers had not been raised to the 1900 standard which was the grievance which started the fight.

I am not at all sure that Vida Goldstein is wise in standing for the Senate. Women do not vote as women for women. If the S A women had done so I should have been elected to the Federal Convention – of the 7500 votes I had I feel sure that there were as many mens votes as women's.

When we had the franchise first in S. A. Mrs Nicholls<sup>439</sup> and I were both approached to suggest candidature – No two women were better known all over S A than we but we knew that we had no chance of a majority in any district and we also thought it unwise in these early days to suggest our fitness for parliament – My

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<sup>438</sup> Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906), teacher and temperance worker. When she found that as a woman she was not permitted to speak at temperance rallies, she joined the women's rights movement (1852) and dedicated her life to woman suffrage, women's labour organisations and the abolition of slavery. In 1900 she persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women.

<sup>439</sup> Elizabeth Webb Nicholls née Bakewell (1850-1943), activist, suffragist and temperance worker. She became Colonial President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She worked with Spence on many occasions.

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candidature for the Convention<sup>440</sup> was hopeless but it was a big advertisement for Effective Voting in S A – and therefore I have never regretted it –

Miss Dumas gave me notice when I decided to move. Since her mother came to live four doors off she has spent all her evenings at home and gone over for an hour or an hour and a half every day to change her dress – She could not do that from here – I thought she might have put up with sleeping here till I was well. However I have got another help a cousin of Kitty Hoods who I hope will do quite as well for work and will be available except on reasonable liberty – It has been often most inconvenient to have her so much away.

Miss Gregory nursed me most carefully – I was taken for four days to Mrs W Kays<sup>441</sup> close by so that I had no trouble with the moving and the house is much more convenient and better looking and the rent is the same 16/ a week. Friends have rallied round me – I scarcely knew I had so many but I have been thankful to Miss Tomkinson for writing to you and to Miss Scott.

Eleanor writes us love. Always Yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>440</sup> Catherine Spence was the first woman in Australia to stand for political office when she offered herself as a candidate for the Federal Convention in 1897.

<sup>441</sup> Mrs William Kay, née Sarah Catcheside, lived near at William St Norwood.

**PRG 88/7/31**

Clark St Norwood  
6<sup>th</sup> November [1903]

My dear Miss Henry

I think I sent you a post card and a promise a good while ago – and have not fulfilled the promise of writing a proper letter yet.

You will be sorry to hear that we lost our Proportional Representation Bill in the Legislative Council by 8 votes to five – I was sadly cast down, but Mrs Young and her husband say it can be reintroduced and we may have better luck next time, especially as the Labour member, Robert Guthrie<sup>442</sup> who is our inveterate opponent, has resigned, as his party think him their strongest man to put forward for the Federal Senate. Crawford Vaughan's<sup>443</sup> proposed candidature for this electoral district<sup>444</sup> for the Representatives was bushed by the labour party ordering Batchelor<sup>445</sup> to stand for it, and not for his own pretty safe seat round Port Adelaide so Crawford is trying for the Senate, and I don't think he has a chance of success.

I see that Pro스팅<sup>446</sup> in Tasmania is going in for P R in multiple electorates but I fear he is far ahead of his parliament and will not be able to carry it. It is the old plan of Braddons<sup>447</sup> adapted to a reduced number of legislators.

My niece [sic] Lucy Morice with her husband and only son returned to Adelaide after his eight months' leave in the N D L<sup>448</sup> Gneisenau nearly three weeks ago. They brought with them a Mademoiselle Coché who had been fellow passenger both voyages for a three weeks visit that she might see something of Adelaide and S. A. before returning to New Zealand which she means to make her home – She is very interesting – She joins the Konnigin<sup>449</sup> Luise tomorrow – on board of which are Michael Flurscheim his wife and three children. I am going to Largs<sup>450</sup> to meet them and will introduce Miss Coché who is most interesting and a great lover of New Zealand.

Lucy and her husband failed to see your friends, but I wish you could have a talk with them for they saw many interesting people – I am wondering much if I could

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<sup>442</sup> Robert Storrie Guthrie (1857-1921), seaman and union official, federal president of the Seaman's Union, member of the Legislative Council in the South Australian Parliament 1891-1903, Senator for South Australia in the Commonwealth Parliament 1903-1921.

<sup>443</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He won the seat of Torrens for the South Australian Parliament in 1905. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

<sup>444</sup> Spence's own district of Torrens.

<sup>445</sup> Edgerton Lee Batchelor (1865-1911), South Australian railway engineer, treasurer Adelaide Trades and Labor Council, foundation member, secretary, and later president, of the United Labor Party, first labor member of the South Australian Parliament, member of the House of Assembly 1893-1901, member of the Commonwealth House of Representatives 1901-1911.

<sup>446</sup> William Bispham Pro스팅 (1861-1937), Tasmanian Quaker schoolteacher, lawyer and member of Parliament, leader of the Opposition 1901-3, Premier 1903-4.

<sup>447</sup> Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon (1829-1904), a civil servant in England and India, he settled in Tasmania in 1878, entering parliament in 1879. As Premier he introduced proportional representation. A privy councillor and convinced federalist, he headed the Tasmanian election for the first Commonwealth Parliament.

<sup>448</sup> A German shipping line, Nord-Deutsche Lloyd.

<sup>449</sup> Konigin, not Konnigin.

<sup>450</sup> Largs Bay, a seaside suburb of Adelaide, near where ships berthed.



not put you up if you came over. We have not so many rooms here – though the house is really better – but where there is a will there is a way. I must think it out –

Flurschein sent me his new book the *Clue to the Economic Labyrinth*<sup>451</sup> which is longer than his other two put together – He devotes a chapter to P R. which he now thinks of great importance but advocates Hare's original scheme for New Zealand – a single constituency electing 90 members – I have not heard if the book has caught on. I find it most interesting – his parables and illustrations are so happy. He quotes here and there from the Tasmanian friend, Mr J.A. Ogilvy<sup>452</sup> whom you saw on board with him –

I am keeping well and feel able for all my work – My doctor says I am one woman in a hundred, for the rule with abdominal growths at my age is that they are malignant but mine is fibroid, and probably harmless - I am likely to die of something else – I sent a cable to my sisterinlaw saying I was well again which she got twentyfour hours before the letter which told her I was ill – I think it was a guinea well spent –

As I cannot get our Chief Secretary<sup>453</sup> to promise to appoint a younger woman in my place on the Destitute Board I will not resign – Yesterday one male member sat two hours and I sat five – was rather tired but I took a rest and was all right – This was an extreme case we generally have two and sometimes three but they very rarely sit all the time – Our visiting officer Mr Chambers<sup>454</sup> is dying. I said goodbye [sic] to him on Tuesday. The other officer Mr Foale<sup>455</sup> is sadly overworked – We miss Mr Whiting not so much for his work as because the promotion of Mr Gray takes him from the work he was specially good at – the maintenance enquiry and application cases.

Miss Clark had a bad accident on Tuesday week past – Her companion was driving her to make some calls and in coming home the horse shied at a perambulator and rushed at full speed till he got to his own gate which he took too close to the post and threw Miss Clark out on her back and Miss Powell on her face and one shoulder – Both are getting better but Miss Clark is still in bed. There is no serious injury but it was a great shock – I fear she will be resigning on the State Childrens Council – She has been the originator of the Boarding Out system in Australia.

I am much exercised in my mind about Sweating<sup>456</sup>. That is the subject I should like the Nat Council of Women to discuss at the meeting three weeks hence.

I hear S A is worse for sweating than Vic. or N. S W.

I think I must stop now. Perhaps you could go to see Flurschein on board and you might see Miss Coché. She speaks excellent English – She has taught in N Z – is 28 or 30 a

Parisian born and bred but does not look like it – I think Daisy Stephen is to meet her and if possible take her home with her.

Always yours in affection

C H Spence

How is Mrs Duerdin?<sup>457</sup> do you ever hear of her?

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<sup>451</sup> Michael Flürschein, *Clue to the Economic Labyrinth*, London, Swan Sonnenschein & Co., [1902].

<sup>452</sup> Arthur James Ogilvy (1834-1894), Tasmanian writer on land reform, labour and capital, author of *The Cause of a Crisis (Flurschein's Theory)*, Hobart 1894.

<sup>453</sup> Chief Secretary and Premier, John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923) MP.

<sup>454</sup> A. O. Chambers, Visiting Officer for the Destitute Board.

<sup>455</sup> J. T. Foale, Visiting Officer for the Destitute Board.

<sup>456</sup> Employing workers, frequently female, at low wages, for long hours or under unfavourable, sometimes insanitary, conditions.

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I met Miss Scott (Magpie)<sup>458</sup> in a tram and went with her to the 'Register' Chambers and had a talk. They have left Nortons Summit and taken a house in this district which is much more convenient. She always asks for you. Miss Gratton [?] is well but as her friend Miss Dumas has left me she does not come to see me.

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<sup>457</sup> Mrs George Duerdin, a Victorian woman interested in epilepsy, with whom Spence stayed in 1908.

<sup>458</sup> 'Magpie' wrote a column called 'Chatter' in the Ladies' Page of the *Adelaide Observer*, the *Register's* weekend paper.

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**PRG 88/7/32**

Clark St Norwood  
30<sup>th</sup> Nov [1903]

My dear Miss Henry

Your post card arrived all right – I did not notice any deficiency in the address.

Yes I saw the death of Henry Demarest Lloyd first in a Canadian paper and afterwards in an obituary notice in the San Francisco Star – I had like you received a copy of *Good Housekeeping*<sup>459</sup> but I did not associate him with the sending of it though it might have been he – I opened it at Miss Jane Addams<sup>460</sup> on the Servant Problem and I fancied it had come from her or from her friend Mrs Bayard Holmes. But H. D. L's account of the working of New Zealand Old Age pensions is most interesting. Over 12,000 pensions cost more than a million of dollars or £200,000 – I think it is done fairly cheaply – You note that H D L says that the Massachusetts poll tax is the fund from which to draw old age pensions from [sic] – but we have no poll tax in the Australasian states –

Yes he should have died hereafter –

I noticed your review in the Sphere and agreed with you as far as I could do so without reading the book – One is always sorry for wrong headedness in the advocates of woman's rights –

Eleanor Wren has got her name on the rolls and went to a meeting of women electors to hear a candidate Mr Kelly declare his opinions. So Miss Scott will treat her as a fellow citizen – Eleanor called on Miss Coché at the Metropole and afterwards Miss Coché called on her so that when they met at Miss Scott's they were like old friends – Her address is care of Mr Thomas Cook, Auckland Cooks Tourists you know – Mrs Hooper was the Kindergarten specialist was she not – Did she get a better offer from N Z or was she retrenched in Victoria.

I am much puzzled about America for on the one hand we hear that it is the lavish expenditure on education that enables American workers and producers to command the best wages and markets yet I see not once only but repeated the statement of ~~professor~~ McAndrew<sup>461</sup> principal of Girls Technical High School New York that the male teachers in the public schools of the U. S. is less than \$322 Or £64 average for the year, and that of female teachers is less than \$270 or £52 a year – Now I cannot see how this low average can be arrived at if head teachers of large schools are included. The grade teachers who I believe correspond with our assistants in the large schools – and the country school ma'ams who are engaged for the term at so much a month and never any pay during vacations must be many of them terribly underpaid to make the average only a pound a week. You recollect the grade teachers in Chicago struck for \$1000 or £200 a year after 10 years satisfactory teaching. They had £165 before and that should have brought up the average. And McAndrew says the average school year is 7½ months – and all these things are

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<sup>459</sup> *Good Housekeeping Magazine*, monthly 1885-1916, published in Springfield Massachusetts in 1903 and later in New York.

<sup>460</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1935) founded the world famous social settlement Hull-House in Chicago's Near West Side in 1889. She became USA's most prominent woman through her writing, settlement work and international efforts for world peace. She was International President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

<sup>461</sup> William McAndrew (1863-1937) later Superintendent of Schools in Chicago, was a progressive educator, particularly interested in the education of girls. In 1902 he was head of Washington Irving High School in New York City, a technical school training girls in both academic and manual subjects.

quoted from the Boston Womans Journal<sup>462</sup>. I know the Sphere gets that – It ought to have compressed and given us the information – I think the women in Chicago are going strong for municipal honesty and municipal ownership –

And now in answer to your own personal enquiries – I think you told me what Magazine was to publish your article on the Moral training of girls but I cannot recollect the name<sup>463</sup>. I fancy it was a medical or scientific periodical. I suppose you sent it in the form in which you read it to me -

Our two newspapers are the Register and the Advertiser and if you send to one you must send at the same time to the other. I don't know if you see the Boston Womans Journal regularly but in the Public<sup>464</sup> a Single Tax paper of July 18. this speech of McAndrews is quoted and a speech of Miss Haley<sup>465</sup> explaining why the teachers have to wait after twelve delays to get their arrears of pay – which the teachers won – and which the policemen and firemen got at once when a million and two hundred thousand dollars had been poured into the city treasury – Members of the Board of Education were large shareholders in the street tramways Co and resented the action – For every five cents every nickel which the passenger pays he pays 2 cents for the carriage and 3 cents for the use of his own streets –

There is also an article on how Miss Haley and Miss Goggin<sup>466</sup> broke up the ring which had given false counts of the ballots for the Federation of Labour [Pages 7 & 8 missing. What precedes the following page appears to be a discussion of the meeting of the National Council of Women mentioned in the previous letter.]

is rather the last straw on my back. Mrs Birks<sup>467</sup> says it is alive in Victoria thanks to Lady Clarke<sup>468</sup> who made it spin – Janet Lady Clarke did not do so nor do I think that Lady Way<sup>469</sup> can do it here. The delegates are dumb. The only ones who spoke at our Thursday meeting were working women about sweating<sup>470</sup> – Now the other delegates scarcely believe there is any sweating done and perhaps some rash statements are made by those who feel it keenly.

I must stop or I shall miss the post – I shall expect to see your article or to hear where I can obtain a reading of it.

[This letter appears to be finished but there is no signature.]

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<sup>462</sup> *The Woman's Journal*, published weekly in Boston, Massachusetts, 1870-1912, a woman suffrage paper.

<sup>463</sup> Alice Henry's article was published in Philadelphia in the *International Journal Of Ethics*.

<sup>464</sup> *The Public*: A journey [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919.

Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacker Post 1914-1919.

<sup>465</sup> Margaret Angela Joliet Haley (1861-1939), born Illinois USA, became a teacher in Chicago in 1876. With Catharine Goggin she led the Chicago Teachers' Federation from 1890s to 1920s, securing many improvements in salaries and conditions, and allied the Chicago Teachers' Federation with the American Federation of Labour.

<sup>466</sup> Catharine Goggin (1855-1916), a leader with Margaret Haley in the fight against tax evasion by corrupt corporate business organizations in Chicago which had led to inadequate salaries. for teachers.

<sup>467</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee. She was a supporter of the National Council of Women.

<sup>468</sup> Lady Janet Marion Clarke neé Snodgrass (1851-1909), supporter of philanthropic, cultural, educational and political movements, first president of the National Council of Women.

<sup>469</sup> Katherine, formerly Blue, née Gollan, wife of Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice of South Australia. She was a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>470</sup> Employing workers, frequently female, at low wages, for long hours or under unfavourable, sometimes insanitary, conditions.

**PRG 88/7/33**

Clark St Norwood  
29<sup>th</sup> Decr [1903]

My dear Miss Henry

I hope I have done rightly in trying to review your paper for both our daily journals – which I have made different and sent in by post yesterday with a note to the editor of each explaining that I had not a copy to give or lend to the press – I hope you will not think I have brought in too much outside matter.

I shall send you both papers if the notice appears<sup>471</sup>.

I am indeed glad that you have had so much and such favourable notice from the Melbourne press –

I am thinking about the possibility of paying a visit to Melbourne and Sydney before Easter but I am afraid I shall not have much time for it – I hear through Miss Mary Reid<sup>472</sup> that Mrs Webster is to be in Melbourne soon but no date is fixed – I should like to be in Melbourne while she is there if possible.

Mrs Morice was much interested in your paper which she read on Xmas day when I took it down but I could not leave it for Daisy Stephen who also wants to read it much as I thought no time should be lost before I wrote the notices. I managed to introduce the fact of the “Queen’s”<sup>473</sup> copying the Manchester Guardian<sup>474</sup> (I think that was the paper) into both notices<sup>475</sup> – I have not seen Miss Tomkinson for weeks – to give your message to her may be in a remote future - Lucy Morice is finding life rather flat – I say she should take up some public work. I am glad you are so satisfied with the educational value of Vida Goldstein’s campaign<sup>476</sup>.

She polled much better than I expected her to do.

We Effective Voters think that the triumph of the block vote for the Senate of the Labour party should impress the Conservatives with the value of proportional representation – Of course it was little short of a crime to have a general election in the middle of harvest and in this case it was a harvest where the operations had been hampered by rain storms and broken weather and no one could expect the thousands of farmers to leave their machines to go to vote –

I am keeping well and pretty busy. I got through a heavy week of Destitute work three long days consecutively and the next week three breakings up at two of which I had to give the prizes and do the talking without any bad results –

Kitty has two friends from Laura a country town 150 miles north visiting her for a fortnight and as we can manage to put them up I think I could manage to do the same for you if you can come over. Only everyone is afraid of our Adelaide summers and I suspect you will share that feeling –

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<sup>471</sup> ‘The special moral training of girls’ appeared in the *Register* 30 December 1903, p. 5g and ‘Moral training for girls’ appeared in the *Advertiser* 5 January 1904 p. 8fg, both with the byline C.H.S.

<sup>472</sup> Mary A Lambert Reid, daughter of John Reid the Unitarian minister, was the Superintendent of the Unitarian Christian Church Sunday School.

<sup>473</sup> *The Queen: an illustrated journal and review*, later *The Queen. The lady’s newspaper and court chronicle*, London, 1861-1938.

<sup>474</sup> *The Manchester Guardian* began as a radical weekly paper in 1821, but became daily in 1853. It survives today as *The Guardian*.

<sup>475</sup> Spence pointed out in her articles that an article by Alice Henry on children’s courts which had been published in the *Argus* and in the *Manchester Guardian* was taken up and published almost without alteration by *The Queen*

<sup>476</sup> Vida Goldstein stood as an independent candidate for the Senate in 1903, the first woman in the British Empire to stand for election to a national parliament.

I am very glad you have a new man on the Australasian who is better to work with than that fossil Watterston<sup>477</sup> – and I am extremely pleased that you are able to show that your work is appreciated elsewhere.

Miss Clark is slowly but steadily recovering from the effects of a bad accident about which I wrote to you – She first ventured to go out for a drive on Wednesday to see her neice [sic] Emmie Martin's<sup>478</sup> wedding presents – Mine was a large modern collar in silk worked in my best style – I have improved since June 1902 –

Lucy lent me *Man & Superman*<sup>479</sup>. I think the play odious – Women make themselves so cheap – but the preface and the appendix are full of clever things. Lucy gave me as a Xmas gift Wells 'Mankind in the Making'<sup>480</sup> which I thoroughly like – The author<sup>481</sup> sent me *Limanora or the Island of Progress* – I don't know who he is, but a Mr Collier of Coodgee<sup>482</sup> [sic] by the sea, a friend of Miss Scott's, says he is an Australian university professor – It is a social speculation - too remote – too much outside of all experience to be quite comprehensible. I allude to one part of it in the Register notice. I am reading with delight Claude Montefiore's Bible for Home Reading for use in Jewish families<sup>483</sup>. Altogether I have more reading to do than I can accomplish. My sister in law is well in health but she has lost her taste for reading which is a sad loss but she is very fond of needlework –

Yours in love C. H. Spence

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<sup>477</sup> David Watterston (1845-1931), Scottish journalist, editor of the *Australasian* 1885-1903, and of the *Argus* 1903-1906.

<sup>478</sup> Emily Rosa Martin married Frank Robert Burden at the Unitarian Church on 26 December 1903.

<sup>479</sup> *Man and Superman: a comedy and a philosophy*, 1903. George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), Irish playwright.

<sup>480</sup> *Mankind in the Making*, London, Chapman & Hall, 1903. Herbert George Wells (1866-1946), English writer and novelist.

<sup>481</sup> Godfrey Sweven, pseudonym of John Macmillan Brown (1846-1935), Administrator and Professor of Classics and English at Canterbury College, Christchurch, New Zealand. *Limanora: the island of Progress*, a novel, was published in London and New York in 1903 and *Riallaro, The Archipelago of Exiles* in 1901.

<sup>482</sup> Coogee, a coastal resort south of Sydney.

<sup>483</sup> *The Bible for Home Reading*, edited with comments for the use of Jewish parents and children. 1896, Claude Goldsmid Montefiore (1858-1938)

**PRG 88/7/34**

Clark St Norwood  
4<sup>th</sup> Jany 1904

My dear Miss Henry

I wish you a Good New Year which is the Scottish salutation – I think your work last year promises to make this opening year a better one – for to have won public recognition elsewhere is so good for your position on the press and I hope you may exchange frivolous work for real, serious writing which is what you are best fitted for –

The Advertiser has not yet published my notice – It is rather curious that I put the articles in the wrong envelopes and the shorter one which you have read was meant for the Advertiser<sup>484</sup> – It is possible that the Tiser will not publish it at all but not probable – as it will cost nothing –

Mr Young thinks that girls should be kept occupied – employed – interested – have manual work and so on – and this would be better than direct instruction but he is a mere man.

I have borrowed again from Mrs Young an excellent book on Illegitimacy by Albert Leffingwell M D<sup>485</sup> Swan Sonnenschein – in which the extraordinary statistics of illegitimacy in England Scotland and Ireland are shown by diagrams – But Mrs Young said that Coghlan<sup>486</sup> asserts that 30 per cent of the first children born in marriage come before the nine months. If this is the case – here is a great temptation to illicit intercourse – if in so great a proportion of cases the man accepts the paternity it may be a step towards marriage. But I questioned his figures – I thought it was 7 percent. Illegitimacy is far more common in country districts where there is little or no prostitution and I think there are far more of those called forced marriages in the country than in cities – In the evidence as to the poor laws in the early thirties which my mother used to speak of the Commissioner reported having seen a girl evidently advanced in pregnancy but not married. He remarked on it as a sad thing to the mother who replied “You need not blame her it is the only chance a poor girl has to get a husband nowadays” – And this was said in the presence of her other children. When the man was sworn to as the father the parish could make him pay for the childs maintenance and he often preferred to marry the girl. The oath of the woman only was taken. In Scotland, the oath of both woman and man was taken – and I think that is the case in England now – In Dr Leffingwells book there is a second section on the influence of seasons upon conduct which is not so interesting to me as the other.

It is a red book I think one of the Social Science Series – If you have not read it you ought to do so – And perhaps you could ascertain if Coghlan's are 30 or 7 per cent –

I read Lucy your last letter and she says she does not know what could shock you about her amount of Imperialism – All she is conscious of saying is that she felt

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<sup>484</sup> ‘The special moral training of girls’ appeared in the *Register* 30 December 1903, p. 5g and ‘Moral training for girls’ appeared in the *Advertiser* 5 January 1904 p. 8fg, both with the byline C.H.S.

<sup>485</sup> *Illegitimacy, and the Influence of the Seasons upon Conduct*. Social Science Series 49. By Albert Leffingwell, published in London 1892 by Swan Sonnenschein & Co.

<sup>486</sup> *The Decline in the Birth-Rate of New South Wales and other Phenomena of Child-Birth: an essay in statistics* by T. A. Coghlan (Sir Timothy Augustine Coghlan 1856-1926) Government Statistician of New South Wales, Sydney, 1903.

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that St Paul's Cathedral was the Parish Church of every one of English race and that she felt the tie of nationality very strong when worshipping there.

I wish I could see the Reviews<sup>487</sup> without going to the Public Library to do it – I miss a great deal – I know – I am trying to arrange for a visit to Sydney and Melbourne before Easter – but I must arrange to begin it when Miss Gregory is at home – I could not leave the house to be run by Kitty Hood and her young cousin – I must take Sydney first and Melbourne on the way home but I may rest a day or two on the way across. Eleanor does not think I should go right through –

In that case I think we could arrange for a visit from you later – Our winter is not so cold as that of Melbourne or so wet as that of Sydney – I keep well – and hope to continue to keep well but I take some rest every day.

I shall see Mr Gray this afternoon. Daisy Stephen who wanted to read your article undertakes to send the Review on. I agree with you that the whole number is rather stodgy – which is a pity –

Always yours in love  
C H Spence

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<sup>487</sup> Overseas and interstate periodicals.



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**PRG 88/7/35**

Clark St Norwood  
26<sup>th</sup> Jany 1904

My dear Miss Henry

I find that I cannot get away till May or late in April so I hope you can make out a visit here before Easter – I suppose you will look out for an excursion train as your visit will not be so long as mine to the other states – Except with regard to the Commonwealth excursion<sup>488</sup> I have always taken seven weeks or nine.

Mrs Stephen sent the Review to her husband asking him to read it and forward to you – She made a long visit to her mother and only left last Tuesday. Mary the little girl was to be one of the bridesmaids at her uncle Reginald's wedding on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I send you back the stamps as I did not post it. Mr Gray showed me the Times correspondence which a friend of mine cut out of the paper and gave to him to paste into the Office book of cuttings – Miss Scott writes to me that there is the strongest opposition to Wise's bill<sup>489</sup> and a cry against the Children's Courts as Secret Chambers which would tear children from their mothers – "One would think" says she [" "] that Mr Wise was an ogre" – She wants me to write something or better still to come over and speak when the bill comes up when the real business session comes on. The parliamentary short session only dealt with reduction of members. She also says that people are thinking more favourably about effective Voting.

Have you seen or heard of Limanora or the Island of Progress, sequel to Riallaro The Archipelago of Exiles published one or two years ago – under the nom de plume of Godfrey Sweven<sup>490</sup> – One of the ideas there of sterilisation of the unfit has been brought prominently forward by someone else. I don't know at all why it was sent to me – but a J Collier ~~told~~ wrote to me it was coming and that it was written by an eminent Australian University professor. It is altogether too advanced and must be read with the help of a glossary.

I have got the figures from Coghlan's<sup>491</sup> Progress of N S W and I see that it is not for the whole of Australia but for N. S. W. alone that the near 30 per cent of first births came before nine months. I should hope it is not so bad with us – but it takes trouble to work out the figures. I have been reading H. D. Lloyd's Wealth & Commonwealth<sup>492</sup> with the greatest interest. How the Trustees of the Standard Oil Trust kept out of the penitentiary can only be accounted for by wholesale bribery.

Lloyd was a great man. I feel that I ought to write to his son whose address is  
Henry William Bross Lloyd

460 Dearborn St  
Chicago

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<sup>488</sup> Spence's visit to the opening of the first Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>489</sup> Bernard Ringrose Wise (1858-1916), NSW barrister, politician and federationist, supporter of woman suffrage and child welfare reform had introduced into the NSW Parliament two bills, one on Juvenile Courts and one on Protection of Infant Life.

<sup>490</sup> Godfrey Sweven, pseudonym of John Macmillan Brown (1846-1935), Administrator and Professor of Classics and English at Canterbury College, Christchurch, New Zealand. *Limanora: the island of Progress*, a novel, was published in London and New York in 1903 and *Riallaro, The Archipelago of Exiles* in 1901.

<sup>491</sup> Sir Timothy Augustine Coghlan (1856-1926), Government Statistician of NSW, published *The Wealth and Progress of New South Wales* most years between 1886 and 1902.

<sup>492</sup> *Wealth against Commonwealth*, published 1894, was an indictment of John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil.

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to thank him for the Pilgrim<sup>493</sup> and for the pamphlet on the Chicago Traction Question<sup>494</sup> which you shall see when you come. Wealth and Commonwealth I got out of the Parliamentary Library through favour of Mr Morice – Mrs Morice will be delighted to see you and I am sure you will have good talk with her –

Believe me  
Always yours afftely  
C H Spence

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<sup>493</sup> *The Pilgrim*: a magazine for the home 1899-1907. Published in Battle Creek, Michigan.

<sup>494</sup> Henry Demarest Lloyd's pamphlet *The Chicago Traction Question* was published in 1903. It dealt with the Chicago Consolidated Traction Company which had acquired 8 local railway companies.

**PRG 88/7/36**

Clark St Norwood  
1<sup>st</sup> Febry [1904]

My dear Miss Henry

I hear from Mr Reid<sup>495</sup> that there is little chance of his being able to go to Freemantle<sup>496</sup> [sic] to meet Mr Hargrove<sup>497</sup>, and that he is not expected there till 5<sup>th</sup> May – In that case I think I could manage to get my Sydney and Melbourne visit earlier. As soon as Miss Gregory comes back from Murray Bridge which will be about the 20<sup>th</sup> March or a little later I could get away – and would be in Melbourne for the 28<sup>th</sup> May when there is to be some sort of demonstration for Mr Hargrove. Mr H. G. Turner will be here soon to give a lecture to the Bankers Institute and I hope to see him – And I shall be glad if you can arrange to pay your visit here either before the equinox or after my return from my visits – It is quite the same to me. For some things I should like the earlier date but you would have cooler weather later – Mr Gray and Miss Clark will give you the warmest of welcomes – Miss Florence Hill<sup>498</sup> writes to her cousin that Mr Whiting whom they have put on their Committee made an admirable explanation of the Children's Courts (which have been pooh poohed by the English Magistrates as unnecessary and far too costly) and our general administration which was a revelation to the Committee and especially to the Chairman. If Mr Whiting can find time to attend the Committee meetings he will be invaluable to the London workers – for his evidence is all first hand. Miss F Hill's friend Miss Schuyler<sup>499</sup> sent Homer Folk's<sup>500</sup> (Secretary to ~~Conven~~ Charity Boards in New York) account of Children's Courts either 2 or 4 I forget which, in New York city – to reinforce the possibility of the reform. You know the courts are not secret tribunals but open to the press – you know they need not be costly –

I have written to Miss Scott to send me a copy of Mr Wise's<sup>501</sup> bill. Both Mr Gray and myself are anxious to know if he has included the inspecting of licensed foster mothers and the infants placed with them in his bill – for we consider that one of the most valuable agencies of the Council.

I have felt such a sinner for not looking up Miss Geach<sup>502</sup> but she came to see me yesterday evening. She says that she has had a successful season and is returning on the 14 – She winds up with a selling off – this week. I want her to see the Children's Courts before she goes back to Melbourne and she may manage it –

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<sup>495</sup> John Reid MA was the minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide 1902-1907.

<sup>496</sup> Fremantle, the port of Perth in Western Australia.

<sup>497</sup> Reverend Charles Hargrove, minister of the Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, 1872-1912, was a delegate from the British and Foreign Unitarian Association on his way to help establish some new Unitarian Churches in New Zealand.

<sup>498</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>499</sup> Louisa Lee Schuyler (1837-1926), American philanthropist, leader of Civil War relief and founder of the New York State Charities Aid Association, worker for training for nurses, blind children and the prevention of blindness.

<sup>500</sup> Homer Folk was still working for child welfare in 1932.

<sup>501</sup> Bernard Ringrose Wise (1858-1916), NSW barrister, politician and federationist, supporter of woman suffrage and child welfare reform, had introduced into the NSW Parliament two bills, one on Juvenile Courts and one on Protection of Infant Life.

<sup>502</sup> Portia Swanston Geach (1873-1959), artist and portrait painter, feminist and supporter of woman suffrage.

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She complains that there are no meetings or organisations in connection with the Unitarian Church in which she could become acquainted with the people – Miss Reid<sup>503</sup> has looked her up – and that is all – She will probably come again next summer – I have finished *Wealth against Commonwealth* by H D Lloyd. I wrote to Henry<sup>504</sup> Bross Lloyd thanking him for the *Traction Question in Chicago*<sup>505</sup> and the *Pilgrim*<sup>506</sup>.

Believe me  
Always yours  
C H Spence

Have you any slips left of your *Argus* article. Miss Scott has nothing better than Miss Martindales pamphlet<sup>507</sup>. I sent my copy to the Register. I think I sent you the Register notice – short.

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<sup>503</sup> Mary A Lambert Reid, daughter of John Reid the Unitarian minister.

<sup>504</sup> Spence means William Bross Lloyd, Henry Demarest Lloyd's son.

<sup>505</sup> Henry Demarest Lloyd's pamphlet *The Chicago Traction Question* was published in 1903. It dealt with the Chicago Consolidated Traction Company which had acquired 8 local railway companies.

<sup>506</sup> *The Pilgrim*: a magazine for the home 1899-1907. Published in Battle Creek, Michigan.

<sup>507</sup> Hilda Martindale who had visited Adelaide in 1901 had published *Methods of Dealing with State Children in Australasia* in that year.

**PRG 88/7/37**

Clark St Norwood  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Feby [1904]

My dear Miss Henry

I sent you rather a doleful post card two days ago but I am glad to say that I feel very differently today – I had thought myself well on Tuesday and got up at ten to write out the criticisms and comparisons which Mr Gray and I had sketched the previous Wednesday – But I had a succession of visitors one two three four and then I did the writing not good enough or quite in time to post. Immediately after lunch I had my neice [sic] Elsie Spence whom I felt I should see and talk to for an hour and a half – then took a little rest and had my dearest friend Mrs Fred Martin up from Glenelg to enquire for me and she stayed to dinner – I did not know that I was overtired but I was and on Wednesday I felt worse than I had done on the Friday when I sent for the doctor first – But he gave me a sedative and I had a good night and was almost myself yesterday and had a good night without any sedative – I succeeded in making a fair and improved copy of the comments on the N S W Bills<sup>508</sup> and getting it posted along with our own three Acts to Mr A W Green<sup>509</sup> Chief Boarding Out Officer Sydney. I recommended that he should have leaflets struck off of your article and distribute them broad cast – Dr Rogers was quite pleased with me yesterday and I was pleased with myself. He is a sensible man – A member of the State Children's Council and was an intimate friend of Mr Whiting's ~~who~~ and misses him in his absence –

I do not know the pecuniary value of a press ticket but it gives latitude as to time which should make it better than a cheap excursion – I will not be allowed to go second class or to go without a sleeping car – My annuity of £100 a year was supplemented by my brother the last year of his life by £50 and Mrs Spence keeps it up – so that I am not straitened as I was when I had only the annuity – I get 17/6 a week from George and 12/6 from Kitty for board – So I have enough for an annual holiday – I was interrupted by Miss Lucy Morice with a letter from you to her – I may not be able to meet you myself but George Hood will meet you and perhaps Milly Kennedy – I hear that the press fare is half fare which is very good I think.

Lucy was writing to you but will not send her letter on, as mine makes it unnecessary – She was quite satisfied to see me myself again – She sends love

I am always  
Yours affectionately  
C H Spence

You will leave by Wednesdays express unless you write to the contrary?

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<sup>508</sup> Bernard Ringrose Wise (1858-1916), NSW barrister, politician and federationist, supporter of woman suffrage and child welfare reform had introduced into the NSW Parliament two bills, one on Juvenile Courts and one on Protection of Infant Life.

<sup>509</sup> A. W. Green, Boarding Out Officer, State Children's Branch, Child Protection Act, Sydney.

**PRG 88/7/38**

Eurotas  
29<sup>th</sup> March [1904]

Edgecliff Road Woollahra Sydney [The home of Mr and Mrs Charles Wren]

My dear Miss Henry

I got across very comfortably though there is far more vibration on the Sydney line than on the other. I was so lucky as to have no one over my head. I do not think I slept any more than I did on the Thursday night but I rested, and that is much. The train was an hour late, so that Charlie and Eleanor had to wait at the station all that time – I ate up every morsel that Daisy had provided for me – I had only two cups of tea one of which at Seymour Mr Cook paid for and the other at Moss Vale I paid for myself and I had whiskey and water for supper.

I find everyone well here but think Marjorie has too much school work as she is only thirteen and she is doing matriculation work with girls three years older. I also think Eleanor has too much to do – but she appears wonderfully well –

Your book the Australians by Francis Adams<sup>510</sup> is in my possession and I will bring it to you.

Eleanor announced that she was going to the Annual Meeting of the Ladies Sydney Sanitary Association to be held yesterday in the Town Hall at 3 p m when Dr Mary Booth<sup>511</sup> was to read a paper on the proper care and feeding of Infants – I said I would go with her and I did. It was a very small meeting much less than last year presided over by a Lady Mayoress new to her position – I was asked to move the continuance in office of the President Secretary and Treasurer and commented on the fact that there was a balance of £10 or more in hand – not altogether with approbation. Money is raised to be spent on objects connected with the improvement of the public health – When Dr Mary Booth had concluded her paper about infant mortality and people were voting her thanks I chipped in and read a portion of your Register interview and handed to the Mayoress the regulations made and enforced in South Australia – saying that the Bill<sup>512</sup> before the Legislature in N S. W. needed to be improved – and my suggestions were favourably received.

Mr Greene<sup>513</sup> [sic] of the State Children is coming to see me here some day or evg. Miss Scott introduced him to C. W. Wren one evg at her house. Miss Scott is coming to see me today and wants me to be present at the Y W C A tomorrow Wednesday when there is a meeting of the N. C of W. and she is to speak on Peace and Arbitration. I asked Miss Vallentine if she was still Sec of the N. C. of W. She said no – and wanted to talk to me about it and other things and she will ring me up some day. She is Hon. Sec. of the Sanitary Ass. Which is on the same lines as the Melbourne Health Society – but no men are on the Sydney Association which Eleanor thinks is a pity- I shall write again soon – I am sorry that I only brought two copies of the interview, Daisy had one – and kept it. You must get your longer article into a Sydney paper. It is much needed.

Eleanor and Nell unite in love  
Always yours heartily C H Spence

<sup>510</sup> *The Australians: a social sketch* by Francis William Lauderdale Adams, London 1892.

<sup>511</sup> Mary Booth (1869-1956), physician and public health worker. Born in Sydney, she studied medicine at University of Edinburgh. On her return to Sydney she lectured in hygiene and later helped to establish the first school medical service in Victoria.

<sup>512</sup> On the protection of infant life.

<sup>513</sup> A. W. Green, Boarding Out Officer, State Children's Branch, Child Protection Act, Sydney.

**PRG 88/7/39**

Eurotas

Edgecliff Road Woollahra [Sydney] [The home of Mr and Mrs Charles Wren]  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April [1904]

My dear Miss Henry

I wrote to you this day week and have wondered much what you were doing about your article How Adelaide cares for her babies. Both Miss Scott and Mrs Parkes whom I saw last night are sure that the Telegraph would be glad of it but as you say you know the editor yourself and would not like anyone to negotiate with him for you I did not encourage any steps being taken – I think its publication would help to draw attention to the subject on which I am to speak on the 13<sup>th</sup><sup>514</sup>. The holidays have interfered with correspondence. Except a post card from Milly Kennedy to say that her mother was coming on the Friday after we left I have not had a line from anybody – I have written to Mr A W Green of the State Children<sup>515</sup> here asking him to telephone when he could come here to talk to me and saying I want some of the American literature (all of which Miss Scott gave to him) to help with my lecture –

I had a letter from William Bross Lloyd in answer to mine acknowledging his courtesy - He says the Chicago teachers have not won the case yet – It has been adjourned twenty six times – at the request of the Board of Education. He is in hopes that the Traction Companies will not get their franchises renewed – I shall bring the letter with me when I go to Melbourne.

I am having a very easy and luxurious time here so far. Marjorie had four days hard examination and came out top in her class – And now when she has holidays – she seems not able to rest as she ought – She is a good deal like her aunt Eleanor in her indisposition for loafing --

I hear your brother<sup>516</sup> is in Sydney and hope to see him today if he can find the place so I shall leave this open till post time –

I met Mrs Baynton<sup>517</sup> and her daughter (who used to be at the same school as Marjorie) at Miss Scotts on Saturday – I think that you as well as Mrs F Martin and Mrs Young think her Bush Studies very good – or is good the word? strong and realistic – I borrowed Miss Scotts presentation and I was much disappointed – It is unrelieved sordid brutality – I don't think society could hold together at all if there were not more Kindliness in it.

I thought her very egotistic but we agreed in thinking Henry Kendall's<sup>518</sup> *Fainting by the Way* which is not in the recent editions of his poems but which I saw in the Atheneum<sup>519</sup> [sic] 40 years ago or more as one of a number of newspaper cuttings sent by an Australian youth – and which she has in the first edition – the best

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<sup>514</sup> Spence's talk to the Women's Political and Educational League was briefly reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 14 April 1904, p. 6f, under the heading "That tired feeling".

<sup>515</sup> A. W. Green, Boarding Out Officer, State Children's Branch, Child Protection Act, Sydney.

<sup>516</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>517</sup> Barbara Janet Ainsleigh Baynton, formerly Frayter, née Kirkpatrick (1862-1929), Australian writer, born in NSW. Short stories she had written for the *Bulletin* were published in 1902 as *Bush Studies*. Powerful but dark and uncompromisingly realistic, her stories undermine the mateship bush tradition.

<sup>518</sup> Henry Kendall (1839-1882), Australian poet, born in NSW, noted for lyrical poetry.

'Fainting by the Way' is among the early poems in his collected works.

<sup>519</sup> *The Athenaeum*, a London periodical, which ran from 1830 to 1931.

thing he ever wrote. Miss Scott also knows Miles Franklin<sup>520</sup> and I may see her at Lynton<sup>521</sup> – I was sorry I had not read Mrs B's Bush Studies when I met her but now I am sorry that I have in case I meet her again so perhaps I had better not try to get a sight of My Brilliant Career<sup>522</sup> – W B Lloyd is glad that I was reading Wealth against Commonwealth<sup>523</sup> with so much interest. He himself cannot read it for more than 15 minutes at a time he must get up and feels disposed to fling the furniture about – to relieve his feelings.

2 P.M. Such a rainy day – There has not been 24 hours fair since I came here. Your brother has not made his appearance.

Miss Scott gave an excellent lecture very well delivered to the N. C. of Women on Wednesday, Lady Rawson<sup>524</sup> presiding – She thinks the N. C of W is doing some good work. I must see more of it before I pronounce. Miss Vallentine used to be Secretary but had to resign because she rather took Mrs Parkes' side in the difference. Dr Mary Booth<sup>525</sup> is now Secretary – They have only eleven organisations – Did I ever tell you I met your friend Mrs Ferris at Mrs Parkes on my last visit. I met her again at the Ladies Sanitary meeting – Eleanor and Nelly send

Kind regards – Yours ever  
C H Spence

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<sup>520</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian novelist, born in NSW. She left Australia in 1906 and went to Chicago where she undertook secretarial work for Alice Henry in the National Women's Trade Union League.

<sup>521</sup> Rose Scott lived at 'Lynton', Jersey Road, Woolahra.

<sup>522</sup> *My Brilliant Career* by Miles Franklin was first published in Edinburgh in 1901.

<sup>523</sup> *Wealth against Commonwealth*, published 1894 by W. B. Lloyd's father Henry Demarest Lloyd, was an indictment of John D. Rockefeller and Standard Oil.

<sup>524</sup> Lady Florence Alice Rawson, wife of Admiral Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson (1843-1910), Governor of NSW 1902-1909.

<sup>525</sup> Mary Booth (1869-1956), physician and public health worker. Born in Sydney, she studied medicine at University of Edinburgh. On her return to Sydney she lectured in hygiene and later helped to establish the first school medical service in Victoria.



**PRG 88/7/40**

Eurotas

Edgecliff Rd [Woollahra Sydney] [The home of Mr and Mrs Charles Wren]

Monday [11 April 1904]

My dear Miss Henry

Enclosed is a letter to the Herald correcting a mistake which you would note in what I sent you on Saturday. Thanks for the par and letter about the little boy of 8.

Have you recollected to order 6 cabinets<sup>526</sup> from Johnson & OShaunessy [sic]<sup>527</sup> for I have seen nothing of them and it is getting time that the photo and biographical sketch should be sent to Mrs Watson Lister –

I am in the midst of my writing of my lecture but am stuck because Mr Green<sup>528</sup> has not sent me the American paper and pamphlet I asked for. I had to write last night to remind him. I hope people would see and read your article. I shall take it with me on Wednesday. I have incorporated what you said in the Interview in the lecture – The Booker Washington article<sup>529</sup> appeared in the Register on Easter Monday I think. I have not seen it yet as the Wrens get the Register after it has been read by Mr Davies<sup>530</sup> in Melbourne – Lucy Morice writes that she sent it to six American addresses.

I was at Miss Scotts on Friday evg and met some nice people. She lent me Percy Roland's [sic] New Nation<sup>531</sup> which I like very much – On the previous Saturday aftn I met Mrs Barbara Baynton<sup>532</sup> whom I did not like very much and I borrowed Miss Scott's presentation copy of Bush Studies which I liked less. There is power in two of the studies – but it gives such a sordid grimy mean picture of every thing. There are two faithful dogs to redeem the blackness – but alas for the humanity –

I repeated to her my Sonnet<sup>533</sup> and although I think she needed it I don't think she will take it to heart – From what she said I believe she has some similar studies in hand –

On Saturday afternoon I went to Mrs Hilma Parkes and met about fifteen progressive women. I think the League is doing more work than Miss Scott – and it is drawing to it other womens leagues. Working women come to their meetings but the payment of the shilling keeps them from being joined members. There have been 40 Womens League meetings in the year well attended and Mrs Parkes as Organising Secretary has been present watching if not speaking at 202 meetings of electors men and women – they have Childrens Protection and Courts on their programme – also Effective Voting. I think Mrs Parkes is doing great work and although she works for

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<sup>526</sup> 'Cabinet' is short for 'cabinet photograph' and refers to the size.

<sup>527</sup> Johnstone, O'Shannessy Pty Ltd, 234 Collins St., Melbourne, Photographers.

<sup>528</sup> A. W. Green, Boarding Out Officer, State Children's Branch, Child Protection Act, Sydney.

<sup>529</sup> Spence's article 'Booker Washington and the negro problem' appeared in the *Register* 2 April 1904, p. 6bd.

<sup>530</sup> Seymour George Pilkington Davies had married Dora Staniforth Hall, sister of Charles Wren's wife, in 1896. They lived in Melbourne.

<sup>531</sup> *The New Nation: a sketch of the social, political, and economic conditions and prospects of the Australian commonwealth*, London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1903, by Percy Fritz Rowland (born 1870)

<sup>532</sup> Barbara Janet Ainsleigh Baynton, formerly Frayter, née Kirkpatrick (1862-1929), Australian writer, born in NSW. Short stories she had written for the *Bulletin* were published in 1902 as *Bush Studies*. Powerful but dark and uncompromisingly realistic, her stories undermine the mateship bush tradition.

<sup>533</sup> See letter 26 for Spence's sonnet 'Wanted a poet'.

the Liberal party she will not amalgamate or sink into a new tool of the mens organisation which is what Miss Scott says women will do if they take sides –

I have been loafing a good deal went once to the picture gallery was taken to hear Spurr<sup>534</sup> on Tuesday and the Admirable Crichton<sup>535</sup> on Saturday. I have finished Mrs Martins collar all but the edge stitches – I go to dine and spend the evg tonight at Mrs Youngs brothers – who lives quite near. I have my lecture on Wednesday a *Conversazione* in my honour on Thursday go out to lunch at Lavender Bay on Friday. Am in some fear of being interviewed before my lecture – I have promised to give the Stephen Phillips lecture to the Womans Club on Thursday week, and after that, I think I shall think of going to Melbourne and will pay my visit to Gippsland as soon after as possible so that you may arrange for me to do something on my return –

Marjorie has had her Easter holidays and they are nearly over. Pat Morice is looking forward a long way till May when the term ends – and he gets a fortnight – His illness was short, but he has got into a state of nerves – and is afraid to go to sleep till the boys are all snoring lest they should play him a trick or practical joke – The Morices may have to leave their house to be nearer the college.

I am keeping quite well -- and hope to be able to do all that is needed of me. Eleanor and Nell send love –

I am always yours faithfully  
C H Spence

The 5/ might pay for the cabinet photos – The larger ones were 7/6 for 6.

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<sup>534</sup> Mel B Spurr, who called himself 'the Spurr of the moment', was advertised as 'England's greatest society entertainer'. He performed at Queen's Hall, Pitt-Street, Sydney.

<sup>535</sup> *The Admirable Crichton*, a play by James Matthew Barrie (1860-1937), first published and produced in 1902.

**PRG 88/7/41**

Eurotas

[Edgecliff Road Woollahra Sydney The home of Mr and Mrs Charles Wren]  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April [1904]

My dear Miss Henry

I have not heard from you since I wrote that I had fixed to leave on Monday and that I hoped you would meet me at the train and take me to Sandringham for the night – but I take it for granted that you will do so – I can catch the train at South Yarra for Gippsland<sup>536</sup> the next day and if I could return on Friday of the next week so as to have a little rest before the Sunday work, so much the better.

I am keeping very well. I had a moderate attendance at the Women's Club for the repeated lecture –

Here C. Wren telephoned that he cannot get a berth for me on Monday and unless four are guaranteed they will not open another compartment so he has engaged a lower berth for Tuesday, and it must be Wednesday that you have to meet me – This gives one more day to Sydney and one less to Victoria which in some ways I am sorry for - and there must be no latitude as to a return on Friday from Gippsland – It must be Saturday.

A press woman or rather the editress of a little Woman's Paper is going to type my lecture and I shall leave a copy here with Miss Scott, and bring one with me to Melbourne. I fear the Melbourne women – writers or non-writers will not invite me to deliver it but they may have the opportunity – It is more important than a merely literary lecture.

I gave the Stephen Phillips lecture to a select number of friends at Miss Scott's last night – and I think it was appreciated – On Thursday an old Friend Mr Sampson<sup>537</sup> took me to a meeting of the Free Trade League where there was an election of Committee and vice presidents on in the hope that we might induce them to adopt the Hare system – But unfortunately the Articles of Association laid down the block vote – Each member was to vote for four Vice presidents and for 24 committee men. We did the next best thing – we secured the appointment of a committee of six to consider and report three months hence, so that if it was approved the elections next year would be conducted by means of the single transferable vote – Mr Sampson made a speech and I followed him with a short address and both were well taken. In fact we could have carried it – the feeling was so favourable – if it had not been for that foolish clause. I thought people now saw the injustice of the block vote – You recollect Miss Scott's nonsense Verse.

There was an old dame of Australia  
Who proved the block system a failure  
Teaching creatures in coats  
What to do with their votes –  
That gallant old dame of Australia  
I don't think gallant was the adjective but it will do<sup>538</sup>.

<sup>536</sup> Yarragon, in Gippsland, had been the home of Spence's sister, Jessie Murray (1821-1888) and her husband Andrew. Members of the Murray family remained in the district after the death of their parents

<sup>537</sup> Alfred Horatio Sampson (1842-1912), land reformer, member of the Free Trade League, supporter of women's suffrage.

<sup>538</sup> The correct version is given in Spence's *Autobiography*.

There was a Grand Dame of Australia  
Who proved the block system a failure  
She taught creatures in coats

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Lady Macmillan<sup>539</sup> [sic] called on me on Monday and I am to dine there to night – I was at Mrs Garran's<sup>540</sup> on Tuesday evg and heard a great deal about the State Children's Dept from her – It is a great pity that subsidy ends at 12 and children are sent to service when the law commands that they should go to school – We had the same anomaly in South Australia but it was rectified more than twenty years ago – The Education law should override all other regulations – I was much disappointed that Mr Coghlan<sup>541</sup> did not go to hear the repeated lecture. He was specially invited both by me and by Miss Scott – If it is typed he may have the opportunity of reading it. He read your article in Sydney Herald and was both pleased and surprised at it. He says the middle year must be a fluke something exceptional for more than five per cent ought to die under two years.

I am keeping quite well and though there has been [rain] every twenty four all except one day I have had good weather for my outings. Last night rain came on when I was at Miss Scotts but we came home in a cab - Nelly Marjorie and I – Charlie and Eleanor walked – This week is a record for evenings. Monday dined at Robert Scott's a carpenter single taxpayer and Effective Voter. Tuesday Mrs Garran – had cab – Wednesday lecture at Womens Club. Thursday Free trade meeting. Friday Miss Scott Stephen Phillips. Saturday Lady McMillans - in cab. But I take it easy in the day. I have written the biographical sketch and posted it – I fear it is too long – Marjorie was delighted with my lecture and when I was asked to recite the Sonnet<sup>542</sup> she felt proud that Grannie<sup>543</sup> had written it in her autograph book – She loves poetry – They all send love.

Yours  
C. H. Spence

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What to do with their votes

This Effective Grand Dame of Australia.

<sup>539</sup> Wife of Sir William McMillan (1850-1926), merchant, free trader, NSW parliamentarian and member of first Federal Parliament.

<sup>540</sup> Mary Isham Garran, wife of Andrew Garran (1825-1901), journalist and politician. The Garrans had lived in Adelaide in the 1850s, and Mrs Garran was an old friend who had worked with Spence

<sup>541</sup> Timothy Augustine Coghlan, later Sir, (1856-1926) Government Statistician of New South Wales, Sydney had published *Decline in the Birth-Rate of New South Wales and other Phenomena of Child-Birth: an essay in statistics*, in 1903.

<sup>542</sup> See letter 26 for Spence's sonnet 'Wanted a poet'.

<sup>543</sup> Spence was Marjorie's great-aunt, not her grandmother, but it is not surprising, given that Spence brought up her father and aunt Eleanor, that she called Spence Grannie.

**PRG 88/7/42**

Yarragon<sup>544</sup>  
Friday Mg [29 April 1904]

My dear Miss Henry

Did you notice a woman with a baby in the train – She had come in from Warragul<sup>545</sup> [sic] because Inspector Wardley had written to her that her baby was wasting away in the care of Mrs Copeland 62 Berkley St Carlton – The woman Mrs Walker is a widow, the child was a posthumous child. She placed it, a fine baby of a fortnight old, with this woman who was highly recommended and who has been 16 years in the business – but who is old and asthmatical – She has other two – one 18 months one a fortnight – and she had another, which died during the three months little Alice Walker had been there – The child was the thinnest poorest little specimen I ever saw – and had a look in its eyes as if it had been drugged – The mother paid 10/ a week for it and the woman did not let her know how it was wasting – She took it to a doctor who says there is no marasmus<sup>546</sup> and gives her hopes that with country air, good food, and care it may recover. At first the mother was full of indignation, saying it was plain the child had been starved, but as the little thing seemed to be a little better, she said she did not want to take away the poor woman's means of living, as Inspector Wardley who is a friend of her own said she was most respectable and had had very few deaths – But neither he nor the doctor thought Alice could live a week in her hands.

I feel that the woman should not be allowed to have babies – either that child was starved or had food that did not suit it – It was getting two spoonfuls of water to one of milk – The doctor said it should have the strippings of the cow, one spoonful of water to two of milk – which is wonderfully different and I should fear too strong – Mrs Walker does not want her name brought forward – she has another child five years old that she brought up on the bottle as in both instances her milk went away after a fortnight suddenly –

The doctor told Mrs Walker that there was no disease – it was malnutrition – It is possible that the woman was competent once, but has fallen away – She has a husband who helps her with the babies, taking them out in the pram for her – but the child had a beautiful hood her mother had made for her that had evidently never been worn at all – absolutely new -

Now it is quite possible that these women get the good word of the police inspectors and I am sure that there is a disinclination on their part to reveal irregularities and illtreatment. It only comes out in a coroners inquest.

The house was clean and the baby was clean but there was a curious heavy smell about the place. I asked if there was any smell of drugs – she said not that she was aware of, but she was so upset by seeing the pitiable state of the infant that she might not have noticed –

I asked if she thought Inspector Wardley would have written to her if he had not known her personally. She could not tell – but that very day she got the letter, Mrs Copeland had sent for the doctor to see an infant of a fortnight old she had just got, who said that that child could not live as it had some congenital disease – ~~but~~

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<sup>544</sup> Yarragon, in Gippsland, had been the home of Spence's sister, Jessie Murray (1821-1888) and her husband Andrew. Members of the Murray family remained in the district after the death of their parents.

<sup>545</sup> Warragul, a town in Gippsland, some kilometres west of Yarragon.

<sup>546</sup> Gradual wasting away.

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and she asked him to look at Alice Walker and he said she could not live a week – and she did not write to the mother at once, as she ought to have done but looked much surprised when the mother [made] her appearance – And insisted on going with Mrs Walker to fetch the Inspector – I think it looks very bad –

Now can anything be done. Can one trust to a police inspector who seems determined to gloze over a case like this – Has no one a right to make inquiry? It is a proof if proof were needed of the need of a different system –

I shall write to Mrs Walker to come to Warrigul [sic] where the train always stops a while, with the baby if it is alive, or without it , if it is dead when I go back.

I have written this morning to Mrs Turner – I hope to get a reply on Monday.

Nina Murray<sup>547</sup> and her nephew Charles Handyside<sup>548</sup> came for me. I was not tired, but a good deal excited about the baby during the journey.

I found a letter from Mrs Young and another from Mrs Birks<sup>549</sup> here – Mrs B is troubled about the N. C. of W. They have put off their further meeting till June<sup>550</sup> so I do not get out of it –

Always yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>547</sup> Nina Murray was a daughter of Spence's sister, Jessie. Nina seems to have been a nickname for Catherine Helen Murray (1852-1933).

<sup>548</sup> Charles Handyside, born 1874, was the son of Andrew Dods Handyside and Spence's sister Jessie's daughter Mary Ann (1844-1879).

<sup>549</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee. She was a supporter of the National Council of Women.

<sup>550</sup> The meeting, at which Spence spoke, was held on Tuesday 7 June 1904.

**PRG 88/7/43**

Yarragon Gippsland  
Tuesday Mg [3<sup>rd</sup> May 1904]

My dear Miss Henry,

My letter to Mrs Turner written on the 20<sup>th</sup> miscarried as well as yours, but I had a letter yesterday from Mr Turner saying that they would be most happy to receive me and he will either come or send to meet me – So I shall be at Prince's Bridge by Friday's train about one o'clock.

Will you send my tin trunk to Bundalohn

Tennyson St  
St Kilda<sup>551</sup>

in time for me to have it.

I forgot to put my sermons in the dress basket, and as there is only one the title of which I recollect, the Eastern Hill folk<sup>552</sup> must have that –

I have a request from Alice McHume [?] to give an address on some ~~aspects~~ phase of the Suffrage question to the United Council for State Suffrage<sup>553</sup> on the 11<sup>th</sup> if possible – I hope they will be satisfied with a short one – I was all but refusing altogether as my short time in Melbourne is pretty well filled up – I began my paper for Worth of Work yesterday but did not quite please myself.

I write in a hurry this mg – because there is no certainty that you will get it today quite the contrary –

I am quite well have had good weather and play whist every evg.

Yours in haste  
C H Spence

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<sup>551</sup> The home of Spence's friends Mr and Mrs Henry Gyles Turner

<sup>552</sup> The Unitarian Church in Melbourne, under the direction of Rev. R. H. Lambley, was at Grey Street West, Eastern Hill.

<sup>553</sup> The United Council for Women's Suffrage in Victoria was formed by Annette Bear Crawford in 1894. By 1900 there were 32 societies affiliated. Vida Goldstein became the movement's first full-time worker.

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**PRG 88/7/44**

Tennyson St St Kilda [Melbourne] [The home of Mr and Mrs H. G. Turner]  
Thursday Mg [12<sup>th</sup> May 1904]

Dear Miss Henry

I shall meet you at the Argus office at 3.30 tomorrow Saturday to go to Miss Goldstein's – and I hope we may manage Mr Davis<sup>554</sup> on Tuesday.

I have had no reply from the State Suffrage people as to the substitution of the Sydney lecture for an address on State Suffrage but I hope they have the good sense to accept my offer – That other glaring case in Carlton is a tremendous argument for a reform.

I go this evening early to Mrs Robert Garran's<sup>555</sup> at Lambert Road Toorak - I go early so that I may see the little boy but they dine at 7 – I am giving various invitations to people to come to the Writers' Club. I think you undertook Mr and Mrs Lambley<sup>556</sup> – but to make sure, I shall write myself.

I am cutting the lecture down a little which always goes to my heart –

Your letter asking for the subject of my sermons reached me here on Tuesday afternoon Not Known at Tennyson St – but I had given the subjects to Mr Turner in time –

Yours till tomorrow  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>554</sup> Captain William Davis was the secretary of the department for Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools in Victoria.

<sup>555</sup> Hilda Garran was the wife of Robert Randolph Garran, later Sir, (1867-1957), lawyer and public servant, who was the son of Spence's friends Andrew and Mary Garran.

<sup>556</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906, editor of the Month by Month Journal of the Unitarian Church at the turn of the century. He was a member of the Anti-sweating League and a close associate of Dr Strong.



**PRG 88/7/45**

[Melbourne]

Wednesday Mg [18<sup>th</sup> May 1904]

My dear Miss Henry

I feel I should have written to you yesterday to tell you my plans – I go today at 11 to Mrs Stephen's Alexander St where I hope to meet my sister in law<sup>557</sup> and neice [sic] Elsie –

After receipt of your post card I wrote to Mrs Gamble at Kew to say I should spend Thursday with her and I only hope that her mother<sup>558</sup> will arrive today as expected – In both cases I expect to be at home in the evening – Of course I want to know if I should meet you at Balaklava<sup>559</sup> or at South Yarra or at Flinders St. I fancy Balaklava would be best – but I must know the hour exactly for the train.

I am making a synopsis of my Sydney lecture for the Charity Review the Secretary of the C O. S<sup>560</sup> was present on Monday evg – He says he can give me three or four pages. It is nearly completed – I spent yesterday over it<sup>561</sup>.

Saturday is for Vida Goldstein – a meeting to bid me farewell in the afternoon – and a little extempore speech and recitation from Mrs Stetson<sup>562</sup> is all she expects – I have been rather a writing machine – Kitty Hood had had a slight sun stroke or heat stroke. She is going to Laura<sup>563</sup> for a change. She had

[Remainder of letter missing.]

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<sup>557</sup> Jessie Spence.

<sup>558</sup> Mrs Gamble's mother, Mrs Janet Maule, was the daughter of Spence's father David's younger half-sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>559</sup> Part of East St Kilda, a suburb of Melbourne.

<sup>560</sup> The *Charity Review* was published by the Charity Organisation Society.

<sup>561</sup> 'Mother State and her little ones. Children's Courts of Justice and Infant Life Protection' by C. H. Spence appeared in the *Charity Review* Vol 2 No 5 June 1904 p.5-8.

<sup>562</sup> Charlotte Anna Gilman, formerly Stetson, née Perkins (1860-1935), feminist, lecturer, writer and publisher. Spence had met her when she was in the USA in 1893-4, and was a great admirer of her poetry. Gilman divorced Charles W. Stetson in 1894 and married her cousin George H. Gilman in 1900.

<sup>563</sup> A town in the mid north of South Australia.

**PRG 88/7/46**

Clark St Norwood  
Sunday afternoon [5 June 1904]

My dear Miss Henry

I feel as if I should write to you though it may be only a short epistle – I have not spoken to Mr Hargrove<sup>564</sup> about the New Age but I can gather that he is of the progressive branch of the Unitarian body – We all like him very much both as a preacher and lecturer and socially he is delightful – Mrs Hargrove suffered the first week from suppressed sea sickness and consequently I did not see her till Saturday but I like her very much – Their eldest son is 22 correspondent of the London Standard at Vienna and engaged to an American girl of 19 who was studying music in that city –

By very bad luck - Mrs W Kay<sup>565</sup> our near neighbour who was receiving the Hargroves but not entertaining them as the family were in mourning on acct of the death of Mr Robert Kay<sup>566</sup> - had a stroke of paralysis on Friday morning which affects one side and we must wait some time before we can know how much or how little she will be incapacitated. The Hargroves had to go to Mr H. M. Martin's<sup>567</sup> for the remainder of their stay – Mrs Kay has a trained nurse and her daughters too – at home with her.

Mrs Young is ill – in bed – with a great tendency to dropsy – very much as Mary Wren my sister was before the birth of Eleanor – She was saved she thought by homeopathy but after Eleanor was a month old or more she was tapped and the water did not gather again and she lived for eight or nine years. I am troubled about Mrs Young – She cannot get a girl<sup>568</sup> – She advertises and does not get a single application – She had a girl for the day yesterday when I saw her but her daughter Freda has done and is doing wonders. She was thirteen last month and is so delighted at the thought of a baby coming who she hopes will be a girl that nothing is too much to do for mother. I think all the family the little boy often included know what is expected and they are all most thoughtful and helpfull [sic] she says.

But she acknowledges that the hard work on Quiz<sup>569</sup> gave her a very bad start – She has a foreign doctor Lüchowitch<sup>570</sup> [sic], in whom she has great faith and she has a strong will to live which is in her favour – I have been so occupied that I have only seen her twice the first time she was up and about but certainly far from well – the second time was yesterday –

Mr Reid<sup>571</sup> goes to Melbourne with the Hargroves and will be absent three Sundays. The first Mr Whitham undertakes the second and third I shall take – I am

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<sup>564</sup> Reverend Charles Hargrove, minister of the Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, 1872-1912, was a delegate from the British and Foreign Unitarian Association on his way to help establish some new Unitarian Churches in New Zealand.

<sup>565</sup> Mrs William Kay, née Sarah Catcheside, lived at William Street, Norwood. She died in October 1906, aged 77.

<sup>566</sup> Robert Kay, of Trinity Street College Town, secretary and director of the Public Library, died 24 April 1904.

<sup>567</sup> Henry Maydwell Martin (1846-1936) vigneron, also lived at William St Norwood. The Kays and the Martins were all Unitarians.

<sup>568</sup> A domestic servant.

<sup>569</sup> *Quiz: a satirical, social and sporting* paper began in Adelaide in 1889. It continued as *Quiz and the Lantern* until 1914, when it became *Quiz and the Sporting Life*. It has not been possible to discover what Mrs Young was doing for Quiz.

<sup>570</sup> Max Carl Marcell Lukowitz, MD.

<sup>571</sup> Rev. John Reid, MA, the Unitarian minister in Adelaide.

taking as a subject for two evening sermons Each in his own tongue – And have finished the first on Creation and Nature and I am quite pleased with it – I think I shall take Miss Cobbe<sup>572</sup> for one morning's sermon and should like to deal with Brotherhood with reference to Henry Demarest Lloyd for another – but that subject would be best for evening – We have wonderfully good congregations and gatherings since the strangers came but there will be a sudden falling off I fear.

The meeting of the National Council of Women is to be on Tuesday Evg, when I must modify a little the paper read in Melbourne<sup>573</sup>. I hope Mrs Gough<sup>574</sup> has got the books from Mrs Turner – I had a letter from young Stead<sup>575</sup> that I would enclose if I could find it but I can find nothing. Some one told him I spoke of his father in commendation at the Writer's Club. He says he will try to see me when he goes to Adelaide.

Thanks for the Leader<sup>576</sup> – the photo comes out splendidly there – Lucy Morice has been delighted with Percy Rowland's book<sup>577</sup> which she got from the Parl. Lib. I went to Glenelg from the Destitute Board on Thursday and stayed all night. Mrs Birks said Religious teaching in State Schools was not a subject for N C of W – and asked for Recollections of travel instead – Lucy is writing on Thoroughness – on Consistency – on the Part of enfranchised women so as to make their votes of real use to the community.

I believe there are only to be three papers so there should be plenty of time for discussion.

Remember me to all friends

Yours in haste  
C H Spence

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<sup>572</sup> Frances Power Cobbe (1822-1904), born Ireland, lived in Europe and England, feminist, philanthropist, writer on theology and social issues, renowned campaigner for women and children's rights, and for anti-vivisection.

<sup>573</sup> The meeting of the National Council of Women was held on 7 June 1904, and Spence spoke of the treatment of epileptics.

<sup>574</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues. In 1899 she became co-proprietor of *The Sun*. She published *Non-represented Female Labour* in Melbourne in 1901.

<sup>575</sup> Henry Stead was the son of W. T. (William Thomas) Stead (1849-1912), English editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* and later the *Review of Reviews* of which he started an Australasian edition in 1892. W. T. Stead was a path-breaking journalist, interested, among other things, in social reform and women's rights.

<sup>576</sup> *The Leader: a weekly journal of news, politics, agriculture, sport, mining, science and literature*. Melbourne 1862-1957. Spence's photograph appeared on p. 33 of the edition published on 4 June 1904, and a paragraph about her on p. 35.

<sup>577</sup> *The New Nation: a sketch of the social, political, and economic conditions and prospects of the Australian commonwealth*, London, Smith, Elder & Co., 1903, by Percy Fritz Rowland (born 1870)

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**PRG 88/7/47**

Glenelg Sunday  
10<sup>th</sup> July [1904]

My dear Miss Henry

Lucy has been very good in writing to you for me – but it is time that I took up all my own responsibilities. People have all been so afraid that the shock and the sorrow would affect my health, and my non-appearance in the pulpit when advertised on the 19<sup>th</sup> June was attributed to my being ill whereas when my poor child<sup>578</sup> was lying not expected to live, and indeed life was not to be desired under the circumstances - I was glad that Mr Whitham kindly undertook the services for the day – He was very good afterwards as he made all the arrangements for the funeral for me – We had a religious service in the house but as the North Road cemetery is a Ch. of Eng affair Mr Reid<sup>579</sup> could not officiate at the grave – Eleanor writes that she had the mournful pleasure of talking with you about her poor girl – You had seen her so lately – You recollect she did some typing for you quite well. But the typing she undertook for me was a great trouble to her. She thought a page was missing /lost/. I had told her it was to be left out and to make sure had taken the page with me, but she forgot that – I was amazed that a month elapsed before I got the copy in Sydney. Everything was a trouble to her and nothing heretofore had been so – And there was a balance sheet to be made clearer for the Taxation Dept. for the Cooperative Factory – After her death Mr Crompton brought me the old balance sheet, and the M. S. of the paper for the Nat Council of Women and my heart ached when I thought of the misery it these two things had cost her – I don't say anything to Eleanor about this. I don't want her heart to ache any more.

I did think some one should write to the Age about P R, but this shock put all such things out of my head – Pro. Nanson wrote to me with some cuttings – His letter is to be answered. He says people are as far from P R. as ever, but seems to want some modification of the majority system for single electorates when more than two candidates are in the field. He says he is to give two lectures soon one at Camberwell, and one in Melbourne and intends to bring in P. R. strongly. Here in South Australia there is a coalition – As Quiz's cartoon has it Jenkins<sup>580</sup> as the husband says to Darling<sup>581</sup> as the bride "I think, darling, the fact of our marriage is no longer a secret" – Darling is not in the cabinet but two of his conservative friends Homburg<sup>582</sup> Atty Gen and Vardon<sup>583</sup> Public Works and Education are taken in. I have not seen Mrs Young since Vardon's place was secure. He is a friend to Effective voting, and a fairly honest Conservative.

I believe Mrs Young has now got fairly effective help through the efforts of Mrs Cook. Whether it is in time to save her I do not know. She has had such a time of it – I am very very anxious about her – I feel a sort of sinner loafing here. I think Miss

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<sup>578</sup> Kitty Hood, Spence's ward, died on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1904, a fortnight after she had attempted suicide.

<sup>579</sup> The Unitarian minister.

<sup>580</sup> John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923), Premier of South Australia 1901-1905, Agent General in London 1905-1906.

<sup>581</sup> John Darling (1852-1914), grain merchant, member of South Australian Parliament, and a director of BHP. He was Leader of the Opposition.

<sup>582</sup> Robert Homburg (1848-1912), South Australian lawyer, parliamentarian, attorney-general and judge.

<sup>583</sup> Joseph Vardon (1843-1913), printer and politician, sometime president of the Effective voting League.

Gregory and I are likely to find rooms with Mrs Uptons (Murray Bridge) sister<sup>584</sup>, in North Norwood. It is not quite settled yet as to terms – but George Hood has a good home with the Wight's<sup>585</sup> and we will break up housekeeping. We will manage to find room for a friend when you can come to visit Adelaide. Miss Grant<sup>586</sup> is engaged but I don't think the man is much good - Her friends are sorry – Lucy sends love – Believe me always your attached friend C H Spence

PRG 88/7/48

[This fragment was written shortly after Spence's move, with Ellen Gregory, from Clark Street Norwood to her new home with the Quilty's at Aveland Avenue, North Norwood, probably at the end of July 1904.]

Elsie Spence says she heard that there was to be a Memorial of some kind to be put in Melbourne Cathedral to Mrs Bear Crawford<sup>587</sup> but that the Dean and Chapter objected because she was a woman. She gives Mrs Wren as her authority. Let me know about it – I thought it was an accomplished fact – Mr Kirby<sup>588</sup> sent me a circular or rather leaflet showing with diagrams the lessening rate of death and suffering from venereal disease since the abrogation of the C D Acts – most satisfactory. Have you seen it.

I am reading an astonishing book called Women V Democracy Republic versus Women by a Mrs Woolsey<sup>589</sup> an American in which she says that women have far more infinitely more chance of justice in Monarchies and Aristocracies than in Democratic countries.

The book is in the Parliament Library and Miss Tomkinson discovered it and told Lucy Morice to read it – I think there is truth so far as the U S are concerned but Australia gives the lie to her broad statements. Lucy Morice has read two papers recently both short one to a Mothers meeting and one to the Leisure Hour Club mostly made up of single Taxers I fancy. But this last on Ideal Education was much appreciated - and is really very good –

I am enjoying a quiet week – I am made very comfortable in my new quarters at North Norwood but Miss Gregory is at Murray Bridge for six weeks and I am taking the opportunity – Next week I go to Miss Clark – The news from Eleanor Wren is cheerful – Give my love to friends especially to Mrs Watson Lister.

Yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>584</sup> Kate Quilty, Maggie Upton's sister, and her husband John, a builder, welcomed Spence and Ellen Gregory to live with them and their children at North Norwood.

<sup>585</sup> Albert James Wight and his family lived at Corryton, a suburb east of Adelaide, now included in Kensington Gardens.

<sup>586</sup> Annabella Sinclair Grant was an inspector for the State Children's Department. She was engaged to Harold George Rivas whom she later married.

<sup>587</sup> Annette Ellen Bear-Crawford (1853-99), Victorian feminist, suffragist, tireless worker for women and children. In 1902 a statue to her memory was unveiled in London, and her English friends placed a plaque on the wall of Christ Church, South Yarra, Victoria.

<sup>588</sup> Joseph Coles Kirby (1837-1924), minister of Port Adelaide Congregational Church. He formed the Temperance Alliance of South Australia in 1881, and in 1901 was the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Retail Liquor League.

<sup>589</sup> Kate Trumble Woolsey, an American woman who had spent some years in England, published in 1903 *Republic Versus Woman: contrasting the treatment accorded to woman in aristocracies with that meted out to her in democracies*.

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**PRG 88/7/49**

[This fragment was probably written in early August 1904, shortly after Spence's move to North Norwood.]

was more easily read. And only think I lost my spectacles out of my hand bag in King Wm St<sup>593</sup> on Sunday, but thought I had left them in the vestry and on Sunday evg, I had to go through the whole service without them and did it. After it was over, one of the girls in the choir her name is Ethel Angel asked me if I had lost a pair of spectacles and I said yes. She had picked them up and taken them home – I got them next morning, but I should have been happier if I had borrowed a pair from Mr Whitham and deprived him of reading for the evg. Mrs Spence is still at Daisys but is expected back in a week or ten days – I think I wrote that I had a delightful week at Lucy Morices. She was up on Sunday evg, and was dismayed by my spectacleless condition.

On Monday, I went to the Fred Martins who have taken their passage by the White Star line, leaving Melbourne on 19<sup>th</sup> August – We had a good talk and then four hours bridge and in the morning more talk – They seem to hope they may return in two or three years – They are at present in one of their two houses at Hackney but mean to let it unfurnished – So the furniture which has been in the cottage for twenty two years will be sold by auction. They had let it furnished for 16 years. They only lived in it six years after their marriage – This house here is on the Magill line which has hourly trams. Maylands station a 2d fare is nearly a mile off and there is frequent service from there. Mrs Quilty drives a little pony trap which I hope will be some good to me.

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<sup>593</sup> King William Street, the main street of Adelaide.

**PRG 88/7/50**

North Norwood  
27<sup>th</sup> August [1904]

My dear Miss Henry

You recollect my telling you a young doctor Cumpston<sup>594</sup> by name who has been appointed assistant medical officer to Dr Cleland<sup>595</sup> wanted to confer with me about State Children and Epileptics and that our appointment had broken through because he had been detained too long at Port Adelaide – Well he turned up yesterday and it seems that he had offered to give Professor Harper some information about the formation and the administration of the State Childrens Council and had applied to Mr Rhodes and been referred to me. I with that good nature which characterises yours truly offered to write as concise a sketch as I could of it and as I am going to visit Miss Clark next Tuesday I shall probably write it there – I mean to stay a few days.

With regard to the Epileptics he is preparing a paper on the subject and before he came here he had heard that I lectured on the subject in Melbourne and as he cannot find any details of the American Epileptic colonies or of almost any, he thought I could give him more information. I searched for my paper but could not lay hands on it – In my moving here I seem to have lost the run of things – I do not think I left it with the Sec. of the N. C. of W. after delivering it at their meeting – I told him all I knew I had gathered from you and from Dr Letchworths<sup>596</sup> great book which had been sent to me by you.

He said this book was not to be had here or probably anywhere in Australia for money. So I said I would ask you if you would lend it if he would promise to take great care of it –not to keep it long – and to return it to your address.

But do not do it if you would rather not – I committed you to nothing – He says that years ago he boarded at some place in the suburbs with you but he does not suppose you recollect him. He says that only 88 Epileptics have been admitted to Parkside in 6 years and of course though these are in advanced stages of the complaint he is of opinion that the number of sufferers is understated – In the census there is but a handful of people called Epileptics but also there is a similar handful classed as having heart diseases – The difficulty is how to obtain reliable figures.

I enclose stamps for transmission of the book – No doubt Dr Cumpston will repay you – If you return me the stamps I will know that you are not disposed to part from it –

Re Archibald's<sup>597</sup> Bill, it is in committee. I was sent a copy of Archibalds Fauldings Medical Journal in which there was an article containing the text of the short bill which I am sending to Miss Scott today – I came home on Thursday evg – I went to N. A.<sup>598</sup> after the Destitute to see the Handyside<sup>599</sup> girls – They had just

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<sup>594</sup> John Howard Lidgett Cumpston had qualified in Victoria.

<sup>595</sup> Dr William Lennox Cleland was Colonial Surgeon in South Australia.

<sup>596</sup> *Care and Treatment of Epileptics* by William Pryor Letchworth (1823-1910), New York and London, 1900.

<sup>597</sup> William Oliver Archibald, member for Port Adelaide.

<sup>598</sup> North Adelaide.

<sup>599</sup> The Handysides were the daughters of Andrew Dods Handyside and Mary Ann Murray (1844-1879), daughter of Jessie Murray, Spence's sister. One sister married in England, but Jean Brodie Handyside and Jessie Murray Handyside were frequently visited by Spence.



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[heard] of the death of their father's youngest brother Dr Arthur<sup>600</sup> nearly as suddenly as Andrews<sup>601</sup> death in June. He had been on his morning round of visits had come home very tired, asked for a whiskey & soda, drank it and when his wife went out with the glass took a bad turn and was dying when she came back – He leaves a disconsolate widow, but no children. His age was 61. I see in todays paper that Andrew's estate is sworn under £32000 - Cheifly [sic] the value of the freehold and the sheep at Bordertown. I should not wonder the girls will go and travel; the Scotch Aunt wants much to see them – I have not seen Mrs Young yet, but am going this afternoon.

Always yours affectionately  
C. H. Spence

Our Annual report State Children has been left before Parliament – We considered the Destitute Report on Thursday – The additions are finished all but the painting. Mrs Whitham came to see me yesterday and much admired the view.

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<sup>600</sup> Arthur Handyside (1843-1904) was a medical practitioner, born, like his brother Andrew, in Scotland, where he remained.

<sup>601</sup> Andrew Dods Handyside (1835-1904) arrived in Victoria in 1853. He married Mary Ann Murray. They came to the South East of South Australia in 1868, where Andrew became a pastoralist and Member of Parliament. Of their children one son Charles and three daughters survived them.

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**PRG 88/7/51**

North Norwood  
9 Dec [1904]

Marjorie Wren is 14 today

My dear Miss Henry

I have had two surprises of late. A fortnight since Eleanor wrote that they were all going to England as the Directors<sup>602</sup> wanted to see C W Wren who after 33 years good service has been entitled to a long furlough for years but whose rooted objection to the briny deep prevented him from availing himself of his rights - This is equivalent to a command and they go by the India but Eleanor comes by the Himalaya a fortnight earlier and gives that time to me and to her Adelaide friends -

I have been told by Mrs Young that you have been in Sydney and had returned but you say nothing about it and Eleanor has said nothing about it so I do not believe it - I feared that the electric massage treatment might delay your visit till the Wrens were away.

I suppose your knee is better, for you do not mention it - and you take my breath pleasantly away by saying the desire of your heart was going to be granted, and your friends were making it possible for you to go to England and America - I knew you had saved some money but not half enough and this recent accident must have depleted your finances - You will let me help to the extent of £5. I have just got £4 for the two articles one on the Drink Question<sup>603</sup>, and one on the Dominion and the Commonwealth<sup>604</sup> which is about 15/- more than I expected.

So I can spare you £5 and you cannot say I am not interested in you and your purposes in travel - I can give you letters to people in America<sup>605</sup>. Two days ago I got a letter from a lady a school ma am with whom I travelled from Denver to Chicago and stayed at the same Family Dormitory Hotel for three weeks - who wrote to the address of Burden and Bonython who published a little pamphlet<sup>606</sup> on Effective Voting, which I had given her - reprinted from the Advertiser and Mrs Young<sup>607</sup> sent it by Freda along with a newspaper with a likeness of her son a mining expert who has just in combination with a financial expert merged seven great mines into one concern capitalised at ten millions of dollars - One of the mines is of gold silver and platinum - the greatest if not the only platinum source in America. Supplies are mainly from Russia. The Chicago Inter Ocean<sup>608</sup> gives him and his fellow worker a page and more of letter press and illustration -

So I hope Mrs. A. P. Day is no longer school keeping. I am answering her letter today and mentioning you. Denver is a good place to stop over for your work

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<sup>602</sup> Of the English Scottish and Australasian Bank for which Charles Wren had worked for many years.

<sup>603</sup> 'The Drink Question. Continuation, Prohibition or Regulation.' Article by C. H. Spence in the *Register* 1 December 1904, p. 8de.

<sup>604</sup> 'The Dominion and the Commonwealth: Some Contrasts.' Article by C. H. Spence in the *Register* 22 October 1904, p. 10cd.

<sup>605</sup> Spence was in America in 1893 and 1894. She remained in contact with many of the people she met and constantly tried to use her knowledge to help Alice Henry.

<sup>606</sup> 'Effective voting: one vote one value,' Pamphlet by Catherine Helen Spence, a Colonist of 1839, published in Adelaide at the *Advertiser* Office by Burden and Bonython 1893.

<sup>607</sup> As Burden and Bonython were publishers of the *Advertiser* the letter went to the *Advertiser* where Mrs Young's husband worked, and Mrs Young passed it on to Spence.

<sup>608</sup> The *Inter Ocean*, published in Chicago, Illinois, was a Republican morning paper which ran from 1872 to 1914.

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and Judge Lindsay<sup>609</sup> [sic] of the Juvenile Court appears to me to be the most able and sympathetic of them all though Judge Tuthill<sup>610</sup> runs him close but if you recollect Lindsay [sic] took up the business without legislation or authority as he saw the need of it.

Oh my dear friend I shall go with you in spirit in this interesting itinerary. I wish we could meet to talk it over. You are so much more like minded with me than Vida Goldstein or any others to whom I have bidden God Speed that your pilgrimage will

[conclusion missing].

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<sup>609</sup> Benjamin Barr Lindsey (1869-1943), lawyer, judge and reformer, one of the pioneers of the Juvenile Court system in America. Under his administration the Juvenile Court in Denver became famous throughout the civilized world. He was passionate about politics and social justice and a leader in the movement to abolish child labour. Spence admired him and his work enormously, though she constantly misspelled his name.

<sup>610</sup> Richard S. Tuthill, republican, formerly District Attorney for the North District of Illinois, pioneered probation as the most useful way of dealing with juvenile delinquents.

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**PRG 88/7/52**

North Norwood  
3rd Janry [1905]

My very dear Miss Henry

I had a nice long letter from Mrs Watson Lister in acknowledgement of my contribution to the fund and she says you hope to get away in April and think it would be best to go to England first - I had thought of America first so that you could see the Children's Courts in full swing there and if possible test the value of the probation officers the paid and the unpaid but as Mrs WL puts it perhaps the European visit should come first - Is there any prospect of employment on any Australian journal as correspondent - I had a letter every four weeks for the Register and another which I risked at first for the Sydney Telegraph - which together brought me £25 and £33 but I did not get the money till I returned - I earned £70 for article in Harper<sup>611</sup> and about as much for four newspaper articles and one in Arena<sup>612</sup> - I must have earned by lectures between £30 and £40 - This enabled me to spend nearly a year in America. Of course this is included in the £250 that it cost me for the twenty months I was absent and I had a great deal of hospitality - I think I had 3000 miles of travelling or more besides what my through ticket covered which took me from San Francisco to New York - And my friends advised me of the cheapest place to live in Chicago during the Exhibition time - of course also highly respectable fifteen shillings a week for room and meals separate. At New York I was at the Margaret Louisa place<sup>613</sup> 16th St in connection with the Y.W.C.A. where I had a much better room and a free bath for the same money and cheaper and better meals. Out of the 10 months that I was in the States I had private hospitality for half the time and I sometimes wondered how I spent so much money - I gave about £20 of it away to a friend in distress - Well I hope we may have an opportunity of talking things over with you - If you go to England first you might come here first unless you take the White Star line which does not call here - I am expecting Eleanor by the Himalaya on the 12th. She is to be at Glendora<sup>614</sup> for the night that it is in Melbourne port - After a fortnight here she will be picked up by the India -

Mrs Webster writes to me that she hopes to be in Melbourne in February - I hope you may see her - I see the Argus and Aust-n<sup>615</sup> and Register review Mr. Turner's book<sup>616</sup> very favourably. She writes that the Age was severe but she is looking out to see what the Bulletin has to say. I went into the Public Library to read it but only had an hour - I got into the arrival of Sir Chas Hotham and the revolt of the

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<sup>611</sup> *Harper's Magazine*, an American monthly journal of literature, politics, culture and the arts. 1850-present day. Spence published 'An Australian's Impression of America'. July 1894, vol. 89, p. 244-51. When she mentioned this in the letter dated 16 September 1901, the sum mentioned was £15.

<sup>612</sup> *Arena*, Boston. An American monthly, advocate of social reform. 1889-1909. Spence published 'Effective Voting - the only effective moralizer of politics'. November 1894, vol. x, no. lx. p. 767-776.

<sup>613</sup> The Margaret Louisa Home, a temporary home for self-supporting women, was built for the YWCA in New York.

<sup>614</sup> 'Glendora' was the residence of Eleanor Dora Wren's father, John Hall, and her mother, Dora.

<sup>615</sup> Australasian.

<sup>616</sup> *History of the Colony of Victoria* 1904 by Henry Gyles Turner (1831-1920), Melbourne banker, historian and editor of the *Melbourne Review*, brother of Spence's friend Martha Webster.

miners<sup>617</sup> and found it interesting. I was in Melbourne when Hotham made his triumphal entrance in 1854.

I am going to Miss Clark's today to have a good talk about probation instead of fines - Our Superintendent at Magill<sup>618</sup> complains of boys detained for payment of fines being sent to Magill as there is no means of separating them and they unsettle the resident boys and make them feel as if they had injustice to be kept till 18 for similar offences - Miss Clark and I object to the offence being regarded as a matter of money -

Owing to the excessive heat I did not go to church or to Glenelg on Sunday. Mrs Spence her daughter and neice [sic] go to day to Mount Lofty for two months having taken the furnished house vacated by Prof. Bensly<sup>619</sup> - We had greater heat on Saturday than we have had for 25 years - 114° in shade. Friday 106°7, Sunday 101°.

I am afraid some of Miss Moule's babies may have succumbed to the excessive heat - Miss Grant<sup>620</sup> is going to be married and resigns the end of this month. Lucy Morice said she had found an ideal successor but this lady has found another situation and will not be available.

There will be 30 or 40 applications as at the first opening there was - £85 a year and travelling allowance - for very hard and responsible work -

You say you must get a fortnight in Sydney - Mr. Rhodes fancied you were writing to the Argus on your experiences and observations at the subsidised reformatories but I am always doubtful of that outlet for your useful investigations and after the shameful behaviour of Mr Watterston<sup>621</sup> about the mosquito malaria business he is not likely to encourage you. You see the Age. Have you noticed any articles that you can reasonably believe to be from Mr and Mrs F Martin? They were to collaborate - They are at Cologne - I have a sadly remonstrating letter in French from her today complaining of having no letter - I know I addressed two to Amsterdam but I did not think I had addressed three - Until they get a letter at Cologne where they are for the winter they cannot know that I have written regularly -

I am quite well, and seem to stand the heat better than most of my friends - Elsie Spence gave me the Disciples<sup>622</sup> for a birthday present and ten days ago I found time to read it and liked it extremely. Mazzini sent me back to Jane Carlyles letters<sup>623</sup> the 3 vols I have which I read through - and that sent me to the 4 vols of

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<sup>617</sup> Captain Sir Charles Hotham (1806-1855) was Governor of Victoria 1854-1855, at the time of the miners' rebellion known as the Eureka Stockade.

<sup>618</sup> The Magill Reformatory.

<sup>619</sup> Professor Edward von Blomberg Bensly (born 1863) became Professor of Classics at University of Adelaide in 1897. He married Mary Hamilton Welsh who was a colleague of Spence on the State Children's Council. They had a house at Stirling East in the hills near Adelaide.

<sup>620</sup> Annabella Sinclair Grant was an inspector for the State Children's Department. She married Harold George Rivas in April 1905.

<sup>621</sup> David Watterston (1845-1931), Melbourne journalist, editor of the *Australasian* for many years and later of the Argus.

<sup>622</sup> *The Disciples* by Harriet Eleanor Hamilton King (1840-1920), London, Henry S. King, 1873. This is a celebration in verse of the life and work of Guiseppe Mazzini (1805-1872), Italian patriot and writer. The disciples about whom King wrote were Italian followers and friends of Mazzini. King herself knew Mazzini when he lived in England as did Thomas and Jane Carlyle.

<sup>623</sup> *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle* prepared for publication by Thomas Carlyle; edited by James Anthony Froude 1883. Jane Welsh (1801-1866) had married Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), Scottish writer, in 1826.

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Froudes<sup>624</sup> life of Carlyle - a more racy and matterful biography than any of later days. Lucy gave me Xmas day Charles Lamb's<sup>625</sup> Essays of Elia which she heard me say I missed. The Wrens have all Lambs works - and these I am re-reading. I bought for the sake of old associations Cecilia<sup>626</sup> 900 pages India paper and read it through in my 80th year. I read it first in my 13th and liked it better than Evelina -

Mrs Youngs girl Freda has won her bursary and that means three years at the Advanced School for Girls. She is five months younger than Marjorie. Marjorie has been four years at Shirley [?] School and except for four days for an operation she has not once been late or missed a day - Her marks are wonderful but there is another girl of fourteen equal to her Contee Docker<sup>627</sup> (the daughter of a judge) who is her great chum. I am glad Marjorie is taken out of school for three quarters at least. I hope Mrs. W. L<sup>628</sup> is getting on well with the fund -

Write me a few lines if you have not time for more. All the kind wishes of the season from

Yours heartily  
C H Spence

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<sup>624</sup> *Thomas Carlyle: A History of his life in London 1834-1881*, by James Anthony Froude, 1884.

<sup>625</sup> Charles Lamb (1775-1834), English writer and essayist. The *Essays of Elia* were published in 1823.

<sup>626</sup> *Cecilia* (1782) and *Evelina* (1778) were novels by English novelist Frances (Fanny) Burney, later Madame D'Arblay (1752-1840).

<sup>627</sup> Constance Docker was the daughter of Ernest Brougham Docker (1842-1923) NSW Judge and photographer.

<sup>628</sup> Mrs Watson Lister.

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**PRG 88/7/53**

North Norwood Sunday  
[February or March 1905]

My dear Miss Henry

The man from whom I bought the easy wash up rack and tray told me he had an Adelaide agency but I did not think to ask where it was, and I do not recollect his name. He has moved from the place next McEwan to the Arcade nearly opposite - If you are near them would you be good enough to enquire for the Adelaide agency and let me know - Nina Murray is delighted with it, and I should like to give one to Mrs Young who looks so white and ill - And dishwashing is an item in the work of a house -

I find you are to have as fellow passenger Mrs Gee<sup>629</sup>, who was once Laura Herford. She is going home<sup>630</sup> to be present at her daughter Dorothis marriage.

Monday Mg - I was at Glenelg on Sunday afternoon and found them all well - Mrs Stephen and Mary on a visit.

I had a long call from Miss Moule and much talk about her babies on Wednesday evening. She thinks Mr Gray inclined to starve the department in order to get credit from the Govt - I thought she had £100 a year but she has only £90. Miss Penny<sup>631</sup> gets only £80 and her expenses when travelling. Miss Grant<sup>632</sup> began at £85 and so did Miss Moule and both had a rise of £5 -

I am sorry to say that Mrs Young looks worse than she did when I went away - She has such great discharges at the month in fact she is scarcely ever free from them. Lucy Morice has been interested in Sister Herbert who came here five months ago to take up rescue work for the Ch of Eng. But though there is great talk about the need of this there is no

[Remainder missing]

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<sup>629</sup> Annie Laura Vernon Gee née Herford (1860-1930), a Unitarian friend of Spence who had painted a watercolour portrait of her in 1900.

<sup>630</sup> i.e. the United Kingdom

<sup>631</sup> Evelyn Emma Penny.

<sup>632</sup> Annabella Sinclair Grant was an inspector for the State Children's Department. She was engaged to Harold George Rivas whom she later married.

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**PRG 88/7/54**

North Norwood  
Wednesday 19th April [1905]

My very dear friend

This will be the last letter I send to you - till I write to your London address.

I am glad you enjoyed the send off and as the amount did not reach £150 I am glad that my second contribution has been accepted - I feel easier in my own circumstances than I have done for years for as you know while Mrs Spence lives, I have £150 a year and I am earning some odd money - My personal expenses are not much - I pay £1.2.6 a week for rooms and board -

Will you tell Mrs Gee<sup>633</sup> that I have started Dorothy's collar but I cannot promise to have it ready before her marriage. My eyes are not quite so strong as they were when I worked your last one.

When my speech is in type<sup>634</sup> and published I will send you a copy or two - also the article on men and women teachers in Australia Germany and America<sup>635</sup> - I promise to write to you once a month - or about as often as I do now -

We had a meeting of the Effective Voting League on Monday and accepted Mrs Young's resignation and formally appointed Mr E A Anstey<sup>636</sup> in her place - Lucy Morice and Miss Tomkinson were there and I told them that I had written out my last Thursdays speech and hoped to have it as a leaflet - Miss Tomkinson said the whole speech was an inspiration - but then you must take the delivery into account. It will not be the same in cold type.

I read in the Juvenile Court Record<sup>637</sup> for February borrowed from Miss Clark that Judge Ben Lindsay [sic] speaking at Milwaukee Wisconsin a city of 312 000 inhabitants (I got that from the Chicago Teachers Bulletin) says that his investigations show that one fifth of the boys between 10 and 16 in the towns of Omaha Topeka Lincoln and Des Moines have been in jail!!!

There can be no doubt that the Juvenile Court movement, thoroughly organised with probation officers should revolutionise the problem of juvenile delinquency. Unfortunately the Govt & public of Australia is not thoroughgoing enough -

I am very much pleased with our new inspectress Miss Penny<sup>638</sup> and she promises to be thorough. I am just going to a committee meeting<sup>639</sup> where I hope Miss Clark will be present. The last two meetings she was kept away by weather - I spent a long afternoon with her on Saturday. She is weakening on Woman Suffrage and is generally speaking more conservative for all her relatives are hidebound but on the State Children and Reformatories she is all right - This is English mail day and I should be writing to Mrs Martin and to Eleanor - Nobody wishes more for you or

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<sup>633</sup> Annie Laura Vernon Gee née Herford (1860-1930), a Unitarian friend of Spence who had painted a watercolour portrait of her in 1900. Dorothy was her daughter.

<sup>634</sup> Spence's address to the Ladies Old Scholars' Association: 'The Franchise Explained' was given on Thursday 13 April 1905, and reported in the *Register* next day.

<sup>635</sup> 'Men and Women Teachers in Public Schools', *Register* p. 6ef, 20 April 1905.

<sup>636</sup> Edward Alfred Anstey (1858-1952), builder and politician, foundation member of the United Labor Party of South Australia. He entered Parliament in 1908.

<sup>637</sup> *The Juvenile Court Record* (sometimes *The Juvenile*), edited by Timothy David Hurley, published in Chicago 1900-1932, originally by the Chicago Visitation and Aid Society, an irregular monthly.

<sup>638</sup> Evelyn Emma Penny, inspector for the State Children's Department.

<sup>639</sup> A meeting of the State Children's Council.



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hopes for more from you on this voyage into the unknown than I do. I have been through it and my sympathy is keen.

Always your faithful comrade  
C. H. Spence

Mrs Gough<sup>640</sup> never wrote to me re *Gathered In*<sup>641</sup> – Had I the right address?

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<sup>640</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues.

<sup>641</sup> Spence's novel, *Gathered In*, had been serialised in 1881-1882 in Adelaide in the *Observer*, and *Evening Journal*, and in the *Queenslander* and *Brisbane Courier*. It did not appear in book form until 1977, when it was published by the Sydney University Press.

**PRG 88/7/55**

North Norwood  
31st April 1905  
[31 May 1905]<sup>642</sup>

My dear Miss Henry

I see by my letter book that it is more than a month since I wrote to your English address so though I am pressed for time I must write -

I mean to buy some newspapers to send with a short report of the National Council of Women Annual Meeting<sup>643</sup> and some details about the General elections<sup>644</sup>. You will see that I emphasised the need for proportional representation. I said a great deal - and gave four pages like this to the reporter about pro. rep. and it was very well received by a very good audience of women - and perhaps half a dozen men - But the reporters took very little of the matter I gave them - Still I have pointed it out though neither of the two newspapers have done so - In your Melbourne metropolitan area the conservatives are defeated in detail in single member constituencies. In Adelaide metropolitan area they are defeated wholesale - but the waste of votes has been enormous. All the five Labour men got in for Torrens defeating the five strongest men of the Aust Nat League<sup>645</sup>. Our friends Vaughan<sup>646</sup> & Smeaton<sup>647</sup> allied themselves with the labour party and were elected third and fourth and the German Socialist Dankel<sup>648</sup> fifth.

I think I dislike Cohen<sup>649</sup> most of the Aust Nat League candidates but he got in. The only representative of capital commerce and manufactures of shipping and land owning is a little Jew loan and discount money lender - He was most lavish when he was mayor, in hope of a title - Mr Anderson<sup>650</sup> the Atty General who suggested that I should have my address to women voters printed and Adcock<sup>651</sup> the Temperance Alliance man were defeated by three Labour men two old members and one new -

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<sup>642</sup> This letter was written on 31 May, not April. There is no 31<sup>st</sup> day in April; and Spence points out that it is more than a month since she last wrote.

<sup>643</sup> The National Council of Women Annual General Meeting was reported in the *Register* 31 May 1905, p. 9i.

<sup>644</sup> The general elections for the South Australian Parliament were held on 27 May 1905.

<sup>645</sup> The Australasian National League was founded in 1891, as The National Defence League, to counteract the progress of socialism and the political strength of the union movement.

<sup>646</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

<sup>647</sup> Thomas Hyland Smeaton (1857-1927), architect, member of Adelaide City Council, member of Parliament.

<sup>648</sup> George Casper Adolph Maria Dankel (1864-1926), butcher, farmer, member of Kensington and Norwood Council, member of Parliament.

<sup>649</sup> Lewis Cohen, later Sir, (1849-1933), merchant, banker, member of Adelaide City Council for 28 years, Mayor of Adelaide 1889-1890, 1901-1904, 1909-1911, Lord Mayor 1921-1923, member of the House of Assembly 1887-1893, 1902-1906. In 1876 he opened in Adelaide a branch of the London Discount and Mortgage Bank. His obituary in the *Advertiser* said that he was 'fair, fearless, generous and loyal' and 'widely popular'.

<sup>650</sup> James Robert Anderson had been Attorney General from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1905, accepting the position although he was not a member of Parliament, when the only solicitor who was, Frederick William Young (1876-1948), refused the appointment after the former Attorney General, Robert Homburg (1848-1912), resigned when appointed to the Supreme Court Bench. The appointment of an Attorney General not in Parliament was not unprecedented. Anderson stood for Port Adelaide in the May 1905 election and was defeated.

<sup>651</sup> Thomas Adcock stood for Port Adelaide and was defeated.

I suppose we will have a coalition Govt of Labour men and what the Register calls Nondescript what I call Liberal - That is the title the Register gives to the Aust Nat League supporters the three parties according to that paper being Liberals Nondescripts and Socialists.

Well we shall see what such a coalition will do - The skies will not fall. But I hear that some of the employers are so angry at the result of the elections that they will sack any men who have been prominent as labour leaders and agitators and some threaten to shut down their works and give the hands a lesson -

We have had magnificent general rains which rather interfered with the General elections as it came on here about one or two o'clock. All our elections are on Saturday.

I am going today to Miss Tomkinsons band of women Students in Economics to give a talk from notes on Education and especially on the public Education in our schools in South Australia and I have been writing to Mrs F Martin poste restante Weimar very much about the elections and to Eleanor not so much so - Her last letter received yesterday was begun at Como and finished at Lucerne. They are enjoying every inch of the the way and every hour of the day - Eleanor and Marjorie are doing some sketches.

Miss Clark's last news is that a children's Court has been established in Birmingham. I think you mean to go there -

I have just finished the collar for Dorothy Gee<sup>652</sup> and will post it today - I think it looks especially handsome.

I have written a p.c. to Mrs Watson Lister asking again for Mrs Gough's<sup>653</sup> address. She never has taken the least notice of my request to send *Gathered in*<sup>654</sup> to me - and up to now neither Miss Scott nor Mrs Parkes nor Vida nor Mrs W Lister has acknowledged the packets of my address of 13th April<sup>655</sup> - I hope you have received it all right -

I am quite well - Lucy Morice is delighted at the success of the Labour party. Her paper was crowded out. A parson of far too unctuous a style was asked to speak and he dealt with domestic servants and bar maids at great length and said nothing incisive after all - I thought there was only to be two speakers and made my paper too long - Lady le Hunte the Governor's wife<sup>656</sup> is to be ~~president~~ our patroness. She was there but I think she was asleep when I was speaking. N'Importe. Other people were wide awake.

We have reduced our fee for Associates to 1/- and think of reducing fee for delegates to 5/- We have enlarged our Executive and perhaps - perhaps we may begin to do some work.

Miss Tomkinson and I pleaded hard for the higher politics at our last executive and you will see that our president Lady Way<sup>657</sup> said it was carried and I carried it out in my speech -

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<sup>652</sup> Dorothy Gee was the daughter of Annie Laura Vernon Gee née Herford (1860-1930), a South Australian artist, who was a Unitarian friend of Spence. The collar was Spence's wedding gift.

<sup>653</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues.

<sup>654</sup> Spence's novel, *Gathered In*, had been serialised in 1881-1882 in Adelaide in the *Observer*, and *Evening Journal*, and in the *Queenslander* and *Brisbane Courier*. It did not appear in book form until 1977, when it was published by the Sydney University Press.

<sup>655</sup> This was the address to the Ladies Old Scholars' Association. 'The Franchise Explained'. It was reported in the *Register* p.2e 14 April 1905.

<sup>656</sup> Sir George le Hunte was Governor of South Australia 1903-1909.

<sup>657</sup> Katherine, formerly Blue, née Gollan, wife of Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice of South Australia, was President of the National Council of Women.

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I shall provisionally close this letter and may add something to it after seeing Lucy and Miss Tomkinson.

Yours ever  
C H Spence

**PRG 88/7/56**

North Norwood S. Australia  
3<sup>rd</sup> June 1905

My dear Miss Henry

The address of the Margaret Louisa Home<sup>658</sup> is  
14 East 16th St New York.

I enclose your letter from Miss Gratton received too late to send on -  
Accompanying this letter I send the June last years Juvenile Court Record<sup>659</sup> - I have  
been reading Miss Clark's file and am ordering it for a year for myself also three back  
numbers and three more as they come out to your London address - Writing to the  
Editor T D Hurley<sup>660</sup> 79 Dearborn St Chicago. I enclose my last article on Prisons  
Fines and Probation<sup>661</sup> and your latest on Children's Courts and I express the hope  
that you will get as far as Chicago and see him.

I can gather that Juvenile Courts are now established in 16 states and  
agitation in many more and it does not mean only one court in a state but several. It  
is indeed marvellous how it has taken hold in the U.S.

Inside the J C R<sup>662</sup> you will find a slip about Men and Women Teachers in  
public schools<sup>663</sup> that will interest you. I had 100 struck off but on poor paper - but it  
cost me nothing.

As for the address I was so proud of<sup>664</sup> neither Register nor Advertiser would  
publish it so it is in the printer's hands after nearly three weeks delay - At first I  
thought of 5000 but I fancy 2000 will do for it is only before the elections that we can  
distribute - Mr E A Anstey<sup>665</sup> is secretary to the Effective Voting League and he says  
the question is still alive - There will be a great battle between the Labour Party and  
the National Defence League. Mr Watson<sup>666</sup> is coming on Wednesday to speak in the  
Town Hall in reply to Mr Reids<sup>667</sup> deliverance against Socialism on Thursday last. I  
think I shall go to hear him - though probably he will be properly reported -

I had a bad cold last week but recovered sufficiently to take the service on  
Sunday at an hour or two's notice. Mr. Reid<sup>668</sup> was ill and Mr Whitham out of town -

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<sup>658</sup> The Margaret Louisa Home, a temporary home for self-supporting women, in which  
Spence stayed when she was in New York.

<sup>659</sup> *The Juvenile Court Record* (sometimes *The Juvenile*), an irregular monthly, published in  
Chicago 1900-1932, originally by the Chicago Visitation and Aid Society.

<sup>660</sup> Timothy David Hurley (b. 1863), author of *Origins of the Illinois Juvenile Court Law*,  
1907.

<sup>661</sup> 'Prisons, Fines and Probation. Indeterminate Sentences.' Article by C. H. Spence, member  
of State Children's Council in *Register* 7 February 1905 p. 6ef.

<sup>662</sup> Juvenile Court Record.

<sup>663</sup> 'Men and Women Teachers in Public Schools'. Article by C. H. Spence in *Register* 20 April  
1905 p. 6ef.

<sup>664</sup> This was Spence's address to the Ladies Old Scholars' Association: 'The Franchise  
Explained' given on Thursday 13 April 1905, and reported in the *Register* next day.

<sup>665</sup> Edward Alfred Anstey (1858-1952), builder and politician, foundation member of the  
United Labor Party of South Australia. He entered Parliament in 1908.

<sup>666</sup> John Christian Watson (1867-1941), NSW Labour politician, later member of the Federal  
House of Representatives and first Labour Prime Minister of Australia (1904).

<sup>667</sup> George Houston Reid, later Sir, (1845-1918), barrister, Queen's Counsel, Privy Councillor,  
member of New South Wales Parliament and Federal Parliament, Prime Minister 18 August  
1904-5 July 1905.

<sup>668</sup> Reverend John Reid was the Minister of the Unitarian Christian Church in Adelaide.

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Of course they were old sermons - I have a letter from Mrs Caro Lloyd Withington<sup>669</sup> returning the Brotherhood<sup>670</sup> sermon and giving her address as 636 Beacon St Boston - Probably she has left London -

I was most amazed to get a postcard from Michael Flürscheim dated Coronado, California, near Pasadena where he is now going to make his home having bought land. He says America is the place to preach his gospel of Free Land and Free Money in - No particulars. I wonder how much money he has dropped in New Zealand -

Mrs Morice and Miss Tomkinson are hopeful of the little band [?] of women who meet in the S. Tax office<sup>671</sup> every Wednesday and of the Leisure Hour Club which meets once a month Thursday - Lucy has the loan of a house in N.A.<sup>672</sup> for five weeks -

I had a nice letter from Mrs Watson Lister with my belated receipt. She is most hopeful about your enjoying your travels. I am told that the Runic is not the most comfortable of the White Star Line but the time suited you. You would be glad to see your friends the Elkingtons<sup>673</sup> again - My mothers old cousin Mrs. Ainslie died last week close on 92 years of age - My own cousin Mrs Maule<sup>674</sup> is kept on the tenterhooks by a friend who wants her to go back again to live with her but seems to change her mind about arrangements and time every letter she writes - expect another letter a month hence - My last news of Eleanor was from Rome where Charles and his wife were to join them and Mrs Martin was still in Cologne - I hope you liked Laura Gee<sup>675</sup> -

Always yours  
C.H. Spence

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<sup>669</sup> Caroline Augusta Lloyd Withington was the sister of Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903) an American lawyer whom Spence very much admired. After his death and Spence's, in 1912, Caro Lloyd published a biography of her brother.

<sup>670</sup> A condensed version of Spence's sermon on 'Brotherhood', given at the Unitarian Christian Church on 17 July 1904 was published in the *Herald* p. 5ac on 20 August 1904.

<sup>671</sup> Single Tax office, 30 Pirie Chambers, Pirie Street, Adelaide.

<sup>672</sup> North Adelaide.

<sup>673</sup> Probably Dr John Simeon Colebrook Elkington (1871-1955), Victorian public health advocate, and his wife, Mary Cassandra, née Parkinson.

<sup>674</sup> Janet Maule was the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>675</sup> Annie Laura Vernon Gee née Herford (1860-1930), a Unitarian friend of Spence who had painted a watercolour portrait of her in 1900.

**PRG 88/7/57**

North Norwood  
12<sup>th</sup> Sept 1905

My dear Miss Henry

Yours with Dinant Postmark arrived yesterday. I had a newspaper from Brussels a fortnight before - I enclose a cutting from an Age that Mrs Webster sent me - marked.

It is evident that the Department ought to have and must accept the responsibility for the children placed out but one can scarcely call children adopted from the Home of Hope Wards of the State - They should be - You have been fighting valiantly for strict inspection and supervision of these institutions both inside and outside -

You do not acknowledge receipt either of the Address to Women Voters<sup>676</sup> or of my poem on Australian Spring<sup>677</sup> which I am holding over till I am quite 80 - I hope the Register will appreciate the effusion better than the Bulletin -

Miss Locke<sup>678</sup> is to be here on the 18th to try to organise the women workers. She is to be the guest of Mrs Price<sup>679</sup> and of Mrs Morice - I hope to see something of her - My factory manager Miss McGregor<sup>680</sup> is wondering what will be the effect of the Wages Board when the regulations are enforced. It is coming very near -

My last letter to you enclosed one I had from Mrs Anna Garlin Spencer<sup>681</sup> to whom I wrote fully about you. She may be able to help you a good deal -

I think I sent you the newspaper with Mr. Coombe's<sup>682</sup> speech on Effective Voting. The debate is adjourned till 27th Sept when it will be attacked by a Labour member who prefers single member districts - He has a safe seat in the Port Adelaide district - but under Effective Voting they could not have got in three men - the Conservatives polled over a third of the votes and could have got in Mr Anderson<sup>683</sup> the lawyer - There is a curious lack of lawyers in the Assembly and few on the Council, and what there are are Conservatives - In the Federal Houses there are a good many - You may not know that in the American Senate more than two thirds are lawyers or judges (ex judges) and in the Representatives nearly two thirds are in the legal profession - The States legislatures are also mainly filled with lawyers -

I do not gather clearly what took you to Brussels unless it was the Socialist congress - No doubt the limitation of the Suffrage prevents PR from doing all that it

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<sup>676</sup> This was Spence's address to the Ladies' Old Scholars' Association: 'The Franchise Explained' given on Thursday 13 April 1905, and reported in the *Register* next day. It was later issued as a 6 page pamphlet.

<sup>677</sup> Spence read this poem at her eightieth birthday celebration. It was published in the *Register* p. 5a on 31 October 1905 and later issued by the *Register* as a single page leaflet.

<sup>678</sup> Lilian Sophia Locke (1869-1950), Melbourne socialist, Secretary of the United Council for Woman's Suffrage on 1890s and organizing secretary of Political Labour Council of Victoria. She was the only female member of the Melbourne Trades Hall Council.

<sup>679</sup> Wife of Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier.

<sup>680</sup> Manager of the South Australian Cooperative Clothing Factory.

<sup>681</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.

<sup>682</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist, editor of the *Gawler Bunyip* and member of Parliament for the Barossa district, was a supporter of proportional representation.

<sup>683</sup> James Robert Anderson had been Attorney General in the previous government from 1<sup>st</sup> March 1905, although he was not a member of Parliament.

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should do - but it allows of minority representation of Liberal views in the rural districts which formerly were solidly Clerical and anti progress - as it allows of minority Clerical representation in the big cities -

Mrs Martin says that though wages are low in Belgium there is far more access to the land - and many town workers have bits of land carefully cultivated from which they bring produce on Saturdays - nowhere are the people cut off from the land as much as in England and Scotland - The news of Fred Martin is a little better. He has been moved to a cottage in the pine forests near Weimar and stood the journey fairly well - but I feel still very anxious about him -

Our Treasurer Mr Peake<sup>684</sup> made his budget speech - His land tax proposals are ½d in the pound on all land values under £5000 - 1d between £5000 & £10,000 rising gradually till £100000, when it is 3d - I should have preferred [sic] 1 ½d or 2d all round - but there is to be revaluation and that will lead to greater revenue - This is Show week and it is a prosperous season ½ the town is full - We expect the Wrens on the 7th or 8th Octr - They have had a splendid time. Mrs Young is much better. She and I sat in the Speakers Gallery to hear Mr Coombe who spoke well. Miss Clark is better since she took to eating oftener - She eats so little at a time that she was getting quite too thin. Lucy Morice and Miss Tomkinson are working in harmony - Mrs. Spence returned yesterday from Melbourne -

Always yours heartily  
C H Spence

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<sup>684</sup> Archibald Henry Peake (1859-1920), district clerk of Naracoorte 1879-1897, auctioneer, member of Parliament, Treasurer and Attorney-General in the Price Government, later Premier.



**PRG 88/7/58**

North Norwood  
11<sup>th</sup> Octr [1905]

My dear Miss Henry

I think I wrote you that I had been asked to write on Children's Courts for the 'Church Commonwealth'<sup>685</sup> Kent Hughes the editor - a sort of Federal Church paper - I am sending you a copy with three bad blunders corrected - I am writing for a copy to be sent to Miss Hill and for one for Mr Gray and one for Miss Clark - I only had this yesterday - I am writing to Sydney to get news about the actual provisions of the N.S.W. bills if they were improved in Committee. I sent an article for "Light"<sup>686</sup> the new paper which Mrs C E Clark is interested in - on the Hare system and she writes back that she wants a block of my photo - I cannot afford to write for nothing and send blocks to all impecunious papers - My work is of more value than my photo -

I have sent my long article From Kindergarten to University<sup>687</sup> to the Register and hope it will appear soon - I never spent as long over a piece of work for I wrote it in snatches - and now I am not very sure about it - But if published I shall get slips and send to you -

My people passed through on Saturday. Nelly did not land but Charlie Eleanor and Marjorie met fifty or more of their friends at the E S & A Bank for an hour and a half - They had had great heat and a good deal of sickness between Suez and Colombo and though it was a fine large ship the voyage was much less pleasant than the outward trip - They met the "India" between Freemantle [sic] and Adelaide and Marjorie felt as if she would have liked to change boats and go back for another eight months - I did not have a minute with them by myself, but I suppose I shall go to Sydney some time next year, and see them all - I should not have written this week if it had not been for the Church Commonwealth.

We had our Jubilee Service<sup>688</sup> on Sunday - Old Mr Woods<sup>689</sup> our first pastor has lived to hear about it but he is a sad invalid and I don't think he will live long - He was much excited looking forward to it. There is to be a social on Friday night and I am down for a 10 minutes speech to wind up with "Australian Spring"<sup>690</sup> by Mr. Reids<sup>691</sup> special request.

I had not time to write a poem as I had purposed for Mr and Mrs Turners Golden Wedding. I began it - and threw it aside and wrote in prose but afterwards I thought it worth finishing and sent it a week too late - As you take an interest in all I do I shall write it out for you

Mr and Mrs Henry Gyles Turner

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<sup>685</sup> Spence's article 'Children's Courts of Justice' appeared in the *Church Commonwealth*, vol. X, no. 1, 30 September 1905. This was a periodical published in Melbourne by the Church of England in Australia. It had succeeded *The Mitre*. The proprietor was Dr Wilfred Kent Hughes, father of the well-known Sir Wilfrid Kent Hughes and the editor was his brother Ernest Selwyn Kent Hughes (1860-1942), an Anglican clergyman.

<sup>686</sup> *Light: a journal of temperance and social politics*, Sydney, 1905-6.

<sup>687</sup> This series of three articles began in the Register on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1905.

<sup>688</sup> The Unitarian Christian Church began in Adelaide in 1855.

<sup>689</sup> Rev. John Crawford Woods (1824-1906) arrived in South Australia in 1855 and became the first minister of the Unitarian Christian Church in Adelaide. He retired in 1889 and after visits to the United Kingdom lived at Knightsbridge, a suburb of Adelaide, until his death.

<sup>690</sup> Spence later read her poem at her eightieth birthday celebration. It was published in the *Register* p. 5a on 31 October 1905 and later issued by the *Register* as a single page leaflet.

<sup>691</sup> Reverend John Reid, minister of the Unitarian Christian Church in Adelaide.

28th Sept 1905

'Tis not to many given to spend  
Fifty good years together  
With love still stronger at the end  
In matrimonial tether

But you can date still farther back  
The love that holds you fast  
For from your childhood you can track  
Together all your past -

You scarce have separate memories  
Of youth and early days  
You saw the selfsame hills and trees  
You trod the selfsame ways

Ah in that simple early clime  
'Twas sister-like and brother  
But you can never name the time  
You did not love each other

And in the Austral home you sought  
You gathered friends around you  
Magnetic-like - for kindred thought  
Aims tastes and feelings bound you

And though your union was not crowned  
By children of your own  
Magnetic-like  
How many lonely hearts have found  
Home love in yours alone

Daddy and Mammy watched their play  
Guided the plastic will,  
And now these children's children say  
Daddy and Mammy still

In public and in private life  
~~You've borne the brunt together~~  
In fine or stormy weather  
You two as husband and as wife  
Have borne the brunt together

Now drawing near the latest page  
Fear not - the volume ends  
With that which should accompany old age  
Honour & reverence and troops of friends

I have been writing against time and as you see made some blunders -

[No signature]

**PRG 88/7/59**

North Norwood  
8th Novr [1905]

My dear Miss Henry

I think I gave you Mrs F Martins permanent address c/o Bank of Adelaide 11 LeadenHall St London E6 before but here goes to make sure - I may send you a Register with an account of my 80th birthday celebrations<sup>692</sup> a sudden inspiration that I might turn it into account of Effective Voting at a cost of £10 - An Effective League meeting would cost me £5 and the League something and not do as much good - But the 60 members of Parliament and their 60 wives did not come at least only 10 or 12 of the MPs and when I spoke I said I must have it printed that those who did not hear might read - I had written out carefully all I thought I had time to say 30 minutes but the other speakers exceeded the 15 minutes limit especially the Chief Justice who wanted to cover all the ground and though I had taken very careful headings I missed some of the vital points, - though I made some excellent jokes - So the MS is now in the printer's hands - with my own photo and my mother's to begin with, and Australian Spring<sup>693</sup> to wind up with and it may make a pretty little booklet<sup>694</sup> as a souvenir for my friends and as campaign literature for the fight that is yet to be carried on - for I fear we shall not get the Proportional Representation Bill even into Committee this session.

But even with the Social Column Ariel<sup>695</sup> says that though King Charles's Head could not be kept out of the birthday rejoicings, she gathered this much that under Miss Spence's system the Electoral district of Torrens would have got in two Liberal members and the Socialists only two - I invited the guests and the most of them would not have looked near an Effective Voting gathering - Miss Locke<sup>696</sup> was there to hear the speeches about me but had to go away before I opened my mouth. However she will hear it all. She is staying in SA much longer than she intended. I have seen too little of her but Lucy Morice has seen a lot - Did I tell you I was writing an article divided into three sections. From Kindergarten to University<sup>697</sup> - I want the Kindergarten Union to have that also as a leaflet but the Bertram Hawkers<sup>698</sup> are in Melbourne for the Cup - I shall speak to Lucy about it this afternoon. She is the Secretary<sup>699</sup> - We hope to establish one KG<sup>700</sup> in the poorest part of Adelaide - I moved a formal resolution that it should be free -

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<sup>692</sup> The function held in honour of Spence's eightieth birthday was reported in the local papers. The *Register's* report: 'Miss Spence, Octogenarian. A Birthday Reception, was published on 31 October 1905, p. 5h-6a. It included a report of Spence's speech. The *Observer* repeated the account on 4 November 1905 p. 42b-d.

<sup>693</sup> Spence's poem which she read at her birthday celebrations.

<sup>694</sup> The *Register* republished the article on Spence which preceded her birthday celebrations (30 October, 1905) and the 31<sup>st</sup> October account of the celebrations in a 36 page pamphlet: *Catherine Helen Spence. 1825-1905. This for Remembrance.*

<sup>695</sup> 'Ariel', who wrote the Ladies Column for the *Observer*, used the 'King Charles's head' reference [Dickens: *David Copperfield*] in her congratulatory piece on Spence in the *Observer* 4 November 1905 p. 7a.

<sup>696</sup> Lillian Locke (1869-1950), Victorian labour organiser, had spoken at the Town Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1905, and then at Port Pirie, Clare and Petersburg [now Peterborough].

<sup>697</sup> This series of three articles began in the Register on October 30<sup>th</sup> 1905.

<sup>698</sup> Bertram Hawker (1868-1952), Anglican clergyman, educationist and benefactor, was the initiator of the free kindergarten movement in South Australia.

<sup>699</sup> Lucy Morice was Secretary of the Kindergarten Union and Spence

<sup>700</sup> Kindergarten.

Since I wrote to you last we have had the jubilee of our church<sup>701</sup> - in which I took some part - Mr Turner was ill from the effects of a chill before his Golden Wedding and was extremely ill after it - Inflammation or perhaps only neuralgia in the frontal nerves only relieved by injections of morphia - I hear he is improving but slowly. Mary Reid<sup>702</sup> went yesterday to Melbourne for a much needed holiday and I trust to her letters home for more particulars than I have had from Mrs Boulter.

When I compare what I do - that I have to do at 80 to what I did when I was 30, 40 or 50 - it is amusing - I feel as busy – nearly - as when I was in America - Of course I have no housekeeping and no financial worry. Mrs Spence's £50 a year in addition to the £100 annually leaves me a margin of nearly as much for church - charity - causes - and fads -

Now my good friend you note that I tell you all I do and much that I propose to do - but your letters though always interesting are not enlightening - You wrote once that perhaps Miss F D Hills organisation might pay an apostle who could preach their gospel - On what terms or for what purpose you went to Brussels to Glasgow and purposed to go to Greenock I dont know - I am glad you spent a week with Miss Clapperton<sup>703</sup> and agreed with her on most points - I am getting a little tired of the sex question - Rosamond Benham<sup>704</sup> and her husband are publishing a serial (monthly) which seems to speak of nothing else - And here today I am challenged in the Register by a correspondent to say if the middle class women who will not follow Roosevelt's<sup>705</sup> [sic] advice and have children galore should not be deprived of the franchise - I think the men are as unwilling to have large families as the women – the cost of bringing them up is so great in this age of hard and cruel competition.

I sent you a Church Commonwealth with article on Childrens Courts<sup>706</sup>. I shall send you the Novr No when I get it, with an article on Infant Institutions<sup>707</sup> which Mr Gray was very much pleased with – Did you go to see Mr Whiting at the S A Agency – Did you get my information about Mrs A. G. Spencer<sup>708</sup>? I am always afraid of newspapers going astray –

Yours ever C H Spence

Here is the draft of my reply

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<sup>701</sup> The Unitarian Christian Church began in Adelaide in 1855.

<sup>702</sup> Mary Reid was the daughter of John Reid, the Unitarian minister.

<sup>703</sup> Jane Hume Clapperton (1832-1914), British novelist, writer on ethics, social conditions, women's rights and suffrage. Spence stayed with her when she was in the UK in 1894. Her work influenced Spence in her futuristic novel *A Week in the Future*, 1888.

<sup>704</sup> Rosamond Agnes Benham, an Adelaide doctor, was outspoken about sex. She published *Sense about Sex by a Woman Doctor* in 1905. Her husband, Thomas Gilbert Taylor established a small short-lived journal *Free Speech*.

<sup>705</sup> Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), President of the United States 1901-1909.

<sup>706</sup> Spence's article 'Children's Courts of Justice' appeared in the *Church Commonwealth*, vol. X, no. 1, 30 September 1905. This was a periodical published in Melbourne by the Church of England in Australia.

<sup>707</sup> Spence's article 'Protection of Infant Life' was published in *Church Commonwealth* Vol. X, no. 2, 31 October 1905. pp. 222-223.

<sup>708</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.

Notes & Queries<sup>709</sup>

In answer to Avis, Miss Spence writes

I was by no means the most active agitator for woman's suffrage. Mrs Mary Lee<sup>710</sup>, Lady Colton<sup>711</sup> and Mrs Birks<sup>712</sup> were leaders in that movement [Spence wrote Mrs Mary Lee, Mrs Birks and Lady Colton, but altered the order to put Lady Colton second]— I wanted an effective vote for men long before I dreamed of seeking one for myself. With regard to the attitude of middle class women towards large families it is equally the attitude of middle class men. Neither of them desire more children than they can see a fair prospect of maintaining in comfort until they are old enough to work for themselves. And although a Right Reverend Father in God denounces ~~what he calls~~ the miserable Gospel of comfort, and despises what he calls cowardice on the part of the well to do, that ~~doctrine of~~ Gospel of comfort lies at the ~~bottom~~ root of real progress – Quality rather than Quantity – There ~~may be~~ are more dangers from the swarming populations of the slums than from the declining birthrate among the prudent. As for depriving the women of the franchise on this acct, it is on a par with a certain Dr Chapple's modest suggestion to sterilise the wives of all defectives.<sup>713</sup>

P S I am enclosing the report from Observer – I met Miss Locke<sup>714</sup> at the Students. She is to see a Court Case tomorrow at 2.30. probably several – and I arranged for Miss Moule to meet her. She tells me that her recent work has disappointed her for she only got her travelling expenses and hospitality but no fee for lecturing – She thinks she will be married before she can go to Queensland –

We both said your letters were meagre – but if you are well and enjoying yourself that is the main thing – Have you been getting the Juvenile Court Records<sup>715</sup> I ordered for you?

I got a proof to send to Professor Nanson –

Miss Locke says there will be a hard fight for Childrens Courts – I told her about the Church Commonwealth article -

In another envelope I send you all in the Observer that related to me<sup>716</sup> – It costs 2½d to send the whole paper out of this Commonwealth.

Yours again C H Spence

[Written very faintly along the margin of the draft of Notes and Queries are the words This was telegraphed out here.]

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<sup>709</sup> This Note was published in the *Register* 9 November 1905 p. 3i.

<sup>710</sup> Mary Lee née Walsh (1821-1909), single-minded worker for political and social reform, particularly for women's suffrage. She proposed the establishment of the Women's Suffrage League and was secretary from 1888 to 1895.

<sup>711</sup> Mary Colton, née Cutting, (1822-1898), philanthropist and campaigner for the rights of women, children and the disadvantaged. She was president of the Women's Suffrage League, member of the Boarding-Out Society and of the first State Children's Council.

<sup>712</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

<sup>713</sup> William Allen Chapple, member of the New Zealand parliament and later of the British parliament published *Fertility of the Unfit* in 1903.

<sup>714</sup> Lilian Sophia Locke (1869-1950), Melbourne socialist, Secretary of the United Council for Woman's Suffrage on 1890s and organizing secretary of Political Labour Council of Victoria. She was the only female member of the Melbourne Trades Hall Council.

<sup>715</sup> *The Juvenile Court Record* (sometimes *The Juvenile*), an irregular monthly, published in Chicago 1900-1932, originally by the Chicago Visitation and Aid Society.

<sup>716</sup> The *Observer* contained a lengthy report of the Eightieth Birthday Celebration which was given in Spence's honour.

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**PRG 88/7/60**

North Norwood.  
19<sup>th</sup> Decr 1905

My dear Miss Henry

On the same day yesterday I had a long letter from Miss Thomson<sup>717</sup> who does not mention you but who tells how she too suffered on the White Star line and that she had taken about a year to recuperate and at the time of writing was with friends in Glasgow and in communication with Agents General as to lecturing on Immigration to Australia in villages and small towns in England and Scotland - one from you dated direct and one from Mrs Watson Lister enclosing one to herself from you dated 1<sup>st</sup> Novr - This is really the first satisfactory information I have had about your proceedings - and your finances. I think with Mrs Watson Lister that in spite of syllabuses full if you once begin to speak under govt auspices at Boston you will get invitations to speak elsewhere - Australia is much more interesting to American women than it was when I was in the States - I am glad that you had so much hospitality in England and Scotland and that you have thoroughly enjoyed all that you have seen and heard. Of course English politics are very different from Australian or American - I recollect saying in 1893-4 that Australia had got to the bed rock of political differences - not obscured by methods or tradition - That parties were not Dem. or Rep. or Conserv and Liberal but between those who had and those who had [not?] - between those who paid wages and those who received them and I thought that to these two parties all civilized people would have to take their stand in the near future - Poor Miss Thomson is somewhat disappointed in spite of the great kindness of her friend and cousin Mrs McRie. She says "I find this country most oppressive. Material is so dear then so cheap. It seems as if the mountainous weight of the overlying distinctions of rank the enormous wealth the solid conservatism of the minds of the people crush out all thought and enterprise. I am bitterly disappointed in the Scotch whom I always was taught to consider as intellectual". She says she is now well except that her eyes will not stand continuous strain but she is able to think.

Today I got a Boston Womans Journal<sup>718</sup> with an account of the late Mr Catt<sup>719</sup> and a paragraph marked that you were expected a good while before you could arrive -

I am very glad you had four days with Miss F D Hill. I shall probably hear her account of your visit tomorrow when I am going to Miss Clark's - I am also glad that you are having opportunities of seeing Epileptic Homes and schools for the feeble minded in England before you go across the Atlantic. I hope you may be able to get to Denver or at any rate as far as Chicago - I have today despatched a long letter 10 pages like this to a Sydney paper Light Temperance and Social Reform<sup>720</sup> on the various agencies undertaken by S C C<sup>721</sup> Dept. Somewhat like what I wrote for the

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<sup>717</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She had been co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* in 1903, and later ceased, she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist.

<sup>718</sup> *The Woman's Journal*, Boston & Chicago, 1870-1917. A weekly, it became in 1910 the official organ of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

<sup>719</sup> George W. Catt was the second husband of Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), American newspaper reporter, writer, lecturer and skilful political strategist, State organiser of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association and later President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Her first husband Leo Chapman died in 1885. She married wealthy engineer George W. Catt in 1890.

<sup>720</sup> *Light: a journal of temperance and social politics*, Sydney, 1905-6.

<sup>721</sup> State Children's Council.

Church Commonwealth<sup>722</sup> but with considerable differences - No money from either paper. In fact this last year I have done more literary work unpaid than paid - I was glad to hear you were promised £2 for an article in England - I was in hopes your expenses were paid in Glasgow Greenock Lancashire & Birmingham - I have an article at the Register office on Land Settlement in America and Australia 8 of these pages which has not been sent back<sup>723</sup> - and in todays Register there is the full report of Mr Sowden's<sup>724</sup> (editor on his travels) speech at the Colonial Institute<sup>725</sup> which he concludes with my sonnet<sup>726</sup> - and applause.

I hope you have received all the packets of booklets I have addressed to you - I am going to venture a few more for my American friends. Miss Scott sent introductions for some delightful Americans<sup>727</sup> from San Antonio Texas [Spence wrote first Texas San Antonio]. Eleanor who is spending three or four weeks here with me and fifty other friends met them at Miss Scotts - They were only here a few days but they came out to call on Sunday and I was at Glenelg.

They hit on my very busy week. Three days at the Destitute a Council meeting a Students meeting and a Clothing factory meeting but I managed to put in four visits to introduce them to Mr Gray and to arrange that they should see a trial in the Childrens Court. Also to show how we deal with Adult poverty through the Destitute Board - The previous week I was not so occupied but I was not so well - They are going through India and will not be at home till May. The old maiden lady Miss Brackenridge was amazed to think I had gone through America lecturing at her age by myself. Brother George<sup>728</sup> not only went with her but she had a neice [sic] a secretary and a clever middle aged journalist with her - also a retired general colonel and his wife of the name of Varney<sup>729</sup> from Indianapolis had attached themselves to the party for a long time.

They had given much time to New Zealand and to Sydney and very little to Melbourne and Adelaide. But all were deeply interested in a White Australia and Brother George though a very large landed proprietor was a Single Taxer - It will please Mrs Young to hear that though the liberals are much divided they are mostly keen on Taxation of land values.

Mrs Youngs daughter Freda 14½ has won the Junior Tennyson medal<sup>730</sup> and passed in her six subjects - Lindsay has not passed the Senior<sup>731</sup> and Mrs Young is starting a poultry farm for him. He has always wanted to go on the land and they cannot afford to do it in a large way - So it happens that I have seen little of her lately. They have 8½ acres three or four miles from town with a cottage and two cows and some poultry - I hope it may be successful. Lin has great liking for all living creatures -

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<sup>722</sup> An Anglican periodical published in Melbourne.

<sup>723</sup> 'Land Settlement. America and Australia,' an article by C. H. Spence, appeared in the *Register* 29 December 1905 p. 6fg.

<sup>724</sup> William John Sowden, later Sir, (1858-1943), journalist. He worked for the *Register* from 1881 and was editor from 1899-1922.

<sup>725</sup> 'Australia Vindicated. Plain Talking. Mr Sowden at Royal Colonial Insitute' was published in the *Register* on 19 December 1905. The Colonial Institute was in England.

<sup>726</sup> See Letter 26, 21<sup>st</sup> February [1903].

<sup>727</sup> Miss and Mr Brackenridge.

<sup>728</sup> George Washington Brackenridge (1832-1920), business man and one of San Antonio's greatest philanthropists.

<sup>729</sup> Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. Varney (1861-1906) had retired from active service in 1903. He travelled abroad in 1905 and 1906.

<sup>730</sup> The medal is given for the student placed first in English in the South Australian Education Department examinations.

<sup>731</sup> The higher level of the South Australian Education Department examinations.

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My niece [sic] Madge Murray has given up the post & telegraph and gone to Yarragon to start a poultry farm on scientific principles. Their neighbours the Barrows two single middle aged women say they clear 60/ a week with it - Madge may do only half but that is worth doing. There have been two little rooms added to the house - The old creamery is transformed into a cooperative creamery and butter factory and George Murray is to have 21/ a week as secretary -

The Americans saw and were charmed with Vida Goldstein - Mary Reid<sup>732</sup> returned from her visit to Melbourne and reports improvement in Mr Turner every time she saw him so that now there is reasonable expectation that he will be himself again - She was shocked at his appearance and at that of Mrs Turner when she saw him first inspite of the fact that he had written a long letter to the Chief Justice<sup>733</sup> full of hope. The death of George Sutherland<sup>734</sup> as sudden as that of Alick<sup>735</sup> would not affect the Turners in anything like the same way. Lucy Morice's voice has failed her and she is enforced silence. I had a bit snipped off my uvula early in the month with excellent results - but it was a most skittish<sup>736</sup> operation. I have lost that irritated and irritating cough - I think I must now stop. Eleanor and Ellen Gregory join in love -

Yours ever C H Spence

I thought Mrs WL<sup>737</sup> had won her case. She writes to me that though it cripples them sadly it is not so bad as she feared -

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<sup>732</sup> Daughter of Rev. John Reid, Unitarian minister.

<sup>733</sup> Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice of South Australia.

<sup>734</sup> George Sutherland (1855-1905), teacher, author, journalist with *South Australian Register* 1881-1901, later on editorial staff of *Melbourne Age*. He had a special interest in technology. He had died on December 1, 1905.

<sup>735</sup> Alexander Sutherland (1852-1902), author, journalist, Headmaster of Carlton College Melbourne 1877-1892, founder and co-editor with Henry Gyles Turner of the *Melbourne Review*.

<sup>736</sup> Perhaps in the sense of uncertain, tricky, difficult to deal with or manage.

<sup>737</sup> Mrs Watson Lister.



**PRG 88/7/61**

North Norwood  
12 Jany 1906

My dear Miss Henry

I trust that you obtained a passage (reasonably cheap) to the Land of the Stars and Stripes and I think you would receive a kind welcome. I enclose you two articles I had published the signed one on 29th Dec<sup>738</sup> the leading article on 2nd Jan<sup>739</sup>.

I used to get £2.2 for a leader from Register but the last two at intervals of 12 months have only been remunerated by 25/- For the contributed articles I get a guinea a column - I am sending both articles to Miss Jane Addams<sup>740</sup>, as she inspired one of them - and I am sure she will be interested in the other - I am writing to her that I hope you will reach Chicago and suggesting that you should speak there on our successful organisation for the Protection of infant life.

A Mr Everard Digby Solicitor of Sydney editor of the Commonwealth Law Review<sup>741</sup> has written to the London Law Times that the first Juvenile Court in Australia was opened in Sydney in Octr. This was discussed at our Council meeting on Monday -

We have had three weeks of very hot weather. Eleanor went away in the midst of it taking her cousin Ellen Gregory with her. They stayed with the Davies's at Glenferrie from Tuesday till Saturday when they left for Sydney the hottest trip Eleanor ever had - After they left on 1st Jany we had Tuesday 100.9 - Wednesday 107.9 - Thursday when I went to Destitute from 10 to 2 it was 112.1 Friday 113.1 Saturday 110 -<sup>742</sup>

We had a sort of change but not a real one for it got hot again Tuesday & Wednesday but on Thursday and today we have had wind from the West which is the right quarter - I have been very well through the heat - ate fairly well and slept not badly. It was solar heat and very dry - without North winds.

Eleanor had some hot weather in Melbourne on the Friday they went to see Mrs. Lang Lillys mother at St Kilda beach then by train to Gle the Turners - where they found the family better than they expected though Mr Turner has aged much since Ellie<sup>743</sup> saw him and is excessively thin. Mrs Boulter was wonderfully well - Then they walked to Glendora a very long hot walk had a rest and back by two trains to Glenferry [sic]. I am glad to say that Dr. Violet Plummer<sup>744</sup> has done Ellen Gregory a world of good - She is so much better that this six weeks change and holiday will quite set her up. She writes and Ellie writes that she can eat anything (in reason I mean) and digest it - Three months ago she was living on junket and milk mostly and

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<sup>738</sup> 'Land Settlement. America and Australia.' Article by C. H. Spence in *Register* 29 December 1905.

<sup>739</sup> 'South Australia: the pioneer in child saving.' Unsigned leader in *Register* 2 January 1906.

<sup>740</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1935) founded the world famous social settlement Hull-House in Chicago in 1889. She launched the first juvenile court in America. Spence met her when she was in America.

<sup>741</sup> Everard Digby (1854-1922) and Pitt Cobbett (1852 or 3-1919) were editors of the *Commonwealth Law Review* published in Melbourne by E. F. Maxwell from 1904-1909.

<sup>742</sup> 100 degrees Fahrenheit is the equivalent of 37.8 degrees Celcius.

<sup>743</sup> Eleanor Brodie Wren.

<sup>744</sup> Violet May Plummer (born 1873) B.Sc. (Adel): M.B., Ch. B. (Melb) 1897, was the first woman doctor to practise in South Australia. After acting as a resident surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital and at the Women's Hospital, she returned to Adelaide in 1900 and worked with great success for thirty years. She made her first rounds on a bicycle.

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losing flesh rapidly - Eleanor must be well to go through all the fatigue she did during her 24 days visit here and the three or four days at Glenferrie -

With regard to your first letter received when they were moving, the land lady destroyed it before Mrs. M took in the address. Miss Clark was much pleased with the leading article enclosed - Like Florence Hill her interests are almost exclusively in one direction that is to say her public interests. What draws me specially to you is your many interests. I have not seen Mrs Young for five weeks. I hope she is not overworking herself.

Ever yours C H Spence

**PRG 88/7/62**

Glenelg<sup>745</sup>  
2nd Feb 1906

My dear Miss Henry

I am here on a visit of five or six days to Mrs Spence and I must answer your last letter enclosing one from Miss Clapperton<sup>746</sup> to yourself here. Last week I wrote a letter to Miss Clapperton as I had her right address - You had in great part told me of your proceedings in a previous letter - but this gave more details - You seem to me to have done a great deal of work with no personal profit. But the tide may turn when you reach America. My last letter three weeks ago was sent to your New York address. I enclose POO<sup>747</sup> for a dollar. I want you to buy and send me this years almanac. I got a World Almanac in 1894 and I am sure populations of cities must have changed. I was asked at the S C Council the population of Denver and I answered at hazard 300,000 but I find in my Almanac it is little more than 100,000. I want to bring forward next Council a suggestion for truancy as dealt with at Denver. I believe a dollar is quite enough for postage too -

We have a new director of Education<sup>748</sup> with new ideas appointed from the ranks of the Head teachers by the Labour ministry - Our friend Mr Whitham is very sore about it, but he loses no salary. Lucy Morice is delighted, and tells me that the whole body of Civil Servants say it is the best thing for them that was ever done. Perhaps not the whole body but the young and energetic. It is a recognition of merit - Mr Alfred Williams has worked up through the schools as pupil and teacher and has formed a close friendship with Mr Tate<sup>749</sup> - Mr Tate however was an Inspector and has a university degree which Mr Williams has not - Mr Williams and I had a long talk a month before I had any idea of the position he was to have. It was first offered to Prof Henderson<sup>750</sup> who is a good man but has a prejudice agst women teachers. He says they should not teach boys above 3rd class. As head master of the Norwood School Mr Williams had his three 6th classes including the bursary & exhibition class taught by women. Freda Young won her bursary there and the little fellow Blakeney is working for his primary there now - Mrs Young is at home again for a while till the busy season for incubators comes on - She is quite hopeful of the poultry farm for her eldest boy - but the difficulty is that she cannot be in two places at once - and things six miles off go to rack and ruin under a servant - But she is decidedly better in health since she went to the farm of 6½ acres of very good land with a little house, a stable and shed, one cow, a horse and buggy and a good many fowls - and a well that needs a windmill for irrigation. She could make anything pay if she could attend to it -

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<sup>745</sup> Spence's sister-in-law, Jessie Spence, lived in High Street Glenelg.

<sup>746</sup> Jane Hume Clapperton (1832-1914), British novelist, writer on ethics, social conditions, women's rights and suffrage. Spence stayed with her when she was in the UK in 1894. Her work influenced Spence in her futuristic novel *A Week in the Future*, 1888.

<sup>747</sup> Post Office Order.

<sup>748</sup> Alfred Williams (1863-1913), teacher and educational reformer. As a teacher he set out to reform education in South Australia and by 1900 he had made Norwood Public School the top school in Adelaide. He was president of South Australian Public Schools Association 1903-1905. In 1905 he was appointed Director of the South Australian Education Department, with a commitment to reform, in which he was very successful.

<sup>749</sup> Frank Tate (1864-1939), educationist, inspector with the Victorian Education Department, Principal of Melbourne Training College, Director of Education 1902-1928 and member of the Council of the University of Melbourne 1903-1939.

<sup>750</sup> George Cockburn Henderson (1870-1944), historian, Professor of Modern History and English Language at the University of Adelaide. He criticized the low standard of schools and teachers but declined the directorship when it was offered to him.

I had this mg an Age of 27th Jan sent from the C.O. Society<sup>751</sup> with a very stirring leader about Children's Courts giving full credit to South Australia and trying to shame Victoria for her criminal backwardness. I would cut it out and send it to you but I want to show it to Committee and Council - I hope one of your many friends will send you the paper or a cutting.

I am going this afternoon to see Mrs Charles Birks<sup>752</sup> who was the most zealous of the few workers for N. C. of W. (You do not say anything about that organisation in England) She is going this month to England and America but I think it is to be a delegate for W Y W C A of which she is the active President in S. A. She has had an illness and the change will do her good but the trip was settled on before she was ill - Miss Tomkinson is on a Holiday trip in the Eastern States - Mrs Morice is at work today with Miss de Lissa<sup>753</sup> on towels &c for the Kindergarten which is to open on Monday with three unpaid assistants - I have not yet written my address to the Women Workers<sup>754</sup> but I have plenty of material - I lent the Social Unrest<sup>755</sup> to the Rev John Reid<sup>756</sup> as the mildest Socialistic book I knew.

I am sending you another copy of the article on Infant Protection - also a few extra copies of Australian Spring<sup>757</sup> to give to my American friends. I want to send to the Juvenile Court Record<sup>758</sup> my article - I see the last issue has a paragraph about the N S W opening and promises the text of the law - I subscribed for it for a year for myself and six months for you. I hope you got it -

Who is Dr. Hunter? Lucy did not know his name.

I had good news about P R from Mr Humphreys<sup>759</sup> sec to P R Association that a Bill was to be introduced with good hopes of it passing in the Chamber of Deputies in France. I got Mrs Young to make a paragraph of the letter for our papers. America needs the reform more than any country in the world -

I have a short mning and many letters to write - Give my love to my many friends and believe me always your affte Friend

C H Spence

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<sup>751</sup> Charity Organization Society.

<sup>752</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

<sup>753</sup> Lillian Daphne De Lissa (1885-1967), early childhood educator. She became director of the first Adelaide free kindergarten, first principal of the Adelaide Kindergarten Training College, and first director of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia in 1907.

<sup>754</sup> Spence's speech to the Women Employe's [sic] Mutual Association at the Trades Hall, entitled 'A Bundle of Sticks', was reported in the *Register* 26 February 1906. p.7f.

<sup>755</sup> *The Social Unrest: studies in labor and socialistic movements* 1903, by John Graham Brooks (1846-1938).

<sup>756</sup> Minister of the Unitarian Christian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>757</sup> The poem which Spence wrote for her eightieth birthday celebrations.

<sup>758</sup> *The Juvenile Court Record* (sometimes *The Juvenile*), an irregular monthly, published in Chicago 1900-1932, originally by the Chicago Visitation and Aid Society.

<sup>759</sup> John H. Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England from 1904 to 1946, was for many years a writer on Proportional Representation, elections and constitutional reform.

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**PRG 88/7/63**

North Norwood  
23 Feby [1906]

My dear Miss Henry

I have only time for a few lines to acknowledge your first from New York - This is a cool day but we have had for nearly two weeks the hottest weather I recollect of in 66 years and I have an address to write to deliver on Monday to Women workers<sup>760</sup> - But I see that my almanack N Y World seems only to have cost 25 cents and I want you to try all you can to get a copy of Mrs Alick McLeods [sic] *The Silent Sea*<sup>761</sup> Harper 50 cents. It was published in 1894 in papers<sup>762</sup> - You know the author is Mrs F Martin - She wants to give a copy to Lady Northcote<sup>763</sup> who thinks *An Australian Girl*<sup>764</sup> the best of Australian novels and I fear we cannot get one of the 3rd edition at all - If you could pick up a copy she and I would be much obliged to you -

I had a letter and a lot of literature addressed to the Hon C H Spence by Mr Fellows Jenkins<sup>765</sup> Chief Probation Officer New York who had seen an article quoted from the *Church Commonwealth*<sup>766</sup> somewhere under my name - evidently the one about Children's Courts - I am sending him the still more important one for America about infant protection and a booklet to show who and what I am -

New York was the only place where I could not succeed in getting paying audiences - I found it impenetrable - My first lecture was at Syracuse invited by Harriet May Mills<sup>767</sup> - my second was at Philadelphia invited by Katharine J Musson<sup>768</sup> 1500 South Broad St and there I had seven lectures about half paid for - I had a nice letter from her two days ago acknowledging my booklet - I hope you get all the literature I send you - I think the *Juvenile Court Record*<sup>769</sup> will have run out but you will see it at the School of Philanthropy -

I feel disposed to send your acct of the examination you went through to the Register - to show that the U. S. is more particular than the Commonwealth -

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<sup>760</sup> Spence's speech to the Women Employe's [sic] Mutual Association at the Trades Hall, entitled 'A Bundle of Sticks', was reported in the *Register* 26 February 1906. p.7f.

<sup>761</sup> *The Silent Sea* by Mrs Alick Macleod (pseudonym of Catherine Martin) was published in 1892 in London by Bentley & Son and in New York by Harper & Bros.

<sup>762</sup> *The Silent Sea* was serialised under the pseudonym "Antarlo" author of "An Australian Girl" in the *Adelaide Observer* April-December 1892, and in the *Melbourne Age* April 1892-January 1893.

<sup>763</sup> Lady Northcote was the wife of Henry Stafford Northcote, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Northcote, (1846-1911), Governor-General of Australia. As Alice Brook, adopted daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Mount Stephen, she had married Northcote in 1873.

<sup>764</sup> *An Australian Girl* was published anonymously in London by Bentley & Son in 1890, with a second edition in 1891. The third edition 1894 - a 'Colonial Edition' - was published under the pseudonym 'Mrs Alick Macleod'.

<sup>765</sup> Superintendent E. Fellows Jenkins worked for the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

<sup>766</sup> *An Anglican periodical* published in Melbourne.

<sup>767</sup> Harriet May Mills (1857-1935), active campaigner for woman's suffrage. In 1920 she ran for Secretary of State in New York, the first woman to stand for state wide office.

<sup>768</sup> Spence met Katharine Jane Musson, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893. Spence later lectured in Philadelphia.

<sup>769</sup> *The Juvenile Court Record* (sometimes *The Juvenile*), an irregular monthly, published in Chicago 1900-1932, originally by the Chicago Visitation and Aid Society.

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I have kept well through the heat but Mrs Quilty has been ill for nearly a fortnight. We had a change of wind and it is pleasant today but no rain or prospect of rain -

The Martins are in Rome and Fred is much better - Up to the latter end of Jany there had been no cold weather and he was out of doors for hours every day -

Vida Goldstein wants me to join some International Woman's Suffrage Assn. I am waiting to consult with Miss Tomkinson who conferred with her in Melbourne where Miss T. was for part of her holiday - During this heat I have done no more than I was obliged to do - Mrs Webster<sup>770</sup> is in Melbourne to take the Unitarian pulpit for a fortnight to give Mr Lambley<sup>771</sup> a holiday.

I hope you have seen "The Social Unrest" Graham Brooks<sup>772</sup> - I sent it to Katie Martin - the papers say Jack London<sup>773</sup> is coming to Australia to enquire and report - probably to lecture - Lucy is much taken up with the Kindergarten - Mrs Birks<sup>774</sup> left yesterday and I gave her introductions to friends - Do you hear of much good done by Nat Coun of Women in the U K or the U. S.

Yours in much love CH Spence

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<sup>770</sup> Mrs Martha Webster was living in Gippsland.

<sup>771</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906, editor of the *Month by Month* Journal of the Unitarian Church at the turn of the century.

<sup>772</sup> *The Social Unrest: studies in labor and socialist movements* by John Graham Brooks (1846-1938), London & New York, Macmillan, 1903.

<sup>773</sup> John Griffith London (1876-1916), American labourer, sailor, gold prospector, journalist and prolific writer, especially about men and animals pitted against the environment. He was a lecturer who endorsed socialism and woman suffrage.

<sup>774</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

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**PRG 88/7/64**

[This letter is to Alice Henry's brother, Alfred, in Victoria. It was evidently sent on to his sister.]

North Norwood  
6th March [1906]

My dear Mr Henry

I think I can get and send the portraits connected with the State Childrens Council. I went to the Herald office yesterday to ask for the photos of Price<sup>775</sup> and Kirkpatrick<sup>776</sup> - and I was told that the likenesses in the two supplements would do well enough to reproduce. I meant to send you the supplements but found I would be likely to crumple them. You will see that Macgregor<sup>777</sup> [sic] has a crease already. If these will not do let me know and I will apply to Mr Price for a photo - They cannot be sent till Friday week from here. It is no use writing by the English mail for the direct American is quicker - Apparently the two articles your sister has an order for are on the Labour Movement and on Australian methods with State Children but if she has to wait for photos it causes great delay - As I had two copies of Price and Kirkpatrick, I send you both, but I have only one of McGregor -

Thomas Price was a stonemason by trade of Welsh extraction but grew up in Liverpool. He has a great deal of natural eloquence and of Celtic enthusiasm. He has been in Parliament for about twelve years and always for the same district suburban Sturt - but in the amalgamation of districts due to the reduction of members Sturt was united with East Torrens and called Torrens and is the only electorate that returns five members. Tom Price was at the head of the poll - but all five Torrens Representatives Assembly men are on the Labour ticket - 12000 voters elected five and 9000 elected no one.

We have only four ministers - It was a coalition of the Labour and Liberal party. Two Price and Kirkpatrick are Labour men. Two Peake<sup>778</sup> and O'Loughlin<sup>779</sup> are liberals. The Labourites in the Assembly are more numerous than the Liberals - If there had been five three should have been Labour and two Liberal -

Kirkpatrick is the only Labour man in the Upper House and has a hard task to keep the Labour flag flying there - The most important measures progressive land taxation especially are thrown out in the Legislative Council - and without that there is not sufficient revenue to carry out necessary reforms in administration - I am glad

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<sup>775</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, foreman, chairman United Labor Party 1909, member of Parliament 1893-1909, Premier of South Australia, commissioner of Public Works, minister of Education, 1905-1909.

<sup>776</sup> Andrew Alexander Kirkpatrick (1848-1928), compositor, President of United Labor Party and Trades and Labor Council of South Australia, member of Legislative Council 1891-1909. Later Agent- General.

<sup>777</sup> Gregor McGregor (1848-1914), builder's labourer, gardener and federal politician; president and secretary United Builders Labourers Association; president Trades and Labor Council; president United Labor Party 1893-4; Senator (Labor) 1901-1914. His sight was damaged in an accident.

<sup>778</sup> Archibald Henry Peake (1859-1920), local government officer and auctioneer, member of Mt Barker District Council, member House of Assembly in South Australian Parliament 1897-1920. Premier four times.

<sup>779</sup> Laurence Theodore O'Loughlin (1854-1927), farmer and grazier, member of House of Assembly in the South Australian Parliament 1899-1918.

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that your sister has at last got some work that is to be paid for - The Australian Herald<sup>780</sup> does not pay I know.

I am exceptionally busy this week - You may forward this letter to Miss Henry if you think the information of value - I shall write to her next week -

I am glad that my friend Mrs Garlin Spencer<sup>781</sup> has been so kind to Miss Henry.

Believe me  
Always yours truly  
C.H. Spence

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<sup>780</sup> *Australian Herald: a religious social magazine 1889-1908*, published in Melbourne by Mason, Firth & McCutcheon.

<sup>781</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.



**PRG 88 7/65**

North Norwood  
16th March 1906

My dear Miss Henry

In separate packet I send you photos of Thomas Price<sup>782</sup> Stonecutter Premier of South Australia and of the blind Senator Gregor McGregor<sup>783</sup> (Labourer) which your brother<sup>784</sup> could not procure in Melbourne. I got them from Mr F J Wallis<sup>785</sup> Sec. Trades Hall. at first as a loan but your brother writes that if copies can be procured locally he will pay for them - so you need not worry about returning them and I believe these are quite new and not Mr Wallis's own. I also send a good photo of Miss Clark to whom you must give full credit as the originator of what has taken such great proportions in Aust. & New Zealand - of Mr Rhodes our President and Mr Gray our Secretary and also one mounted and one one [sic] unmounted which is enclosed here of Miss Moule - It was forgotten to be enclosed so I put it in this letter along with some proceedings at the State Childrens Council last Monday which will interest you.

I am much pleased with Miss Pennys<sup>786</sup> report and wish it could have been given in full - I want you to emphasise in America the distinguishing characteristic of this work in Australia that it is not permissive but obligatory to place all our children in family homes. I sent you a leading article<sup>787</sup> in which I showed that adoption can only take a small proportion of those who are cast on the state - and that a moderate subsidy ensures good homes if there is good inspection. You noted in England that even the advocates of boarding out were too indifferent as to inspection - which is our bounden duty as responsible for the children committed to our care -

You said in a P. C. that you [were] at a New York Juvenile Court and thought they had much to learn and we are all anxious to know in what direction - Mr Gray says that the American Courts show on paper greater results than ours - because the judges have everything in their hands and if they are good do exceedingly well - but it would be better that the Council should have the power of modifying or altering the sentence than that we should give this power to such magistrates as we have - At the last meeting we recommended the appointment of a paid probation officer<sup>788</sup> and to confer with the Magistrate so that he might signify that a child might be left at home under the surveillance of the probation officer - instead of discharging him or committing him - This apparently is done greatly in the US - and successfully - Here we have had the two departments the Ind<sup>789</sup> and the Ref.<sup>790</sup> to send them to if proof is sufficient and if not bad enough for either they are let go - Miss Clark has been for years fighting for some system that would keep boys out of the institutions and

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<sup>782</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, foreman, chairman United Labor Party 1909, member of Parliament 1893-1909, Premier of South Australia, commissioner of Public Works, minister of Education, 1905-1909.

<sup>783</sup> Gregor McGregor (1848-1914), builder's labourer, gardener and federal politician; president and secretary United Builders Labourers Association; president Trades and Labor Council; president United Labor Party 1893-4; Senator (Labor) 1901-1914. His sight was damaged in an accident.

<sup>784</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>785</sup> Frederick Samuel Wallis (1857-1939), printer and politician, president of United Trades and Labour Council 1896, secretary 1897-1909, Member of Legislative Council 1907-1921.

<sup>786</sup> Evelyn Emma Penny, Travelling Inspectress for the State Children's Department.

<sup>787</sup> Spence referred to this article, published as an anonymous leader in *Register* 2 January 1906 p. 4bd. in her letter to Henry dated 12 January 1906.

<sup>788</sup> Miss Kate Cocks was later appointed.

<sup>789</sup> Industrial School

<sup>790</sup> Reformatory

extending to first offenders the same supervision as is exercised when a boy or girl is released on petition before the expiry of his sentence - for six or twelve months on probation -

At last we had it discussed and favourably considered - Miss Clark talks of resigning because she is so deaf but she will not resign till this method is in full operation.

She and I also make war on finer for punishment - It is nothing for the well to do but cruel for the poor - I have no doubt you can say much that is valuable about Boarding Out and juvenile Courts and much that is invaluable about Miss Moules work - I feel that no one could go to the States better equipped with the Gospel for neglected and delinquent children than Alice Henry - I was so glad that you were with Katherine Musson<sup>791</sup> - I knew you would like each other - She got me up seven meetings in Philadelphia in 1893.

I was very glad that you were at last having some offers of payment but if you have to wait for these photos before you can write your articles it seems a terrible delay and there is a mail only once in three weeks - I hope you are getting a lot of hospitality - That kept me going three months longer than I could have done.

I have been extra busy - prepared a long ~~article~~ address for the Working Women's Union on A Bundle of Sticks<sup>792</sup> - hoped it would be in the Herald but there was not room - Took the church last Sunday mg & evg with new sermons. Had prepared for this next Sunday when I hear [sic] that Mr. Lambley<sup>793</sup> is coming for two Sundays which will give Mr Reid<sup>794</sup> another week's holiday - I wonder how our people will take to Mr Lambley -

I suppose my discourses will keep but it was rather a surprise as I thought Mr L. had declined - I have done two articles for the Register one column on Canadian Matters<sup>795</sup> and rather less on Miss Ethel McCauls Under the care of the Japanese war office<sup>796</sup>. Her observations at the front of Japanese methods.

I have had more than my average of meetings. Vida Goldsteins letter is unanswered - I consulted Miss Tomkinson and she thinks we might join and subscribe to her International affairs - She found Vida changed - the Xtian Science business has affected all her outlook. Mrs Watson Lister is also heavy on my conscience - Mrs Morice has had influenza and so has Pat and they are off to Sydney by sea for a change and Jim takes his three weeks holiday with them - Mrs Martin will have two books published by McMillan[sic] shortly.<sup>797</sup> Curiously enough I got the news through the Pethericks<sup>798</sup> who got it from Hilda Bülow a fellow passenger (from New Zealand) in the German boat that took the Martins home about

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<sup>791</sup> Spence met Katharine Jane Musson of 1500 Broad Street, Philadelphia, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893.

<sup>792</sup> Spence's speech, 'A Bundle of Sticks', to the Women Employe's [sic] Mutual Association at the Trades Hall was reported in the Register 26 February 1906. p.7f.

<sup>793</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906, editor of the *Month by Month* Journal of the Unitarian Church at the turn of the century.

<sup>794</sup> John Reid was the minister of the Adelaide Unitarian Church.

<sup>795</sup> Spence's article 'Canadian Notes: men and matters' appeared in the *Register* 10 March 1906, p. 10a.

<sup>796</sup> Spence's article 'English Ladies in Japan. Under the care of the War Office' appeared in the *Register* 21 March 1906, p. 6cd.

<sup>797</sup> There is some confusion here. The only book by Catherine Martin which appeared in 1906 was *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, published by Longmans.

<sup>798</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917), bookseller, publisher, bibliographer and book collector. He married Mary Agnes Skeats née Annead in 1892. Spence had stayed with the Pethericks in England in 1894. They were very good to her when she broke her arm.

1890 - She is somehow engaged at McMillans<sup>799</sup> [sic] and recognised the name through the telephone or telegraph - Fred Martin has made good progress in Rome in the way of health - Harriet Cook<sup>800</sup> was disappointed in that when you saw her friend Miss Giles the New Oxford lady you told her you knew Moxon and his wife<sup>801</sup> but not the friend who had impressed on you the duty of seeing Miss Giles and learning about the N O<sup>802</sup>. Movement.

You recollect on your first visit when I asked Mrs Hübbe<sup>803</sup> and her sister Harriet to meet you how Mr Whitham came and dominated the field - No one could get in a word - He did just the same thing a few weeks ago when I was at the Rev J Reids when there were two Miss Cromptons<sup>804</sup> Mrs C Birks<sup>805</sup> and your humble servant with the Reid family on the lawn. He dropped in and took the floor as the Irish say. He feels very ill used because there is a new Director of Education<sup>806</sup> put over the inspectors who was only a successful leader of a State School - but he still has his £500 a year -

The General Manager of the English and Scottish Bank is taking a holiday and C. Wren must go to Melbourne to take his place for 6 months or perhaps nine - but I don't think Eleanor and Marjorie will leave Sydney. Mrs Wren will follow her husband in a little. Meantime he is staying with the Davies's at Glenferrie - They had scarcely got well settled down when this turn up was demanded - Miss Gregory has got as far as Tailm Bend 8 miles from Murray Bridge on her way home from a delightful visit to Sydney - She will not be home for some weeks -

Love to all the friends of mine you meet

Yours ever C H. Spence

Writing more than one letter at a time I thought I saw a blank page of yours and covered the beginning of a letter to Flurschein. It is spoiled for him. I must write it over again and enclose it for you.

[Fragment of letter to Michael Flurschein which Spence refers to as being on the back of one page of the letter to Alice Henry]

Michael Flurschein  
Coronado California  
North Norwood  
South Australia  
16th March 1906

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<sup>799</sup> Macmillan & Co., publishers.

<sup>800</sup> Harriet Ann Cook (1855-1943), schoolteacher. The Cooks were Unitarians and had been friends of Spence for many years. Harriet taught at her sister Edith Hübbe's school.

<sup>801</sup> Moxon Cook, brother of Edith Hübbe and Harriet Cook, and his wife Beatrice, née Woodville.

<sup>802</sup> New Oxford.

<sup>803</sup> Edith Agnes Hübbe née Cook (1860-1942), first woman matriculant of the University of Adelaide, headmistress of the Advanced School for Girls 1879-1885, proprietor and headmistress of a private school at Knightsbridge in Adelaide 1885-1921.

<sup>804</sup> Members of the Crompton family were Unitarians.

<sup>805</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee. She worked with Spence on the National Council of Women.

<sup>806</sup> Alfred Williams (1863-1913), teacher and educational reformer.

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My dear Mr Flürscheim.

I have delayed answering your letter and congratulating you and Mrs Flurschein on the birth of a fine boy which I do now very heartily because I sent your letter first to my neice<sup>807</sup> [sic] and her husband and then to Mr and Mrs Webster Gippsland<sup>808</sup> for their opinion as to your reply - All of them are satisfied that there is a fallacy somewhere but you have confined your attention to the medium of exchange which only answers half of the argument - The question is could we have built our railways and our waterworks

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<sup>807</sup> Lucy Morice.

<sup>808</sup> Martha Webster and her husband John were living at Boolarra in Gippsland.

**PRG 88/7/66**

North Norwood  
6th April 1906

My dear Miss Henry

In the first place lest I forget - Have you ascertained anything about the operations of the National Councils of Women in the U. K. or in the U. S. Are they doing much effective work.

Next did you hear anything about the founding of the Tribune<sup>809</sup> and the Rev Harold Rylett's<sup>810</sup> mission through all English speaking countries in the interests of the paper - for which Mr Thomasson<sup>811</sup> the support of the New Age<sup>812</sup> for the last ten years has provided the funds. Mr. Lambley<sup>813</sup> who was here for two Sundays said to me he was sorry you were not in Melbourne when Mr Rylett paid his visits for he thinks you might have had a good chance of getting the post of Melbourne contributor - I fancy I spoke of Mr Rylett in my last letter. Mrs Webster was deeply interested in him. He was here only from Thursday till Tuesday. I heard him address the S T<sup>814</sup> League on Friday at church on Sunday and on Men I have met on Monday evg - and liked him much. His main objective is the land question. He is a friend of Sir H C Bannerman<sup>815</sup> and writes to him not to be in a hurry - Rylett has been enquiring into the experiments made in N Z in N S W and in S A in taxing land values - and evidently thinks that the £500 exemption in N. Z the £240 exemption in N S W, and the smallness of the tax of 1<sup>d</sup> in N S W and of ½<sup>d</sup> in S. A. makes them inadequate. He said the trend in the U.K. was to municipal L V<sup>816</sup> taxation. That might lighten the housing difficulty but it would not break up the large estates - I myself think it could lead to expenditure in towns of money needed for production in the agricultural land of the U K - and nothing but a tax that would be felt can restore the land to the people. He says repurchase by Govts in Australia only enhances the value of the land - I go further and say that in SA at any rate the use of the seed drill and phosphates has doubled the value of the land and made the expense of that and of the necessary machinery too great to allow the poor man to go on it - We all liked Mr Rylett very much - both on the pulpit & the platform - I strike out all for some of the conservative Unitarians must have thought him a mischievous agitator. The Tribune wants to have more news and the right kind of news from all British dependencies. Rylett has made an 8 months journey and only gave five days to S. A. I talked to him in halls and at the church door and I wrote him two letters - One on our State Childrens Dept chiefly - the other on the land question and on the right attitude of Single Taxers to the Labour party - He was not like Rep. Lonsdale<sup>817</sup> who abuses them as badly as the Capitalists. In my second letter I mentioned you as one who

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<sup>809</sup> The *Tribune*, a London Liberal paper, supporting, among other things, woman's suffrage, ran from January 1906 to February 1908.

<sup>810</sup> Rev. Harold Rylett (1851-1936), Unitarian minister and journalist.

<sup>811</sup> Franklin Thomasson (1873-1941), the son of millionaire John Pennington Thomasson, was proprietor of the *Tribune* newspaper, and MP for Leicester 1906-10.

<sup>812</sup> *The New Age: a weekly review of Politics, Literature and Art* edited by A. R. Orage.

<sup>813</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906.

<sup>814</sup> Single Tax.

<sup>815</sup> Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman (1836-1908), Scottish parliamentarian, opposer of the Boer War, Prime Minister of England 1905-1908.

<sup>816</sup> Land Value.

<sup>817</sup> Edmund Lonsdale, builder and contractor, NSW parliamentarian, member of Federal House of Representatives 1903-1906.

could be relied on to give the right view of Australian affairs if when you returned to Melbourne. Mr. Lambley got your address and said he might write -

All this before I acknowledge your letter which I sent on to Mrs Watson Lister two days ago. You do not say where you are living at the moment - I am glad you have some promise of paying work - I agree with you that Judge Lindsays [sic] example is a Counsel of Perfection - The ordinary indeed the good police magistrate or judge could not be trusted. Mr Gray says we have sufficiently good machinery to carry on as good work as America does - or better - for the Council is a safer court of ultimate appeal than any single judge. We have recommended the appointment of our paid probation officer an excellent and zealous woman at present in the Dept<sup>818</sup> and if that is approved, the sentences can be held over. Miss Clark wants this very much and says if it is carried out she will think of resigning on acct of her deafness.

I have been exceptionally busy the last three weeks - I had taken one Sundays services and was prepared for another when Mr Lambley consented to come - I have written the enclosed about play centres and have twice as much in M. S. a study of Julie Sutters "Britains next Campaign"<sup>819</sup> against poverty - which was lent to me by a prominent citizen a strong conservative and individualist<sup>820</sup> - He is attracted by the Elberfeld system of Charity<sup>821</sup> - but it is as Stead says 'a dynamo of a book' the strongest argument for taxation of land values I ever read in my life. She is author of "A Colony of Mercy"<sup>822</sup> I have ordered both books for myself but I fear they must be sent to England for - I have ordered a copy of Britains Next Campaign for Mrs Martin for they lived many months in Cologne where Julie Sutter says the Elberfeld system is carried on - I hope my Register will publish my study - I make practical suggestions for the improvement of our outdoor relief in S. A. which could be carried out with existing machinery for as to finding 500 citizens to look after the poor personally as is done in Elberfeld - that is impossible. If the articles come out I shall send them to you. I wrote to the editor that this conservative gentleman sent me the book and I found it of such paramount importance that it needed a great deal of space. I don't mind about the payment but I am most anxious for publicity. I have to think of something to say at the opening meeting of my Girls Literary Society tonight - after I have got this letter off my hands.

Mrs Spence has let her house furnished to a good tenant for six months from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, and she is going with her single daughter and her neice [sic] to Melbourne - taking apartments - She likes to go to Melbourne for two or three months every year - I believe the maids remain with the Percy Stows - by the by Mrs Percy Stow was a Mrs Langloh Parker<sup>823</sup> who wrote a capital book on Australian myths and legends for which Andrew Lang<sup>824</sup> wrote an introduction. They are newly married but are both nearly 50 - Mrs Morice returned from her holiday in Sydney on Monday, but I have not seen her yet - I have only seen Miss Tomkinson once since she returned from her trip -

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<sup>818</sup> Miss Kate Cocks had been working in the Department as a clerk.

<sup>819</sup> *Cities or Citizens; or Britain's Next Campaign* by Julie Sutter 1901, republished 1903 as *Britain's Next Campaign*.

<sup>820</sup> Mr Herbert Phillipps.

<sup>821</sup> The Elberfeld system of poor relief, in which towns are divided into small districts with an almoner who helps the poor to help themselves, was developed in Germany in the mid 1800s.

<sup>822</sup> *A Colony of Mercy, or Christianity at Work* by Julie Sutter 1893.

<sup>823</sup> Katie (Catherine) Langloh Parker (1856-1940), *Australian Legendary Tales: Folklore of the Noongahbarraks As told to the Piccaninnies*. Collected by K. Langloh Parker with an introduction by Andrew Lang. London, D.Nutt; Melbourne, Melville, Mullen & Slade, 1896.

<sup>824</sup> Andrew Lang (1844-1912), Scottish poet, novelist, literary critic and collector of folk and fairy tales.

C Wren is in Melbourne locum tenens for General Manager. Nell will join him after Easter – Eleanor and Marjorie will remain in Sydney. We have had glorious rains since I wrote – The floods in Queensland and in our far north secure feed and water for stock for three seasons to come – Australia is on the full tide of prosperity – Our Govt has offered £280000 for the trams which has been accepted by Directors but needs consent of share holders and of parliament – The Snow<sup>825</sup> scheme offered 400000 and that made all the shareholders favour it – I shall be glad to know that you like my Boston friends as well as Mrs Spencer<sup>826</sup> and Katharine J Musson<sup>827</sup> - I had a nice letter from Mrs Hale<sup>828</sup> formerly of East Orange<sup>829</sup> but now at Harvard her husband theological lecturer there in acknowledgement of This for Remembrance<sup>830</sup> - Is this what you call a Biographical Sketch and say you have just received - I sent you some extra copies of the poem. I keep perfectly well the snipping of the end of my uvula has cured my irritating cough - Remember me affectionately to my good friends in the U S and believe me

Always yours heartily  
C.H. Spence

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<sup>825</sup> Mr Snow was the representative of companies like British Westinghouse Electric Company and Callender's Cable and Construction Company which wished to take the tramways into private ownership. The Tramways Bill to enable this was commonly known as the Snow Bill. It was eventually defeated and the tramways bought by the Government. Spence had fought for public ownership.

<sup>826</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.

<sup>827</sup> Spence met Katharine Jane Musson, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893. Spence later lectured in Philadelphia and continued to correspond with Musson.

<sup>828</sup> Emily Hale, nee Perkins. She married in 1852 Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), American author, reformer and Unitarian clergyman.

<sup>829</sup> A city in New Jersey.

<sup>830</sup> *Catherine Helen Spence 1825-1905. This for Remembrance* Adelaide, W. K. Thomas, 1905. This pamphlet of 36 pages was published to celebrate Spence's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It reprints an article from the *Register* 30 October 1905 preceding the celebrations, and an article on 31 October describing them.

**PRG 88/7/67**

North Norwood  
27<sup>th</sup> April 1906

My dear Miss Henry

In separate packet I send you Mr Watson's<sup>831</sup> speech delivered on the 25<sup>th</sup> Inst in Adelaide to a large and sympathetic Audience – not quite so large as Deakin's<sup>832</sup> speech had a month or so ago because so few Conservatives attended but there must have been 4,000 there – I think the Labour programme is the most definite of the three and if the party comes up with additional strength at the Decr elections as is probable it may be strong enough to carry the more important measures. I have a Times of March 17<sup>th</sup> sent me with a long article in [sic] P R probably by Humphreys<sup>833</sup> or Courteney<sup>834</sup> quoting from Prof Nansons lecture on the Three Elevens<sup>835</sup> – saying that the Labour Party in the U K promised to be a third party to reckon with. Humphreys wants me to utilise this for the Register and I mean to do so – but I have done a lot for the Register lately – I think I told you last letter that I had been profoundly impressed by Julie Sutters book *Cities and Citizens - Britain's next Campaign*<sup>836</sup> and had written on it at great length – I send you the slips<sup>837</sup> – The Conservative gentleman Mr Herbert Phillipps<sup>838</sup> who lent me the book is going halves with me in getting 500 copies printed as a leaflet<sup>839</sup> – for he is going to make a big try to get the citizens of Adelaide and other municipalities to take up work on the Elberfeld<sup>840</sup> lines, and as the book cannot be got here (I have ordered it from England) my presentment of its main lines will be useful as part of the propoganda – I must have copies to send to all the members of Parliament – as if the reforms I suggest are to be carried out by the Destitute Board, money must be voted on the Estimates –

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<sup>831</sup> John Christian Watson (1867-1941), compositor, at 26 President of the Sydney Trades and Labour Council, member of Parliament for NSW 1894-1901, member of the Federal House of Representatives 1901-1910, and first Labour Prime Minister of Australia 1904.

<sup>832</sup> Alfred Deakin (1856-1919), lawyer, teacher and journalist, member of Parliament for Victoria 1880-1900, member of Federal Parliament 1901-1910, first Attorney-General in Federal Parliament, Prime Minister of Australia 1903-4.

<sup>833</sup> John H. Humphreys, for many years a writer on proportional representation and constitutional reform. He was honorary secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England. Spence had met him when she was in England in 1894.

<sup>834</sup> Leonard Henry Courteney, Baron Courteney, (1836-1918), English politician and man of letters. An advocate of proportional representation and women's rights. Spence had met him when she was in England in 1894.

<sup>835</sup> Professor Nanson's lecture, given in Melbourne in November 1904, dealt with Victoria's three political parties.

<sup>836</sup> *Cities or Citizens; or Britain's Next Campaign* by Julie Sutter 1901, republished 1903 as *Britain's Next Campaign*.

<sup>837</sup> Spence's article 'A Study of Poverty. The Problem of the Poor' was published in two parts in the *Register*: 23 April 1906 p. 8gh; 24 April 1906 p. 6cd.

<sup>838</sup> William Herbert Phillipps, later Sir, (1847-1935), South Australian merchant, businessman and active philanthropist.

<sup>839</sup> The two articles were reprinted from the *Register* in a pamphlet entitled *Elberfeld System of Charity: a Study of Poverty*. pp. 26.

<sup>840</sup> The Elberfeld system of poor relief, in which towns are divided into small districts with an almoner who helps the poor to help themselves, was developed in Germany in the mid 1800s.



You may know Miss Sutter's book *A Colony of Mercy*<sup>841</sup> which deals I think with the feeble-minded – I have also ordered that, but I have not read it. I wrote to Miss Sutter care of David Somerville Esq Colinton<sup>842</sup> Edinburgh – a friend of Herbert Phillipps who is stone deaf but very able who is also a close friend of Miss Sutter's. Mr Phillipps is going to call a meeting of citizens early in May<sup>843</sup> to formulate a scheme – and he is most hopeful of support – Mr Gray of the State Children's Council to whom I lent the book in transit back to its owner thinks men could be found and wants to be one himself – He takes great stock of the Land Question as made so prominent by Miss Sutter, but I am not at all sure that H. P. does – I had an hour or two's talk yesterday with Miss Tomkinson on the matter and I think we will have good help from her and from Lucy Morice – Lucy has the most delightful committee to work with in the Kindergarten Union – a contrast to the Nat Council of Women that are such a worry and disappointment to Miss Tomkinson.

I think I sent you the article on Playgrounds<sup>844</sup> &c in which I spoke of my visit to the Kindergarten – I think to [sic] that I have asked you once or twice what you think of the N. C. of W. in England and America – I know that in the desire for the suffrage there is a strong bond of union and also a strong motive for progressive thought and action which is absent in all Australia but Victoria and even there the victory is half won – Today's papers tell us of the indignation of the women who were in the Ladies Gallery H. of C<sup>845</sup>. when the Woman's Suffrage Bill was talked out – Such a scene had [not] been known since 1777 – Did you find W Ss<sup>846</sup> in England who wanted it on the same terms as men or only for rate payers and property owners?

I shall send you two or three copies of the leaflet which contains a final clause altered in proof after a conversation with Mr P. whom I know very slightly – But I must not forget to tell you that Miss Sutter has been trying hard to get the Elberfeld system applied to Edinburgh but has I think been beaten – There are 80 benevolent Associations in Edin and the official and clerical staff in all these Ass<sup>s</sup> and all their friends have been fighting to the death anything that would render their services and their organisations weaker and weaker and threaten their very existence – In Adelaide, thanks to the excellent organisation of both Destitute and State Children's Dept – there are fewer such Assns than in any other Australian State. Some things must stand under whatever conditions we live – The Childrens Hospital the Hospital for Incurables – the Blind Industrial School The Brighton School for blind and deaf and dumb – the Convalescent Home - Minda improved – and the Queens Home for maternity cases – But your innumerable Ladies Benevolent Associations do not exist except as church charities – As our Govt from its beginning refused to subsidise any denominational schools or orphanages they have scarcely any existence except among the R. C and a few in two Anglican institutions –

I spoke to my Board which was a bare quorum yesterday about my suggestions for more liberal treatment of the out door poor and asked if Govt would grant some more money would the Chairman<sup>847</sup> object to give fuel and potatoes in addition to the ration scale – or to forbear from making absolute destitution the only plea for relief – or to relieve genuine cases of unemployment – He rather grudgingly

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<sup>841</sup> *A Colony of Mercy, or Christianity at Work* by Julie Sutter 1893.

<sup>842</sup> A parish a few miles south of Edinburgh.

<sup>843</sup> This meeting was held in the Adelaide Town Hall on 23 May 1906 and reported in the *Register* p. 6fg, and the *Advertiser* p. 6hi, on 24 May 1906.

<sup>844</sup> Spence's article 'Children at Play. Playgrounds and Play centres' was published in the *Register* on 14 April 1906.

<sup>845</sup> House of Commons.

<sup>846</sup> Woman suffrage workers.

<sup>847</sup> T. H. Atkinson J. P.

said that these things might be done – but brought up and cradled [?] in the idea that the relief was sufficient – and that the administration was perfect – and above all that there had been no complaints – he thought that private charity stepped in and supplemented our deficiencies, he was afraid that if we did too much for the out door poor it would pauperise them and deprive the rich of the privilege of stepping in –

I said there were a hundred rich men in and about Adelaide who gave to everything and perhaps a thousand who gave to nothing – and that was why I liked State or Communal Charity – I had only Mr Leahy the R. C. out of the four gentlemen there and I think he was in cordial agreement with me.

Will you note in Mr Watsons speech that he says it is because Australia is a better country than Canada that such vast areas are bought for sheep – so that Aust. has not the great quantity of land open for settlement by new comers. I note there are fewer head of sheep than of cattle in the Dominion. The milk butter and cheese pay for winter feeding and winter housing – You will note how little mutton is eaten in the States compared with beef and pork. You see few sheep in the States – They need wool from Australia and the Argentine for their manufactures –

Mrs Spence has let her house for six months furnished to Mr & Mrs Percy Stow. He is a cousin of Miss Tomkinsons – nearly 50. She was Mrs Langloh Parker<sup>848</sup> who has written two valuable books on Australian myths and folk lore with prefaces by Andrew Lang<sup>849</sup> – She is a little older but they are just married. Mrs Spence is going into four good rooms on the Alma Road five doors from Chapel St and near Daisy Stephen's new house – She likes to be in Melbourne two or three months in the year and she has £4 a week for the house which goes far to pay £9 a week for rooms and board for three – It does her good to be in Melbourne – there she goes to Dr Strongs<sup>850</sup> church and travels by train and is shaken out of her groove. The Stows keep on the two excellent servants – Charles Wren and his wife are in Melbourne at present with the Davies's – Eleanor and Marjorie are keeping on the house in Sydney until Mr Urquhart<sup>851</sup> comes back from his holiday – Marjorie at school.

I find 6 sheets are too heavy so I copy out the last written one to save 2½<sup>d</sup> a nickel [page 6 of this 5 sheet letter has been written across the back of page 3] – Mrs Boulter<sup>852</sup> wrote to me that her neice [sic] had never seen you. She was told that your address was the Bank and she wrote to the Bank of England – I did not let Mrs Boulter know that you had been in Birmingham – Harriet Cook is disappointed because you did not even mention her name to her friend and correspondent Miss Giles of Ruskin Hall or New Ruskin. You spoke of Moxon and Trix<sup>853</sup> but not of Harriet -

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<sup>848</sup> Katie (Catherine) Langloh Parker (1856-1940), *Australian Legendary Tales: Folklore of the Noongahbarraks As told to the Piccaninnies*. Collected by K. Langloh Parker with an introduction by Andrew Lang. London, D.Nutt; Melbourne, Melville, Mullen & Slade, 1896. *More Australian Legendary Tales. Collected from various tribes*. London D. Nutt; Melbourne, Melville, Mullen & Slade, 1898.

<sup>849</sup> Andrew Lang (1844-1912), Scottish poet, novelist, literary critic and collector of folk and fairy tales.

<sup>850</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church which Spence attended.

<sup>851</sup> Alexander Urquhart, general manager in Australia of the English, Scottish and Australian Bank.

<sup>852</sup> A friend of Mr and Mrs Henry Gyles Turner.

<sup>853</sup> Moxon Cook and his wife Beatrice neé Woodville. They lived in Melbourne where Moxon was a journalist. Harriet, Moxon's sister, lived in Adelaide and taught in her sister Edith Hübbe's school.

You say you told the Suffrage people in America things absolutely new to them – You also say the Juvenile Courts have much to learn – in what direction? We have secured a very able probation officer from the clerical staff of the Dept Miss Cocks with a rise from £66 to £80.

I hope this afternoon to have a visit from your friend Mrs Noar whom I met casually on Sunday and travelled as far as Goodwood in the train. She asked very anxiously after you –

On Wednesday night coming home from Mr Watson's Speech I met in tram Crawford Vaughan<sup>854</sup> with Evelyn Goode and her sister Olive. Evelyn asked kindly after you – and wondered how long you would be away. I said it depended on circumstances – she also asked if you still kept up your connection with Ward & Lock – She is to be married within three months and will live near here in a large house belonging to her father till it is sold.

I am anxious about your finances – If you get stumped could not your brother<sup>855</sup> help you through? – I fancy he did something to help to keep you in Melbourne – Of course I should prefer your making a triumphant success as a speaker and writer in the U S.

The appalling catastrophe in San Francisco<sup>856</sup> has been filling the papers. My good old friend Cridge<sup>857</sup> died some years ago – He worked on the Star<sup>858</sup> in Montgomery St one of the business streets which were wrecked – I had four Stars yesterday – James Barry editor and proprietor would be a sufferer – I ought to write more American letters but I have used up my time to you – I am glad you had a mild winter – I had an average one. You say you hope to be in Boston in April – I think of you with my dear friends the Ames's<sup>859</sup> and the Garrisons. I hope you will see the Hales<sup>860</sup> of Harvard and Eliza Stowe Twitchell<sup>861</sup> of Wollaston Heights<sup>862</sup>. The Garrisons know them –

Always yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>854</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee. He married Evelyn Goode, novelist and children's writer, in 1906.

<sup>855</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>856</sup> The great earthquake which destroyed San Francisco took place on 18 April 1906.

<sup>857</sup> Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco.

<sup>858</sup> Californian Star, California's first newspaper.

<sup>859</sup> Julia Frances (Fanny) Ames (1840-1931) was the wife of Unitarian minister Charles Gordon Ames (1828-1912). They lived at 12 Chestnut Street Boston. Spence had met them in America and corresponded with them for the rest of her life.

<sup>860</sup> Emily Hale, nee Perkins and her husband Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), American author, reformer and Unitarian clergyman.

<sup>861</sup> Eliza Stowe Twitchell had spoken at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893 on 'The Industrial Revolution of the Last Century'. She published 1894 *Economic Principles or How Wealth is produced and How it is distributed* partly on the subject of land value taxation. Spence had encountered her at the Conference.

<sup>862</sup> A suburb of Boston.

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**PRG 88/7/68**

North Norwood  
May 18th [1906]

My dear Miss Henry

When I closed my last letter I was expecting a visit from your friend Mrs Noar, and she came to the door accompanied quite by chance by Mrs Stevens and her sister Miss Isabella Tod, on a visit to sister, neices [sic] of the old Belfast suffragist<sup>863</sup> and both great friends of Mrs Webster - I enjoyed them all but especially Mrs Noar - While they were sitting here the postman brought your letter and I read great part of it to them. Isabella Tod thought you had a splendid opportunity but Mrs Noar and I were anxious as to your finances and said so before the letter was delivered - I think you are doing wonderfully well and if you can hold out till next lecturing season so as to make your engagements beforehand I have great hopes that you will earn a good deal more than you spend - You have good counsellors in Mrs Spencer<sup>864</sup> and Mrs Catt<sup>865</sup> - A week after or more Mrs W Lister sent me the letter with more details a letter you had written for the N. C. of W. in Victoria about dear Susan Anthony's death<sup>866</sup> which I only showed to Miss Tomkinson and returned to her and two Women's Journals<sup>867</sup> which I am posting back to her today - I have been much interested in hearing of her early life that she was a Quaker and a teacher in the public schools - and became a teacher of grown folks and a Unitarian - But the universal recognition of her great work for such a long life is a splendid thing - As your friend Mrs W L and Miss Tomkinson say it is a grand thing to have met and conferred with her - I feared when I heard of the death that you had not seen or heard her - but at Baltimore you did so and you will chalk it up in your memory - I know that I do - I was glad to read my dear W L Garrison's tribute to her memory - I sent the Register with the paragraph I wrote<sup>868</sup> before I had your letter to Mrs F Martin - One thing I mentioned in it which you probably emphasise in your addresses is that the Commonwealth bestowed the highest form of franchise on all its women whereas even in those four states that reckon they have the full franchise no woman can cast a vote for a US representative or for a President. The U S Senate is elected by the legislatures of the States so that the women of Colorado and the other three have a second hand interest in their State senators but I question the policy of double elections because the local legislature is often chosen more with an eye to the party Senators which they elect than to the real needs of the people of the State -

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<sup>863</sup> Isabella M. Tod (1836-1896), Scottish philanthropist, suffragist, unionist, and pioneer of educational opportunities for girls. She lived in Belfast from the 1860s.

<sup>864</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.

<sup>865</sup> Carrie Chapman Catt (1859-1947), American newspaper reporter, writer, lecturer and skilful political strategist, State organiser of the Iowa Woman Suffrage Association and later President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

<sup>866</sup> Susan Brownell Anthony (1820- March 13 1906), teacher, temperance worker, famous campaigner for women's rights, woman suffrage, women's labour organisations and the abolition of slavery. Spence had met her when she was in America in 1894.

<sup>867</sup> *The Woman's Journal*, Boston & Chicago, 1870-1917. A weekly, it became in 1910 the official organ of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

<sup>868</sup> Spence's brief obituary of Susan Brownell Anthony was published in 'Concerning People' in the *Register* 30 April 1906 p. 4g.

I was much amused at Jack London<sup>869</sup> leaving out Australia - I feel glad you met him however and even more so that you met Graham Brooks<sup>870</sup> - I sent his book to Mrs F Martin and she is much pleased with its strength and its moderation. As for the *Silent Sea*<sup>871</sup> - a second hand half dollar book cannot exceed the money I sent. If Mr. Petherick<sup>872</sup> picks up a second hand three vol edition it will cost more - But I suppose I am too late in telling you to send the book to me - I can get it bound and send it on to Lady Northcote<sup>873</sup> -

I am sending you a few copies of the last booklet *A Study of Poverty*<sup>874</sup> - Mr Herbert Phillipps<sup>875</sup> tells me that Bradford has adopted the Elberfeld system and has secured the services of 500 Helpers! and that though Miss Sutter<sup>876</sup> is having a very hard fight with 80 charitable organisations in Edinr. she does not despair of success - What you said about Mr Fellows Jenkins<sup>877</sup> and the opposition the Char. Assn.<sup>878</sup> make to the development and extension of Juvenile Courts makes me glad that owing to the wide reaching operations of the Destitute Board here and the refusal of our Govt to subsidise any denominational charity or school we have far fewer of these things in S A than in any of the other states - Mr Phillipps is calling a meeting in the Mayors Parlour in the afternoon of May 23<sup>879</sup> when he will explain the system and I am to speak after him and probably more will do so - He is quite hopeful - I am not so sure but it is worth trying hard for.

I am not sure if we had heard of the San Francisco calamity<sup>880</sup> when I wrote to you last - It is indeed appalling - Australia is wonderfully free from these convulsions of nature. We are having lovely general rains - The farmers were crying out for rain - Such a great number of prosperous farmers are coming to town and leaving their places with sons or managers - I fear that many of the resumed estates are taken up by people with a lot of land elsewhere - and there is eight times the applicants that can be supplied - I sent you Watsons<sup>881</sup> Adelaide speech. The Labour Party hope to be much stronger after Decr -

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<sup>869</sup> John Griffith London (1876-1916), American labourer, sailor, gold prospector, journalist and prolific writer, especially about men and animals pitted against the environment. He was a lecturer who endorsed socialism and woman suffrage.

<sup>870</sup> *The Social Unrest: studies in labor and socialist movements* by American writer John Graham Brooks (1846-1938), London & New York, Macmillan, 1903.

<sup>871</sup> *The Silent Sea* by Mrs Alick Macleod (Catherine Martin) was published in London in 1892 in 3 volumes by Richard Bentley & Son, and a single volume in New York by Harper & Bros.

<sup>872</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917), bookseller, publisher, bibliographer and book collector. He married Mary Agnes Skeats née Annead in 1892. Spence had stayed with the Pethericks in England in 1894. They were very good to her when she broke her arm.

<sup>873</sup> Lady Northcote was the wife of Henry Stafford Northcote, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Northcote, (1846-1911), Governor-General of Australia. As Alice Brook, adopted daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Mount Stephen, she had married Northcote in 1873.

<sup>874</sup> Spence's article 'A Study of Poverty. The Problem of the Poor' was published in two parts in the *Register*: 23 April 1906 p. 8gh; 24 April 1906 p. 6cd. These two articles were reprinted from the *Register* in a pamphlet entitled *Elberfeld System of Charity: a Study of Poverty*. pp. 26.

<sup>875</sup> William Herbert Phillipps, later Sir, (1847-1935), merchant, businessman and active philanthropist.

<sup>876</sup> Julie Sutter, author of *Cities or Citizens or Britain's Next Campaign*, 1901.

<sup>877</sup> Superintendent E. Fellows Jenkins worked for the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. In 1906 he was Chief Probation Officer in New York.

<sup>878</sup> Charity Association.

<sup>879</sup> This meeting was held in the Adelaide Town Hall on 23 May 1906 and reported in the *Register* p. 6fg, and the *Advertiser* p. 6hi, on 24 May 1906. Spence did speak at the meeting.

<sup>880</sup> The great earthquake which destroyed San Francisco took place on 18 April 1906.

<sup>881</sup> John Christian Watson (1867-1941), NSW Labour politician, later member of the Federal House of Representatives and first Labour Prime Minister of Australia (1904).

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Miss Tomkinson and I agree with you about the importance of the Labour Delegates M. Ps visit to Australia - I am quite sure that your travels have made you see the importance of Australia and New Zealand on the Social horizon more clearly than when you were in Melbourne -

I am a good deal troubled about our Co-operative Clothing Factory. The big houses want to crush us out and make us see that the minimum wage may be death to all small concerns - The big houses make large profit on the material and can afford to give more wages - We who only live by the piece of work cannot get the girls to earn their allotted pay - when the price of the work has not been raised but if anything lowered -

I have often considered how Miss Locke's family will do without her - other people wonder how she and her husband<sup>882</sup> can live on the £100 a year which is Tasmanian rate for M Ps.

Mrs Spence likes her new quarters Alma Road St Kilda - the boarding house is called Dunvegan - very well -

Charles and his wife so far have been living at Mr Davies's - Eleanor and Marjorie with one maid are having visitors and great claims from a sick neighbour<sup>883</sup> - but Eleanor must be wonderfully strong now - I have had such a very busy fortnight Thursday all mg at Destitute in Aft went with other members of S C Council to the receiving home at Edwardstown and to the R C Reformatory two miles off.

I am very tired - Yesterday as I had no letters that I must write I wrote a peradventure sermon. I never know when I may be called on and there was a book club book that gave me a subject. Old Mr. Woods<sup>884</sup> died two days ago. He has been a great invalid for 7 or 8 years. Kept alive by the greatest care and expense - We will have a funeral sermon tomorrow on the subject of our first pastor who came here 51 years ago.

It is pleasant to see the names of old friends - but I never thought K J Musson<sup>885</sup> had money to lose - I am sorry about her brothers death. I never saw him but she was staying with him in Chicago when I made her acquaintance at the Congresses -

I hope you are doing well in Boston.

Ever yours  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>882</sup> Lilian Sophia Locke (1869-1950) Victorian Labour leader married George Mason Burns (1869-1932), member of the Tasmanian Parliament, on 6 January 1906.

<sup>883</sup> Eleanor Wren and her niece Marjorie had remained in Sydney.

<sup>884</sup> Rev. John Crawford Woods (1824-1906) arrived in South Australia in 1855 and became the first minister of the Unitarian Christian Church in Adelaide. He retired in 1889 and after visits to the United Kingdom lived at Knightsbridge, a suburb of Adelaide, until his death.

<sup>885</sup> Spence met Katharine Jane Musson, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893.

**PRG 88/7/69**

North Norwood  
9<sup>th</sup> June 1906

My dear Miss Henry

In the first place - you need not make any further enquiry about the Harper edition of the *Silent Sea*<sup>886</sup> for Lady Northcote<sup>887</sup> for Mr E A Petherick<sup>888</sup> has most nobly sent me his own copy of the 3 Vol edition to give to her trusting to time and good luck to get him a second hand copy for himself. Of course if you have got one and sent it I shall be glad. I can easily dispose of it to a friend but as Mr Pethericks is in excellent condition it is more suitable for the wife of the Governor general. But the funny thing is that though I sent it the day after I received it with what I thought a very nice letter to Lady Northcote - on the 30th May, I have had no acknowledgement either of letter or book - In fact some Melbourne correspondents are also remiss - When I had your last from Boston along with a charming post card from Mrs Ames May 24th I thought from the paging that a sheet was missing and I sent it next day to Mrs Watson Lister with a query as to whether she had not had it and with a request that she would again send me the two Boston Women's Journals<sup>889</sup> for I had to write a paper for the Girls Literary<sup>890</sup> and intended to take Susan B Anthony's<sup>891</sup> life and work as my subject - I promised not to keep them more than three or four days - I also sent to Robert Ivory [?] 3 copies of a Study of Poverty<sup>892</sup> one for self one for your friend Mr Harker [?] and one for any one else he pleased - with a p. c. a fortnight ago, and I have had no response from either - I suppose Lady Northcote is not at home but they cannot all be wanderers. I trusted to Mrs Watson Lister returning your letter before I had to answer it today but I think I recollect most that was in it.

I had a very nice letter from William Herbert Carruth<sup>893</sup> with the lines printed as he wrote them<sup>894</sup> - I think we read A sense of law and order - He wrote A sense of law and beauty - perhaps better but the idea of order came before the sense of beauty - What is regular leads to knowledge - What is catastrophic like earthquake and volcano leads to superstition - and is a tool in the hands of priests and

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<sup>886</sup> *The Silent Sea* by Mrs Alick Macleod (Catherine Martin) was published in London in 1892 in 3 volumes by Richard Bentley & Son, and a single volume in New York by Harper & Bros.

<sup>887</sup> Lady Northcote was the wife of Henry Stafford Northcote, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Northcote, (1846-1911), Governor-General of Australia. As Alice Brook, adopted daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Mount Stephen, she had married Northcote in 1873.

<sup>888</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917), bookseller, publisher, bibliographer and book collector. He married Mary Agnes Skeats née Annead in 1892. Spence had stayed with the Pethericks in England in 1894. They were very good to her when she broke her arm.

<sup>889</sup> *The Woman's Journal*, Boston & Chicago, 1870-1917. A weekly, it became in 1910 the official organ of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

<sup>890</sup> The Girls Literary Society. Spence took a great interest in this society of which she was President in 1892 and perhaps at other times.

<sup>891</sup> Susan Brownell Anthony ( 1820- March 13 1906), teacher, temperance worker, famous campaigner for women's rights, woman suffrage, women's labour organisations and the abolition of slavery. Spence had met her when she was in America in 1894.

<sup>892</sup> Spence's article 'A Study of Poverty. The Problem of the Poor' was published in two parts in the *Register*: 23 April 1906 p. 8gh; 24 April 1906 p. 6cd. These two articles were reprinted from the *Register* in a pamphlet entitled *Elberfeld System of Charity: a Study of Poverty*. pp. 26.

<sup>893</sup> William Herbert Carruth (1859-1924), American poet, Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Kansas. He was born in America.

<sup>894</sup> 'Each in his own tongue', from which these lines are taken, was Carruth's most famous poem.

soothsayers - Then we read Some people call it Nature - He wrote it Autumn. Nature may be better, but his Scotch obstinacy makes him stick to Autumn - I know Carruthers is a Scotch name but did not locate Carruth as Scotch -

It was such a joy to think of you in that delightful house in 12 Chestnut Street and to hear of my dear friends there<sup>895</sup> - I suppose the married daughter is the one who was single - quite young when I was there in 1893. The other married daughter and the son Charles lived one in St. Paul and the other in Minneapolis twin or rather rival cities - but I cannot tell the precise habitat of each - But what they wanted with a new church, I cannot tell. The old Church of the Disciples<sup>896</sup> looked good for another half century. I told you Boston, and its environs was a better field than New York for lecturers - and I liked the Boston people as a whole better than those elsewhere though Dr & Mrs Bayard Holmes of Chicago Katharine Musson<sup>897</sup> of Philadelphia and Mrs Garlin Spencer<sup>898</sup> of Providence were as delightful as possible

I have received the Almanac all right and rejoice in it - and I see that Providence which in my old Almanac had under 100,000, has now 175,000 inhabitants - I wonder if Mrs Spencer could get some of her many friends there to invite you to speak to them - There was a family called Ballou<sup>899</sup> where I stayed in Condon St on my second visit most interesting people. I wonder if you saw Mrs Eliza Stowe Twitchell<sup>900</sup> of Wollaston Heights near Boston an ardent Single Taxer whom I met in Chicago like Katharine Musson - both being captivated by Proportional Representation. She is a good speaker and clear writer.

I was here interrupted by the delivery of the mail - our one daily delivery is on Saturday and the two numbers of the Womans Journal so I must set about writing my paper at once and leave the paper on Gambling<sup>901</sup> that is begun for the Democratic Club the end of this month which interests me for the moment even more than Woman's Suffrage - My text book is a collection of essays on Gambling and Betting compiled by Seebohm Rowntree<sup>902</sup> author of A Study of Poverty in York city. I had just got into the swing of it yesterday - when Lucy Morice came to spend two hours with me the first real talk I have had for nearly six weeks - When Mrs Spence is in Melbourne I dont go to Glenelg on Sundays and Lucy almost always came over while I was there - I am glad to say Mrs Spence likes Melbourne and they all think it is good for [her] not to try to do any housekeeping -

Mrs Watson Lister did not send back your letter to me but perhaps I had made a mistake or rather you had made a mistake in paging -

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<sup>895</sup> Frances (Fanny) Ames (1840-1931) and Unitarian minister Charles Gordon Ames (1828-1912). Spence had met them in Boston in 1893.

<sup>896</sup> The Church of the Disciples in Boston was the Unitarian Church of which Charles Gordon Ames was pastor from 1888 until his death in 1912.

<sup>897</sup> Spence had met Katharine Jane Musson, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893.

<sup>898</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.

<sup>899</sup> Probably William H. Ballou (1849-1915) and his wife Lizzie Broughton Ballou (1847-1934), a well-known Providence family. William Ballou was elected to the Rhode Island Senate in 1901.

<sup>900</sup> Eliza Stowe Twitchell had spoken at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893 on 'The Industrial Revolution of the Last Century'. She published 1894 *Economic Principles or How Wealth is produced and How it is distributed* partly on the subject of land value taxation. Spence had encountered her at the Conference.

<sup>901</sup> Spence gave her paper on Gambling to the Democratic Club on Sunday 1 July 1906.

<sup>902</sup> *Poverty: A Study of Town Life* 1901 by Benjamin Seebohm Rowntree (1871-1954).



It is since I wrote you that Mr Herbert Phillipps<sup>903</sup> called a meeting of citizens in the Mayors Parlor<sup>904</sup> to explain and advocate the Elberfeld system of Charity<sup>905</sup> - I spoke after him and a few others - and some questions were asked. A committee was appointed to formulate a scheme. Of all the committee Mr Gray of the State Children's Council is the most zealous and the most hopeful but they have not been called together yet. Jim Morice is in it - no ladies - Mr Gray thinks we need not wait for legislation but begin with the city proper at once - It has little over 40 000 inhabitants. Like Melbourne - Adelaide is chiefly suburban - under different municipalities. Mr Gray is premier of the St Peters (mock) parliament that has its meeting at the St Peters (East Adelaide suburb) Town Hall and it is going to bring in a Bill for the adoption of the Elberfeld system shortly - I want to hear the debate. Mr Phillips [sic] said Edith Sellars [sic] in Jan. Contemporary<sup>906</sup> criticised the Outdoor relief in Berlin adversely - but in Berlin citizens are forced to serve - In other places it is done by volunteers who love the work. Miss Sellars [sic] says that for all children and all sick the administration is admirable also for the loafers and drunkards but the aged who cannot get pensions till they are seventy, she thinks the relief given is far too little -

You recollect my cousin Mrs Maule<sup>907</sup> and her daughter Mrs Gamble - Well Mrs Gamble instead of the little girl she hoped for who was to be named for me had an enormous boy and four days after burst a small vessel in the head and was speechless for a time - By later accounts she was slowly recovering but had not got the use of her left arm -

Miss Tomkinson is in Dr. Violet Plummers<sup>908</sup> private hospital or the one she has much to do with for neuritis - not acutely painful but which has affected her right arm - She thought it at first writers cramp - Lucy Morice and she had been trying in Mrs Birks absence to get some new blood into the Nat Council of Women but it is not completed -

I am well but so busy that I really seem to have not much time for real literary work for after a long mornings private correspondence - I don't feel fresh enough to do my best - Eleanor goes to Melbourne on the 27th for Marjories holidays - The Wrens are still with Mr and Mrs Davies at Glenferrie. Trix Cook<sup>909</sup> has got rid of her lease of house and sold all her furniture and she and Moxon are living in two good rooms. He did not like it at all but is reconciled because it costs much less. The only child Snowy<sup>910</sup> is to be boarded at the Convent.

I wonder that protestant parents can do this - So far as I know the Fred Martins are still in Rome, and he is getting better - Miss Gregory is keeping remarkably well -

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<sup>903</sup> William Herbert Phillipps, later Sir, (1847-1935), merchant, businessman and active philanthropist.

<sup>904</sup> This meeting was held in the Adelaide Town Hall on 23 May 1906 and reported in the *Register* p. 6fg, and the *Advertiser* p. 6hi, on 24 May 1906.

<sup>905</sup> The Elberfeld system of poor relief, in which towns are divided into small districts with an almoner who helps the poor to help themselves, was developed in Germany in the mid 1800s.

<sup>906</sup> "Poor-relief in Berlin" by Edith Sellers appeared in the *Contemporary Review* in December 1905.

<sup>907</sup> Janet Maule was the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>908</sup> Violet May Plummer (born 1873) B.Sc. (Adel): M.B., Ch. B. (Melb) 1897, was the first woman to practise in South Australia. After acting as a resident surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital and at the Women's Hospital, she returned to Adelaide in 1900 and worked with great success for thirty years. She made her first rounds on a bicycle.

<sup>909</sup> Beatrice Cook, neé Woodville, wife of Moxon Cook.

<sup>910</sup> Elaine Cook was always known as Snowy because of her extraordinarily fair hair.

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Crawford Vaughan<sup>911</sup> and Evelyn Goode<sup>912</sup> were married yesterday at his fathers in Norwood and are to live in a house near here till it can be sold - It belongs to her father -

Always your affectionate friend  
C H Spence

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<sup>911</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

<sup>912</sup> Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist and writer for children.

**PRG 88/7/70**

North Norwood  
4<sup>th</sup> August 1906

My dear Miss Henry

I had Henry Demarest Lloyd's posthumous work Man the Social Creator<sup>913</sup> sent me by post with card compliments of William Bross Lloyd  
1644 Unity Chambers  
Dearborn St  
Chicago

We took the 1644 to be the number of the street not of the Suite of Chambers - I believe the card had the no. of the Street but in copying it, I have omitted that and the card has disappeared - I am writing today to thank him and I have no doubt the letter will reach him. I have no doubt you have heard of the book and probably have read it - It contains his ripest thoughts on religion - and it satisfied me - I am like Susan Anthony<sup>914</sup> rather ethical than pious - I do not see, like Julie Sutter<sup>915</sup> that all our service to our fellows must be done from love of God or from love to Christ. I think it better that it should be done from love to our brethren and sisters.

Miss Cook<sup>916</sup> tells of some devoted nuns (Sisters of Mercy) who reproached themselves because their motives had been only those of human helpfulness and not of religious duty.

Religious workers say they could do nothing at all without their faith in Divine help and guidance. Tempted souls are told they can do nothing of themselves. They must trust in the higher power - I would say you can do much - very much of themselves - I would exalt the power of the enlightened will - the strength of effort growing into habit through repetition of the right thing. How many disappointments Mrs Holden<sup>917</sup> of our Girls Reformatory has with girls whom she thought she had led to pray and to trust God or Jesus - I have seen their letters, saying that they were not going on in their own strength - and yet they fell when temptation assailed them -

I have been reading the *Love Child*<sup>918</sup> aloud to Miss Gregory it is nearly finished - I think it a very powerful story with a splendid Australian atmosphere - I cannot take the time to tell you all I think about the motif - It is new it is possible it is probable - It is one of the books that I should like to make no hasty judgment on - It is one of the drawbacks of book reviewing that it is generally done in such breathless haste - good enough for ephemeral literature but not for anything great -

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<sup>913</sup> *Man, the Social Creator* ed. Jane Addams and Anne Withington, London & New York, Doubleday, Page & Co., 1906.

<sup>914</sup> Susan Brownell Anthony ( 1820- March 13 1906), teacher, temperance worker, famous campaigner for women's rights, woman suffrage, women's labour organisations and the abolition of slavery. She had died in March 1906. Spence had met her when she was in America in 1894.

<sup>915</sup> Julie Sutter was the author of several books dealing with subjects in which Spence was interested: *Cities or Citizens or Britain's Next Campaign* 1901 and *A Colony of Mercy or Christianity at Work*.

<sup>916</sup> Harriet Ann Cook (1855-1943), schoolteacher. The Cooks were Unitarians and had been friends of Spence for many years. Harriet taught at her sister Edith Hübbe's school.

<sup>917</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden was the matron in charge of the Redruth reformatory. The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls in the former gaol at Burra.

<sup>918</sup> *The Love Child* by New South Wales writer Thomas Bailey Clegg, London, John Lane, 1906.

Mrs Young lent me the *Spoils of Victory* by H Paul Neuman<sup>919</sup> being a reproduction of the life of Balzac with change of place to England and of time by half a century - It sent me back to the real life and to two articles<sup>920</sup> I had written the first in 1878 the second more recently - I could give a very fine literary lecture on Balzac - but I don't suppose any one, or many who would care for it - I gave the Susan Anthony paper which was three days work to an audience of 11 literary girls<sup>921</sup> and I am not sure that they appreciated it -

With regard to the article on Immigration regulations I sent it to Mr. Sowden<sup>922</sup> of the Register. He returned, it reminding me that there had been something about them recently - the treatment was not half so graphic.

Miss Fullerton sent me the article on Woman's Clubs as she could not get it in the Age - After a little interval in which Lucy and Miss Tomkinson had read and approved highly of it I sent it yesterday to Mr Sowden - and hope he will want and pay for it.

Miss Tomkinson has still her right arm in a sling and is writing a little with her left hand - It is neuritis but not painful - rather powerless but if she tries to use it it becomes very painful -

I am in much better spirits about Effective Voting than I have been for long. Mr Coombe<sup>923</sup> made an excellent speech in re-introducing it on Wednesday. At the 'Students' the previous Wednesday, we had an address on politics from Mr Robert Hogarth the new Secretary and organiser for the Aust Nat. League<sup>924</sup>, and I presided. After shaking hands with me, he said "I have become converted at last to your system. Without it we can have no individual choice". After the address and discussion were over he said he wanted to get up an afternoon meeting for me in their League Hall that holds 200 chiefly for ladies. This is fixed for August 20th before the discussion on the bill comes on - He said it would be well to follow it up with a public meeting. I think so too -

I had previously an invitation to go to Ardrossan Yorke's Peninsula early in Sept. I hope Ardrossan will communicate with some Lit Society further South, so that I may take another meeting in this district which is the only electorate of the old 27 two-member districts<sup>925</sup> I have never spoken in - Mrs Young is quite cheered by our brightening prospects -

I enclose article written on Dr Fishbournes<sup>926</sup> information and leaflet also on a letter of Miss Scott's - I think I sent you the reprint of article or the article itself of 30 July on Seven Decades<sup>927</sup> - but send you another in case you have not had it.

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<sup>919</sup> *The Spoils of Victory* 1906 by Berman Paul Neuman (1853-?).

<sup>920</sup> 'Honoré de Balzac: a psychological study', an article by C. H. Spence was published in 1879 in the *Melbourne Review*, vol. 4, p. 348-57. An unsigned review by Spence of the 'Correspondence of Honoré de Balzac with memoir by his sister' appeared in the *Register*, 27 June 1879, p.5g-6ab.

<sup>921</sup> The Girls' Literary Society, in which Spence took a great interest.

<sup>922</sup> William John Sowden, later Sir, (1858-1943), journalist. He worked for the *Register* from 1881 and was editor from 1899-1922.

<sup>923</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician. He was member of the House of Assembly for Barossa and a staunch supporter of proportional representation .

<sup>924</sup> The Australasian National League was founded in 1891, as The National Defence League, to counteract the progress of socialism and the political strength of the union movement.

<sup>925</sup> In 1902 the number of electoral districts for the House of Assembly was changed from 27 two member electorates to 13 electorates of three or more members.

<sup>926</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>927</sup> 'In Seven Decades. Inspiring Reveries', by C. H. Spence - A Colonist of 1939, appeared in the *Register* on 30 June (not July) 1906, p. 9e-h.

I wish I could help you to any newspaper work. When I think of it no paper in the U S paid me for articles but a Methodist paper to whose editor (Dr Buckley I think his name was) our Chief Justice<sup>928</sup> had given me the strongest of introductions - I wrote a lot for nothing.

I hope you get into Toronto and see my friend Mr. Tyson<sup>929</sup> and Mr Kelso<sup>930</sup> and the Children's Aid Dept - I prefer our title of State Children's Dept to all others.

Since I wrote you last - (I think) I have read A Colony of Mercy which is more emotional by a good deal than Britains next Campaign<sup>931</sup> - In writing to her I took exception to all the dread expressed by the heads of the Colony and apparently approved of by her of the Social Democrats who are the Labour Party of Germany and France and the real Liberals - I can understand Clericals and Catholics fearing and hating them but not philanthropists.

I also asked her what remedy she had for the landlessness of England – ~~Single Tax or rather~~ Land Values Taxation or Land Nationalisation? You will note in Canada that as it is not suited for sheep - land was not taken up in vast areas as in Australia and New Zealand and that the railway Cos are eager to sell their land concessions to people who will be railway customers.

The H G Turners have gone for a two months voyage to the South Seas. I had a picture post card from Mr Turners from Samoa - "All well & happy" - Eleanor Wren is taking care of old Mr Hall at Glendora, to let Mrs Hall have a holiday and a change - the first for ten years. Nelly left her husband at Mr Davies' and went to Sydney with her mother and Marjorie and Dora Davies the eldest of three -

Mrs Spence her daughter Elsie and her neice [sic] have spent three of their six months at Dunvegan Alma Road where they are made most comfortable which is only right when the three pay £9 a week for four rooms and meals at the public table.

We are going to have a specially interesting Annual Report of the State Childrens Department. I shall send you copies.

After Lucy and Miss Tomkinson had read your letter I sent it on to Mrs Watson Lister and did not copy your Buffalo address - I think of going to Melbourne and Sydney in Sept & Octr to be home before my birthday

Always yours  
C.H. Spence

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<sup>928</sup> Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia and Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. He had known Spence for many years .

<sup>929</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>930</sup> Mr Kelso was the head of the department dealing with State Children in Toronto. He corresponded with Spence. Toronto had the credit of establishing the first Children's Courts in the world.

<sup>931</sup> The two books on social issues by Julie Sutter.

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**PRG 88/7/71**

North Norwood  
31<sup>st</sup> August [1906]

My dear Miss Henry

This must be a short letter but I shall be on Yorke Peninsula next week and cannot write there in proper time for S F<sup>932</sup> Mail - I sent you a Postcard saying I hoped your article on Federated Women's Clubs was accepted but I have not seen it in Register - It might go into the Observer the weekly or into Saturdays Evg Journal and I would not see it. I went yesterday to inquire about and the head of the printers did not know but he would look it up and inform me - I hope it is all right -

I had a very successful meeting of Conservative women on Monday the 20th. There were nearly 200 present and I think the address and Mrs Young's demonstration were convincing - Mr Hogarth the Sec of the Aust Nat League<sup>933</sup> was more than satisfied.

I have two meetings on Y P<sup>934</sup> one on Wednesday at Ardrossan and one on Thursday at Maitland. I must go early Tuesday mg on account of the boat - for five hours sail and will return on Friday this day week.

I have been asked by the State Children's Council to write a book of 100 pages Octavo or thereabouts with the whole History of the Boarding Out movement as a sort of testimonial to Miss Clark who has had to resign on acct of deafness and loss of strength - both bodily and mental - I find it is not easy to collaborate with her but I suppose I must have my own way - She wants it quite short. I want it full and complete - I mean to make use of the articles on Childrens Courts and Infant Life sent to the Christian Commonwealth<sup>935</sup> with a few modifications - but I find I have to hunt up dates and facts - so that I cannot go on straight away as I should do if it was a novel or a social or literary essay - But I am the only person in the world who could write such an interesting chapter of South Australian history - We may get the Government to print it in the Govt printing press - if not I think we could collect £50 which would pay for 1,000 copies - which may be sold - but a large number of such an edition will be sent all over the world. I wish Miss Clark could see that a full history is the greatest tribute that could be paid to the pioneer.

I think my introductory chapter was too long but I said I would cut it down but it rather scared her -

Mrs Bage Treasurer of N C of W. made me promise to speak on State Children & Childrens Courts especially to them at Annual meeting on 31st Oct - I shall be quite full of it and will probably speak my book and advertise it - I dont think I am to have any payment at least if the Govt prints it - Mrs Bage says the bill before Victoria is very faulty.

Vida Goldstein wrote for information to Mr Gray on the points they object to and I saw his replies so far as they had gone for I interrupted him. They were very clear -

I must finish my book before I can leave Adelaide and probably will do my Melbourne visit before 31st Oct and then go to Sydney -

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<sup>932</sup> San Francisco.

<sup>933</sup> The Australasian National League was founded in 1891, as The National Defence League, to counteract the progress of socialism and the political strength of the union movement.

<sup>934</sup> Yorke Peninsula (now Yorke).

<sup>935</sup> *Church Commonwealth*.

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The Age is supporting Deakins<sup>936</sup> Preferential ballot and Nanson is writing to the Age - Reid<sup>937</sup> opposed it as the free traders gain by the split vote. I have to be constantly explaining that the contingent vote is not P R. but it may lead to P R.

The voting by figures is a good step.

Yours in love and wearying to hear from you again  
CH Spence

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<sup>936</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>937</sup> George Houston Reid, later Sir George, (1845-1918), barrister, free trader, Premier of NSW 1894-1899, later Prime Minister of Australia.

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**PRG 88/7/72**

North Norwood  
20<sup>th</sup> Sept [1906]

Dear Miss Henry

I came home very tired\* to dinner at 6.30 and found your letter. You want more illustrations - I send you two on truancy and one on foster mothers extracts from the book I am writing.

\*[This paragraph added on margin] I had been at the Destitute on D business from 10 till 1 - then I took notes for Report of Local Govt Board for England and Scotland re boarded out children for an hour and a half - then I went to the W.C.T.U convention for two hours. I try to put in an appearance there once a year but it always comes in the midst of my big week at the Destitute Board three consecutive days.

"I sat for many years on the East Torrens Board of Advice when parents were brought up to account for child or children not attending the statutory 35 days in the quarter and the excuses given were various. Thrashing was the heroic one. The thirty five day limit was often a sort of trap both for boys and parents for they could miss so many days without prosecution and they were apt to miss more.

I recollect a little fellow of ten brought up because he was uncontrollable and would not go to school. The boy had been severely whipped for truancy and one day the police found him alone in the house chained to a grate. The Council<sup>938</sup> took him in hand, of course charging his father for his maintenance for he was earning good wages. He was released on petition to the Governor after a month and then went to school for a week, and played truant worse than before. The Council had him committed again, and sent him to a country home, where one or two of our boys were. There was nothing for him to do but to go to school with them. He missed only half a day in the quarter, and got on so well that he got his compulsory certificate before he was twelve, but he continued to go to school till he was 13. Parents may send younger boys to school if they reach this standard but the Council never does so -

I recollect another case in which I persuaded a deserted wife with three boys to send one an inveterate truant to our care. She earned their livelihood (with the help of rations from the Destitute Board) by office cleaning. In the morning when she should have given the boys their breakfast, and sent them to school she was absent - from five to seven or later she was also absent. The boy went home for food, and slipped away with bad companions who were making a tool of him - teaching him to steal. He was sent to a country home boarded out and a good farm place found for him at service afterwards, and he has turned out the best and cleverest of the three boys -

It puzzles me often how many children are left in their bad environment in Chicago and New York - We find that our paid probation officer who has recently been appointed is doing excellent work, but many parents are not fit to leave the children with -

The recent education law that children are to put in eight sessions a week eight morning or afternoon attendances is doing good -

From the chapter on Protection of Infant Life I have a new story - thus introduced

The foster mothers sometimes have difficulties with their patrons for ~~when~~ the baby clings to the woman to whom it thinks it owes everything, and shrinks from the occasional visitor who wants love at sight - The foster mother then tries to make the

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<sup>938</sup> State Children's Council.



baby show all its pretty ways, - boasts of every tooth that is cut - brushes up the little curls that they may look all the brighter, and coaxes the baby to make friends with the pretty pretty lady, and does all that is possible to foster love between them.

But sometimes the money is paid, and there are no visits paid at all - nothing but letters with remittances and receipts are exchanged sometimes with requests for clothes very inadequately responded to. One such instance I know of a little girl brought up by a foster mother brought to her when only five days old by the wife of the father of this illegitimate baby who, to her, denied the paternity and said he only paid to avoid scandal. As for clothes the foster mother had the greatest difficulty in getting any money for them. Intermittently and grudgingly the money was paid, with constant entreaties that the foster mother should try to get the child adopted for it was so very hard to pay the money. The foster mother loved Kitty dearly and wrote back that if they wanted her adopted they might try themselves but they could not expect her to move in the matter to get rid of her darling.

When Kitty was eight years old the same woman came to take her home as it was impossible to pay the money. At the first sight of the child the likeness to her husband struck her so forcibly that she knew he had been telling her lies all these eight years - During this time the foster mother's health had broken up sadly and she was ~~almost~~ entirely dependent on the earnings of her daughters in service - but she had a cheap cottage home which only took 2/- a week - (An Adelaide charity). The two girls were as much distressed as their mother - "Don't give her up mother, don't give her up. We will work for Kitty as well as for you. We cannot let her go where she will have no love and will always be a cause of bitterness. Kitty has always had so much love".

So the father was relieved from his responsibilities by the charity of that poor family and Kitty is a happy little girl - She was heartbroken at the idea of going away with this strange woman -"

I have said here the whole truth. In my book I call the woman the near relative of the father, for I do not want Kitty (real name Lucy) or Mrs Holmes, an old servant of mine, to be identified - of course the shock of the woman on seeing the child had to be left out too - but that weakened the story.

I have got two thirds of the book written and I like it very much. We could not get the Govt to print the book and it is ~~being~~ to be printed by subscription 5/- will secure a copy of it - It will be illustrated, and will be 150 to 200 pages - Miss Clark wanted a short cheap pamphlet but the Council wanted a complete book, and I think the world wants it too - But it is so hard to find time for this - I had four days at Yorkes Peninsula entire. Two good meetings at Ardrossan and Maitland, 80 votes and 104.

[No concluding signature although the letter appears to be finished.]

**PRG 88/7/73**

North Norwood  
12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1906

My dear Miss Henry

I have only time for a short letter - I finished my book all but two pages. I am waiting for information from other States for them but the MS is in Mr Grays hands. I think it is very good and should be useful - I am booked for an address on Children's Courts on the 24th morning session as Lady Talbot<sup>939</sup> wants to hear of them -

I had a sad letter from Capt Davis<sup>940</sup> which I enclose. The Annual report was brought out by another Davis [sic] and was very meagre - a great contrast to Dr McKellars<sup>941</sup> for NSW.

Today's news is that Isaacs<sup>942</sup> and Higgins<sup>943</sup> have been appointed Judges of the Federal Court - Are you not very sorry that such a good fighter as Higgins should be shelved as a judge though he will make a good one - Ramsay Macdonald<sup>944</sup> has arrived in Sydney and goes from there to N Z -

I cannot tell you how glad I am that you are to go to Chicago and to be well paid - and the \$40 from the Outlook<sup>945</sup> is breaking good ground in another direction. Pen and Voice are our two weapons - and our two tools, and these two successes will surely lead to more - I had an interesting letter from Flurscheim who says that the financial crisis in N. Z was staved off first by the Boer War then when it was due by the Japanese War and now the great earthquakes delay it. All destruction on a large scale demanding fresh supplies of goods to be made give a fresh impulse to production and exchange. He is going with his wife and baby boy leaving the two girls at school to Europe about a patent by which you can see the person you telephone to as plainly as if he were sitting beside you.

I wrote you a hurried letter to reply to your last after some anecdotes - I was so glad you saw and liked Mr Tyson<sup>946</sup> -

We have had some meetings about P. R. and there is a petition - a memorial or demand which is getting signed to the Federal Prime Minister<sup>947</sup> - Mrs Young is

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<sup>939</sup> Lady Sarah Elizabeth Talbot née Beresford (1855-1937), wife of Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot (1841-1929), Governor of Victoria 1904-1908. She was very active in social welfare projects.

<sup>940</sup> Captain William Davis was secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools Department. The accountant John L. Davies, as Acting Secretary, had apparently compiled the report.

<sup>941</sup> Sir Charles Kinnaird Mackellar (1844-1926), physician, politician and businessman. He was president of the State Children Relief Board (1902-1914) and worked for the establishment of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act (1905) which created Children's Courts and the probationary system.

<sup>942</sup> Sir Isaac Isaacs (1855-1948), lawyer, politician, Victorian member of Federal Parliament, Federal Attorney-General, in 1906 appointed to the High Court where he served for 24 years. He later became the first Australian Governor-General.

<sup>943</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), lawyer, politician, Victorian member of Federal Parliament, Federal Attorney-General, in 1906 he was appointed to the High Court and in 1907 became President of the Arbitration Court.

<sup>944</sup> Ramsay Macdonald (1886-1937) in 1906 became a Labour member of the British Parliament and much later in 1923 the first Labour Prime Minister.

<sup>945</sup> *The Outlook* New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

<sup>946</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>947</sup> Alfred Deakin (1856-1919), barrister, journalist and politician, was Prime Minister for the second time in 1906.

better. Her eldest boy is going to an uncle and aunt who are big farmers at Franklin Harbour<sup>948</sup> and have no children - This will be better for Lindsay than a poultry farm near town. The younger boy got a three guinea prize for the second best composition on the Pioneers of South Australia by State school children - He is only 12 but a very clever child with much artistic talent. The only girl got the Tennyson medal<sup>949</sup> for Eng. composition last year.

I have been furiously busy - writing 150 pages of 250 words or more in seven weeks - with all the interruptions of public work and correspondence - but the writing itself has been a delight - Miss Clark thought I was writing too long a book - and taking in too much and going in too much for detail - but alas! she is not the Miss Clark of old days. Age has made her more timid and apprehensive - Her sister Mrs Crompton<sup>950</sup> will be a good working member of the S.C. Council - Mr Gray has influenza which will mar his holiday but the holiday will enable him to take the rest he needs - My trouble now is lest the book should not be published for lack of funds. I have raised among my friends Mrs Spence gave £4 C Wren £2 and others £8.5 and promises of about £2 more and hope to get some subscribers in Melbourne and Sydney but only ten or eleven pounds has been paid in to Mr Gray besides what I have done - and I think it will cost £50 to bring out 1000 copies. Illustrations may add to the cost as well as to the value of the book - Eleanor has engaged for me to give a lecture or talk to the Health Society in Sydney on the 29th so my visit to Melbourne will be short - I am to stay longer on my return - I wrote to Dr Fishbourne<sup>951</sup> a fortnight ago but have had no answer. I mean to stay at Mrs Turners. The Wrens are guests with the Seymour Davies's and the Spences in lodgings - Mrs H G T<sup>952</sup> invited me there - I seem to have 50 things to do before I can get away - We are in the throes of a Dissolution of Assembly<sup>953</sup> because of the deadlock with the Council<sup>954</sup> on the matter of franchise 2/7 of the constituency throwing out the important bills passed by the popular House<sup>955</sup> -

Evelyn Goode makes a grand wife for a Labour M.P <sup>956</sup>. The Turners are well

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Ever yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>948</sup> The harbour for Cowell, a town half-way between Port Augusta and Port Lincoln on Eyre Peninsula.

<sup>949</sup> A Tennyson medal is awarded to the student who is placed first in English Literature in a public examination in South Australia. The medal was endowed by Hallam, Lord Tennyson, then Governor of South Australia, in 1900. Until recently medals were presented at three levels, Intermediate, Leaving and Leaving Honours.

<sup>950</sup> Susan Mary Crompton née Clark (1845-1940), wife of Joseph Crompton, was 20 years younger than her sister Caroline Emily Clark.

<sup>951</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>952</sup> Mrs Henry Giles Turner.

<sup>953</sup> The House of Assembly.

<sup>954</sup> The Legislative Council.

<sup>955</sup> The House of Assembly.

<sup>956</sup> Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist and writer for children had recently married Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party, recently elected member of Parliament, and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

**PRG 88/7/74**

Bundalohn [The home of Henry Gyles Turner and his wife]  
Tennyson St  
St Kilda  
November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1906

My dear Miss Henry

I think I must have missed a mail when I was three weeks in Sydney, and I fancy I have two letters of yours to reply to - One telling me of your Outlook<sup>957</sup> article and of your Novr engagement in the Municipal campaign - and one letter from Chicago when you were lecturing on Suffrage and telling of the delay of three invitations to speak in the Boston post office, and your hopes that you might manage to accept them - I cannot see any name of yours on the right side of my letter book for a long time - I hope I did write for I have thought of you ~~fr~~ a lot -

Well, to go back to Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> I finished my book in the morning all but what can be put in when correcting proofs - had a final talk with Mrs Young, and took the train so as to be in Melbourne for the N C O W. on 24<sup>th</sup> - I attended three sessions gave an address from notes on Children's Courts and joined a good deal in discussions - On the 25<sup>th</sup> I heard Dr Fishbourne<sup>958</sup> on Defectives with much interest, we had some talk about you and your ideas and he subscribed 20/ for 4 copies of my book - Mrs W. Lister was not there but in Sydney - where I did not see her, but I met her at last yesterday at the Victoria Coffee Palace - and she is coming here on Monday, with the Life of Susan Anthony<sup>959</sup> for me to read in Gippsland<sup>960</sup> - Mr and Mrs Ramsay Macdonald<sup>961</sup> gave me tea. I was introduced to Mrs R. M at the N. C. of W. on Monday evg - I had returned from Sydney after a three weeks' visit to Eleanor and her neice [sic] Marjorie Wren on that Monday at 1.17 - and found a letter from V. Goldstein and Dr Mary Stone<sup>962</sup> also rung [sic] me up - so I went alone and returned alone and was glad I did so - They go to Adelaide today - and I shall not be there but I think Lucy Morice and Miss Tomkinson will do all they can - which is more than I can do for them - A Mrs Bage hesitated about asking Mrs R M to speak to the N C of W, saying we could not be too careful - but Mrs Gough<sup>963</sup> read the list of the executive Lady Aberdeen<sup>964</sup> and other titled folks who sat with the suspected lady and settled that - She is a good speaker, but not so superior looking as her husband.

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<sup>957</sup> *The Outlook* New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

<sup>958</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>959</sup> *The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony, including public addresses, her own letters and many from her contemporaries during fifty years. A story of the evolution of the status of women.* By Ida Husted Harper (1851-1931). Indianapolis, Bowen-Merrill, 1898-1899.

<sup>960</sup> Yarragon, where the Murray family, descendants of Spence's sister Jessie, lived.

<sup>961</sup> Ramsay Macdonald (1886-1937) in 1906 became a Labour member of the British Parliament and much later in 1923 the first Labour Prime Minister. He had married Margaret Ethel Gladstone (1870-1911), socialist, feminist and social reformer, in 1894.

<sup>962</sup> Dr Emily Mary Page Stone (1865-1910), a pioneer of women's participation in medicine, was closely involved with the National Council of Women in Victoria.

<sup>963</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues. In 1899 she became co-proprietor of *The Sun*. She published *Non-represented Female Labour* in Melbourne in 1901.

<sup>964</sup> Ishbel, Countess of Aberdeen (1857-1939), wife of the first Marquis of Aberdeen, Governor-General of Canada 1893-1898, was a vigorous advocate of social reform. She was first president of the Canadian National Council of Women and president of the International Council of Women for nearly forty years.

She should go to the dentist to get the many gaps supplied in her mouth and she would be rather a pretty woman. Ramsay Macdonald has a very fine face and presence. He was asked as a British M. P. to speak at the jubilee of the Victorian Parliament under responsible Govt. and spoke very well indeed - also to meetings of the Labour Party - He says labour conditions are not so much better in Victoria than in the U. K. as they ought to be - but he rejoices in the increasing political strength of Labour in Australia.

During my absence the dissolution of the S. A. Assembly on the question of the reduction of the franchise for the Upper House resulted in an election in which the Labour party came out four stronger - which makes 19 Labour members and 9 Liberals allied to Labour in a house of 42 - A good friend of P R Dr. Arthur Goode of Terowie (cousin of Crawford Vaughan's wife)<sup>965</sup> wrote to me that this was the psychological moment to appeal to the victorious party to support Mr Coombes<sup>966</sup> Bill, and give Effective Voting to South Australia, and when I was in Sydney I wrote individual letters to 29 supporters of the Price<sup>967</sup> Govt 28 in the Assembly and Kirkpatrick<sup>968</sup> Chief Secretary, in the Leg Council. I sent them to Mr Morice<sup>969</sup> paying letter postage, for him to put in the pigeonholes at the proper time - to be indicated by Mr Coombe - And I feel hopeful. As Dr Goode says, and as I quote to each of them 'This grand and graceful act would solidify the ~~Labø~~ Liberal parties - It would certainly glorify them - I give the example of Belgium where a Conservative ministry with an enormous majority in the Chamber gave P. R. to the people which after three general elections was an unqualified success -

Then Tasmania has reinstituted the Hare system - I hope it may be used for the Senate Election on 12<sup>th</sup> Decr. Mrs Ramsay McDonald says this will delight our friend Mr Leonard - now Lord Courtney<sup>970</sup> - she has been long trying to make her husband see the excellency of the Hare system of voting in vain - so far -

I went to see Mrs Gough yesterday at the Civil Service Co-operative Stores where she edits the Cooperative paper at a salary of 35/- a week with a prospect of more. There has just been accomplished a federation of all the various Co-operative Societies in Victoria - which will make them stronger - The manager Mr Burke<sup>971</sup> was with me when I spoke at Beaufort<sup>972</sup> on the eve of Federation on the advantages of the Hare system and he is a convinced convert - I could not resist telling him about the appeal to the Victorious Party in S.A. -

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<sup>965</sup> Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist and writer for children had recently married Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party, recently elected member of Parliament, and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

<sup>966</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist, member of Parliament and vice-president of the Effective Voting League.

<sup>967</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, chairman of United Labor Party, Premier of South Australia 1905-1909.

<sup>968</sup> Andrew Alexander Kirkpatrick (1848-1928), compositor, president United Labor Party, president Trades and Labor Council, member of the Legislative Council.

<sup>969</sup> Lucy Morice's husband, James Morice, was parliamentary librarian.

<sup>970</sup> Leonard Henry Courtney, Lord Courtney of Penwith (1832-1918), British politician, sometime president of the Royal Statistical Society, and strong advocate of proportional representation. In 1884 he was a founding member of the British Proportional Representation Society.

<sup>971</sup> T. M. Burke was manager and secretary of the Civil Service Co-operative Society of Victoria Ltd.

<sup>972</sup> A town on the Adelaide-Melbourne railway line, between Ararat and Ballarat.

On my first visit to Melbourne I was invited by Lady Northcote<sup>973</sup> to lunch on the Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Oct - You know I took some trouble to get the Silent Sea<sup>974</sup> for her - She likes the Silent Sea very much - and she was also much interested in the Elberfeld system of Charity<sup>975</sup> which I had sent along with the book - She was interested in what I said about the book I had been writing, and subscribed a guinea - and Lady Macmillan<sup>976</sup> [sic] did the same and Miss Scott subscribed 20/ for herself and a friend or two - Mr Gray writes me that he hopes to have 1500 copies - in hand about now - I may get some proofs sent or they may wait till I return which I think will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> Decr in time for the State Children's Council on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and the general election on the 12<sup>th</sup>. There are three out of our seven representatives Kingston<sup>977</sup> Batchelor<sup>978</sup> and Poynton<sup>979</sup> that will go back unopposed and the fight will be in the other four electorates. The Labour party will try to capture all the three Senatorships which by the block vote I think they can do - and then there will be another argument for the Hare system.

In the metropolitan area of Adelaide all twelve were Labour nominees so that ~~the~~ its wealth commerce manufactures and university are represented by what are supposed to be wage earners. The wealthy class feel this very hard and so it is.

I have not spoken of any work in Sydney except the writing of these 29 two large page letters - I went for a little rest, but I did some work - I spoke to the health Society Ladies Sanitary Association on our S A district nurses - to Miss Scott's Political Education League I gave the lecture on Susan Anthony - to the quarterly meeting of the N C of W something on the solidarity of Labour, and what we owe to the workers of the world, which Mrs Hugh Dixon audibly sniffed at - she sat next to Eleanor - And to all the scholars above the Kindergarten in Marjories school a sketch of my own life ending with Australian Spring - I went with Eleanor to the Woolloomooloo [sic] Kindergarten which is larger but no better than ours in Adelaide and I spent two hours with Miss Scott at the Paddington Children's Court which was delightful except for one thing that solicitors are admitted. They were at first excluded, but there was an appeal case and the profession prevailed on the Atty Gen to allow lawyers to plead and it is a great mistake and a quite useless waste of poor peoples money. I wrote to both the Sydney Herald and the Telegraph expressing my pleasure at the visit and pointing out its good points but protesting against the solicitors.

Mrs Watson Lister tells me that your brother<sup>980</sup> is going to be married about March to a lady you know<sup>981</sup>, a dispenser at an hospital, and that he thinks that will make you more free to stay longer out of Australia - I hope you like the lady and that she will be a true sister to you.

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<sup>973</sup> Lady Northcote was the wife of Henry Stafford Northcote, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Northcote, (1846-1911), Governor-General of Australia. As Alice Brook, adopted daughter of 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Mount Stephen, she had married Northcote in 1873.

<sup>974</sup> *The Silent Sea* by Mrs Alick Macleod (pseudonym of Catherine Martin) was published in 1892 in London by Bentley & Son and in New York by Harper & Bros.

<sup>975</sup> The Elberfeld system of poor relief, in which towns are divided into small districts with an almoner who helps the poor to help themselves, was developed in Germany in the mid 1800s.

<sup>976</sup> Lady McMillan was the wife of Sir William McMillan (1850-1926), merchant, free trader, NSW parliamentarian and member of first Federal Parliament.

<sup>977</sup> Charles Cameron Kingston (1850-1908), lawyer, federationist, politician, attorney-general and premier of South Australia, minister in federal parliament.

<sup>978</sup> Egerton Lee Batchelor (1865-1911), locomotive engineer, secretary and treasurer of South Australian Trades and Labor Council, member of South Australian and federal parliaments.

<sup>979</sup> Alexander Poynton (1853-1935), shearer and union organiser, labor and free trade supporter, member of South Australian and federal parliaments.

<sup>980</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>981</sup> Jean Woollen.

Vida Goldstein was delighted with the letter I had from Mrs Emily P Collins Hartford Conn. aged 92 and borrowed it to copy it to make some use of it. She lent me the Letters of Golden Rule Jones<sup>982</sup> of Toledo O. Very interesting. She was lamenting how few women can speak or will speak. If she could get the co-operation of Mrs Watson Lister again it would be a great support to the cause of suffrage and progress but she seems to have withdrawn into Xtian Science to the exclusion of public work. V. G. hopes to pull the Suffrage Bill through in 1907 and thinks that then we should gather in Melbourne from all the states to rejoice thereat. If I am alive and well I shall be there - What about you?

What I should like for you would be a post under the S C Dept say at the head of the Protection of Infant Life with leave to do press and platform work if you have time for it - Vida Goldstein was very much delighted with the long and careful answers to all her questions as to the Courts and Inf Prot<sup>983</sup> given by Mr Gray - He read the draft to me and I thought them admirable - He is better than Mr Whiting in the amount of zeal and in the love for each individual child under our care - and I think he is winning the confidence of all the officers. He does full justice to the service of the five excellent women we have - Miss Moule Miss Penny<sup>984</sup> travelling Inspectress - Miss Cocks probation officer Miss Sara<sup>985</sup> recording clerk and Miss Novice<sup>986</sup> corresponding clerk - Mr Green<sup>987</sup> N S W says he has several lady inspectors but none of them above the average and some below it - He says that Mrs Garran<sup>988</sup> in spite of her deafness is the strongest and best member of the Board except the president. Macgowan<sup>989</sup> [sic] leader of the Labour Party has been on the Board for four

[Remainder of letter missing.]

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<sup>982</sup> Samuel Milton Jones (born Wales 1846, died USA 1904), Mayor of Toledo, Ohio, American manufacturer of oil well machinery, and political reformer, noted for enlightened labour policies and progressive political crusades. He earned the nickname Golden Rule Jones for running his factory on Christian and humanitarian principles.

<sup>983</sup> infant protection.

<sup>984</sup> Evelyn Emma Penny.

<sup>985</sup> Annie Esther Sara.

<sup>986</sup> Annie Novice.

<sup>987</sup> Mr Alfred W. Green was the Boarding Out Officer of the New South Wales State Children's Relief Department.

<sup>988</sup> Mary Isham Garran née Sabine (1829-1923) was the wife of Andrew Garran (1825-1901), journalist and politician. Spence had known them when they were in Adelaide in 1850-1856. Mrs Garran endeavoured to put Spence's ideas about child protection into practice in New South Wales. She served on the State Children's Relief Board from its inception until 1911.

<sup>989</sup> James Sinclair Taylor McGowen, boilermaker, foundation member of Australian Labor Party, first Labor premier of New South Wales (1910-1913).

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**PRG 88/7/75**

North Norwood  
13<sup>th</sup> Decr 1906

My dear Miss Henry

I returned from Melbourne in very hot weather. The Sunday I arrived the thermometer recorded 108.7 - a record for Decr - but it changed on Monday though now on Thursday it has worked up for heat again.

Mrs Watson Lister told me she thought you would be pleased with your brother's engagement to Miss Wollen<sup>990</sup> whom you knew and liked - I regret that I did not see Mr Henry<sup>991</sup> - I delayed it too long and he went to see me when I was in Gippsland - He told Mrs W L that he thought you'd feel more free to stay longer in the U S or in England when you knew he had a wife and a home -

Your news is most interesting. I am delighted to hear that Ralph Holmes<sup>992</sup> is well again and to see proofs of his building powers - I am also glad you find Hull House<sup>993</sup> increasingly interesting - and that you have made the acquaintance of the Demarest Lloyds- In reading the life of Susan B Anthony<sup>994</sup> which Mrs W Lister gave me for Gippsland<sup>995</sup> I did not see his name but there were scores of people I had met and even more of people I knew about all through the book - I still adhere to the opinion expressed in my lecture that Jane Addams<sup>996</sup> was is a far more many sided woman with a wider outlook - Of course my own work as lecturer and traveller shrinks besides that of Miss Anthony for I began so much later in life - I wonder if your friendship with Mrs Raymond Robins<sup>997</sup> will lead to similar results to that of Miss Sherriff Bain<sup>998</sup> to Mrs May Wright Sewell<sup>999</sup> -

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<sup>990</sup> Jean Woollen.

<sup>991</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>992</sup> Ralph Holmes was the son of Spence's friend Bayard Taylor Holmes (1852-1924), innovative physician, scientist and teacher. Ralph Holmes suffered from schizophrenia and died in 1915.

<sup>993</sup> Hull-House was a settlement founded in 1889 by Jane Addams to provide social and educational opportunities for working class people in the neighbourhood many of whom were recent immigrants.

<sup>994</sup> *The Life and Work of Susan B. Anthony, including public addresses, her own letters and many from her contemporaries during fifty years. A story of the evolution of the status of women.* By Ida Husted Harper (1851-1931). Indianapolis, Bowen-Merrill, 1898-1899. Susan Brownell Anthony ( 1820- March 13 1906), teacher, temperance worker, famous campaigner for women's rights, woman suffrage, women's labour organisations and the abolition of slavery. Spence had met her when she was in America in 1894.

<sup>995</sup> For her visit to her sister Jessie's family in Yarragon, Gippsland.

<sup>996</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1931), sociologist, philosopher and reformer. She was known as 'the mother of social work' but had wide interests. She worked for woman suffrage, was first president of the National Conference of Charities and Correction and chairman of the Labor Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.

<sup>997</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>998</sup> Wilhelmina Sherriff Bain (1848-1944), Scottish born New Zealand teacher, librarian, feminist, peace activist and writer, influential member of NZ National Council of Women. She was present at and addressed the International Council of Women Conference in Berlin in 1904.

<sup>999</sup> May Wright Sewell (1844-1920) was the second president of the National Council of Women of the United States of America.



I should be glad to see your Outlook<sup>1000</sup> article but of course your Melbourne friends will do something to make it known - I know that its point of view will not please my Conservative Register -

I came home to arrears of work - It is my big week at the Destitute, and instead of writing important letters in the mg I have to write them when tired of the heat and burden of the day as I am now -

The first proof of "Boarding Out and its Developments in South Australia" I got at the S C Office when I went to a Council meeting the day after my arrival - The three first chapters contain Miss Clark's contribution and I took it out to Hazelwood and read it to her and she seemed quite pleased - but the next morning she sent a letter by messenger saying I had left out something she had added and sent to me in Sydney.

It put me very much about for I had forgotten it and of course the printer could only print what Mr Gray had given to him - I hope I have put it right at the printers today.

I think it will be a good book but so long as it is in the printers hands Miss Clark will worry more or less - It is strange that in none of your letters you mention it for I had hoped for your full sympathy - It is not to cost as much as I thought it would and I have raised among my own personal friends nearly half of the cost. Mr Gray thinks I shall get something out of it for myself before all is done - and even if we sell the book in paper at 1/ and in ~~bea~~ cloth at 2/ there will be some money if the subscriptions pay for the printing of 1500 copies and for binding three or four hundred. I dont think the book will be out till after the New Year.

It is not so long as I expected - about 120 pages and it will have five illustrations.

There is to be a Xmas tree for the Kindergarten tomorrow at 3 P M and Lucy Morice wants to see me there - Of course there is nothing but breakings up and examinations in the air except the federal elections of yesterday - I leave my letter open till tomorrow mg when I think we many have the final results - Mr Morice distributed my 28 letters just before my return to Adelaide though I fear in the short session Mr Coombes<sup>1001</sup> Bill will be slaughtered - But the case is still open for next session. The Tramways Bill the Franchise Bill and the Factories Bill must be disposed of and I think the Upper House will have to give way -

Friday mg - On the whole the elections seem to be going badly for Deakin - I send you a Register which will give you later news of Victoria than you can get except by Telegraph - no I don't.

Vardon<sup>1002</sup> is in for the Senate he is a strong friend of Effective Voting and Sir Josiah Symon<sup>1003</sup> and a Labour man.

I am off to the third days sitting - and it is going to be very hot.

Ever yours C H Spence

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<sup>1000</sup> *The Outlook* New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

<sup>1001</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917) journalist and member of Parliament. He was vice-president of the Effective Voting League and had introduced a bill for proportional representation.

<sup>1002</sup> Joseph Vardon (1843-1913), printer, liberal member of South Australian Legislative Council, and of the Senate 1906-13.

<sup>1003</sup> Sir Josiah Symon (1846-1934), lawyer, writer and philanthropist. Member of South Australian Parliament and then of the Senate 1901-1913.

**PRG 88/7/76**

North Norwood  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec/06

My dear Miss Henry

I send you a paragraph<sup>1004</sup> from todays Register cut down a bit but it was all they would print - I like your article exceedingly - It is forcible though moderate in tone -

I also send a letter by Mr HG Turner - which Vida Goldstein asked me to reply to - At first I thought it was none of my business but as I could give a better answer at least a more complete one I wrote what I should have liked to send but it has not come to hand yet - She says that she wrote to both Age and Argus and her letter was not inserted - I send you her post card as the letter will stand it.

You say as you cannot get the *Silent Sea*<sup>1005</sup> you would like to send me back the money. Somebody has borrowed or stolen my copy of Mrs Stetsons<sup>1006</sup> poems. Can you get me another - It was the 50c edition in paper covers but you may not be able to get it - There may be a new edition with additional poems which I should prefer though it may be considerably dearer - Lady Northcote<sup>1007</sup> has her *Silent Sea*.

Mrs Martins latest book is published under pseudonym Ishbell [sic] by Longmans Green and is called *The Old Roof-tree*<sup>1008</sup>. When I went to buy it I found the only shop which had imported it had sold out - I wrote to C Wren to get it either in Melbourne or Sydney if possible and send it to me - I did not get my *Booklover*<sup>1009</sup> till the 18<sup>th</sup> otherwise I should have seen it noticed.

I have had a telegram to go to a deputation at 12 after having one yesterday to say it was put off indefinitely - It is on behalf of the free Kindergarten which is growing so large they had to take an adjoining cottage - We had 75 children at the Xmas Tree - and it is doing great social work in the poorest district of Adelaide -

I have been deeply interested in the report on Truancy in Chicago that I think you forwarded to me and would like to make some use of it.

I think we have enough money to bind all our 1500 copies - I intend to send you a number to distribute to friends or to sell if you think people would like to pay for them.

My own personal friends in America I intend to send to direct.

Holidays approaching the printers are not sending me the proofs as I should like - I have to write a paper on Proportional representation for the Science Congress to be held in Adelaide 7<sup>th</sup> Jany<sup>1010</sup> - Miss Tomkinson is still very much out of health -

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<sup>1004</sup> The paragraph about Alice Henry and her work appeared in 'Concerning People' in the *Register* 22 December 1906 p.9f.

<sup>1005</sup> *The Silent Sea* by Mrs Alick Macleod (Catherine Martin) was published in London in 1892 in 3 volumes by Richard Bentley & Son, and a single volume in New York by Harper & Bros.

<sup>1006</sup> Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American poet, writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights. She divorced Stetson in 1894 and in 1902 married her cousin George Gilman. She is now known as Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

<sup>1007</sup> Lady Northcote was the wife of Henry Stafford Northcote, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Northcote, (1846-1911), Governor-General of Australia.

<sup>1008</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1009</sup> *The Book lover: a literary review*, published in Melbourne 1899-1921 by J. W. Cutting.

<sup>1010</sup> The proceedings of this meeting were published in 1907 as *Report of the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science* and Spence's address (abridged) appeared on pp. 632-633.

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Lucy Morice is quite anxious about her - I am very busy - Still have newspapers and pamphlets unopened -

Eleanor and Marjorie Wren are at Mrs Halls Glendora Elsternwick head quarters for the holidays -

Some time in Janry the family will be together again in Sydney -

This is a short letter from me but I have to hurry up to go to the deputation -

Always yours  
C H Spence

**PRG 88/777**

North Norwood  
19<sup>th</sup> Jany 1907

My dear Miss Henry

I have two letters of yours to answer and your Outlook<sup>1011</sup> article and various cuttings to acknowledge. The Outlook went to Lucy Morice and Miss Tomkinson who both like it much - I think it is so fair and so moderate - My friend Barr Smith<sup>1012</sup> the wealthy man has just today sent me a pamphlet written by himself opposing the transcontinental railway and especially any land grant railway and praising very highly Mr Price<sup>1013</sup> and the Labour party in Parliament for their firm stand against all efforts to give the construction to a syndicate - I wish I could get a copy to send to you - I am very glad that you are finding audiences in big American cities for the valuable messages that Australia can give them - I feel that Ramsay Macdonald<sup>1014</sup> is right as to Australian sentiment being of value for the world.

Longmans Green have brought out for Mrs Martin<sup>1015</sup> *The Old Roof Tree* - letters from Ishbell[sic] to her half brother Mark Latimer - which ought to be a classic. But by some blunder this book written by an Australian and full of Australian sentiment was not sent either to the Aust press or to the Aust booksellers or to the authors friends - I do hope it may be reprinted in the U S - I shall enclose my review of it<sup>1016</sup> - I had to get it out of the only circulating library that had a copy - I ordered one for myself which will come in a fortnight and later sent to Mr Petherick<sup>1017</sup> an order for two one for himself and one to be sent to H. G. Turner as an acknowledgment for great kindness from both - I believe Mrs Martins novel which her husband thinks the best she has ever written has been declined by Macmillan and Mr Petherick is trying to get another publisher to bring it out -

My own book *Boarding Out and its Developments*<sup>1018</sup> I am promised complete the end of next week. I must add a good deal of matter gathered since it was written in Octr - I think we have about enough of money for the 1500 copies - Mr Gray does not think we will sell many but I am going to print a slip of about 30 or 40 lines for the press only and I believe it will sell -

You say the Australian development of child saving is National not philanthropic and that is the reason why we have no literature on the subject - When funds are needed people must advertise - and have pictures of how the waifs look

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<sup>1011</sup> *The Outlook* New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

<sup>1012</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), businessman and philanthropist, and his wife Joanna née Elder, were friends of Spence and helped her in many ways.

<sup>1013</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, foreman, chairman United Labor Party 1909, member of Parliament 1893-1909, Premier of South Australia, commissioner of Public Works, minister of Education, 1905-1909.

<sup>1014</sup> Ramsay Macdonald (1886-1937) in 1906 became a Labour member of the British Parliament and much later in 1923 the first Labour Prime Minister. Spence had met him recently in Melbourne.

<sup>1015</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1016</sup> Spence's anonymous review, entitled 'Poor Australia' appeared in the *Observer* 12 January 1907, p. 4ab.

<sup>1017</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917) and his wife Mary were friends with whom Spence stayed in England in 1894. After bankruptcy in 1894 he worked as a cataloguer 1895-1908 when he returned to Australia to present his great book collection to the Commonwealth.

<sup>1018</sup> *State children in Australia: a history of boarding out and its developments*. By Catherine Helen Spence. Adelaide, Vardon and Sons, Printers, 1907. pp. 147.

when rescued and how they look in homes or institutions - In this slip for the press I shall emphasise the National character of the movement.

It was a grand thing for you to have your article reprinted in full as an answer to misrepresentation. And you are making friends and no friends can be better than Americans - and apparently you are earning enough to keep you going - Pittsburg I never visited - It is in the heart of what in England is called the black country coal and iron and in the centre of the gigantic monopolies of the Great Republic.

I have been excessively busy since I came home six weeks ago - have done a good deal in the press. And gone about more than I like - The weather has been cool since I arrived when it was 110 - has only once reached 100° till yesterday when it was 106° but is better today - The manager of my co-operative clothing factory is going to be married to an old widower pastor of the Church of Christ and Mrs Milne<sup>1019</sup> factory inspector is going to exchange £100 a year and her own tram fares to pay for £2 a week. It is doing much better this year than last for the girls see they must try to earn the wages that the Wages Board says they must get - I don't know that there will be any dividend but it is paying its way -

Vida Goldstein was pleased with the letter I wrote to Argus in reply to Mr Turner and Mr Turner also liked the letter -

I have been boiling down with local comments the accounts of the counting of 12 500 votes collected by the P R Society at Caxton Hall Westminster<sup>1020</sup> - for both papers as a letter of over a column<sup>1021</sup> - I wonder if Nanson is making any use of it or if he is lead [sic] astray by the preferential vote in single electorates.

Did I tell you that I had to write a paper on P R for the Science Congress that met in Adelaide on 7<sup>th</sup> Jany. I prepared a good paper and read it to eight or nine people. There were 30 papers read that day in various sections but there was some time for discussion and Prof Anderson<sup>1022</sup> of Sydney - Mr Knibbs<sup>1023</sup> now Federal Statistician and our Law Professor Jethro Brown<sup>1024</sup> took part in it - I am still hopeful of some results from the 28 letters I wrote in Sydney to Prices supporters.

The movement in France for P R is important -

Miss Tomkinson is in a most unsatisfactory state of health. She had learned to write with the left hand but Dr Violet Plummer<sup>1025</sup> forbids that as she says that the nerves of both hands have a common centre and source and both must have rest. I have scarcely seen her since my return - Lucy is very busy preparing the enlarged

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<sup>1019</sup> Agnes Milne (1850-1919), owner of a garment workshop, activist and member of the Working Women's Trade Union, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was the second woman to be appointed as an Inspector of Factories and worked to eliminate sweating in the garment industry. In 1906 she became manager of the South Australian Co-operative Clothing factory.

<sup>1020</sup> Caxton Hall was constructed in 1878 as the Westminster City Hall. It became an important location for political events and marriages. The public count was held to demonstrate the working of the 'Hare ballot'.

<sup>1021</sup> Spence's letter 'Proportional Representation' appeared in the *Register*, 17 January 1907, p.8fg and in the *Advertiser*, 18 January 1907, p. 7de.

<sup>1022</sup> Francis Anderson, later Sir, (1858-1941), philosopher and educationist, fierce reformer of the New South Wales education system, supporter of the Kindergarten Union of NSW.

<sup>1023</sup> George Handley Knibbs, later Sir, (1858-1929), surveyor and statistician, first Commonwealth statistician 1906-1921, Director of Technical Education in New South Wales 1905-1906, president of New South Wales Society of Child Study 1903-1905.

<sup>1024</sup> William Jethro Brown (1868-1930), political thinker, writer, academic and jurist. He was Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide from 1906 to 1916.

<sup>1025</sup> Violet May Plummer (born 1873) B.Sc. (Adel): M.B., Ch. B. (Melb) 1897, was the first woman to practise in South Australia. After acting as a resident surgeon at the Melbourne Hospital and at the Women's Hospital, she returned to Adelaide in 1900 and worked with great success for thirty years.

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Kindergarten for occupancy they have taken the next door house - in Miss de Lissa's<sup>1026</sup> absence.

When kindergartens are taken over by the city in the U. S. I suppose the classes are larger than we have them. So many volunteers and students help that there seems to be a teacher to every eight children -

I made the acquaintance of Prof Anderson and his wife and hope to see something of them on my next visit to Sydney.

C Wren and Eleanor returned to Sydney on the 7<sup>th</sup> Jan a week after Mr Urquharts return. Mrs Wren and Marjorie stayed till the Davies's go on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and they take Dora Davies<sup>1027</sup> with them to go to Marjorie's school during her parents absence.

The two little boys with their nurse stay at Glendora with Mr and Mrs Hall -

Miss Clark will never be quite satisfied till the book is complete and out - She oddly fancies she is responsible for it, because it is in memorial of her work - I have Mr Gray's complete sympathy and I think it is really a good piece of work - As for the subscriptions I have collected very nearly half of them myself -

Did I ask you for Mrs Stetsons<sup>1028</sup> poems? If I send you half a dozen copies of the book and you find you can sell them do so - If people pay for a book they are pretty sure to read it -

You need a stout heart for the work you are doing but I think you have it -  
More power to your elbow -

Always yours heartily  
C H Spence

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<sup>1026</sup> Lillian Daphne De Lissa (1885-1967), early childhood educator. She became director of the first Adelaide free kindergarten, first principal of the Adelaide Kindergarten Training College, and first director of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia in 1907.

<sup>1027</sup> Dora Seymour Davies was the oldest child of Seymour and Dora Davies, née Hall. The two little boys were Geoffrey Francis Seymour Davies and John Seymour Davies. They would be staying with their grandparents.

<sup>1028</sup> Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights. She divorced Stetson in 1894 and in 1902 married her cousin George Gilman. She is now known as Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

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**PRG 88/7/78**

North Norwood  
16<sup>th</sup> Feby [1907]

My dear Miss Henry

The very day that I posted my last letter to you I got your long letter dated inside 20<sup>th</sup> Nov but with post mark 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec - telling that the North American Review<sup>1029</sup> had accepted an article on Woman suffrage in Australia, and that with that you had earned \$250 in three casual months with voice and pen - Very good say!! Lucy Morice and Miss Tomkinson have read your letter and I copied most of it to Mrs F Martin in Seville. I have now all my proofs for the final revise and hope in the course of ten days to send to the subscribers their copies. I have an order for 50 copies from the Dept in Sydney, and when I can send a sample copy I shall have a larger order from Melbourne - We mean to supply paper covers at 1/- and 1/6 bound in cloth to departments giving a large order - The selling price of single copies will be about 2/ or 2/6. We intend to send 50 or 100 to the Agent Generals office where Mr Whiting can sell them to enquirers - I enclose slips for editors; the sub editor of Register recommended it, as even if they do not take the trouble to read the book, they could print this, which gives an idea of the purpose and scope of the book - There is a shocking account of baby farming in Perth in the telegraphic news from W A today. Dr Gertrude Mead<sup>1030</sup> is over from WA on a visit, and is much interested in the book. I have made some important additions and have changed the title from Boarding Out and its developments to State Children in Australia - because whatever differences there may be in administration, all over Australia the care of dependent and delinquent children is national and not philanthropic - One of our Council, Mr C H Goode<sup>1031</sup> has been travelling in Canada and was much fascinated by the free homes that Mr Kelso<sup>1032</sup> gets for children there, and wrote to our Chief Secretary<sup>1033</sup> that we should try to imitate the Dominion, and save the tax payer by enlisting sympathy and cooperation from people in the community. This needed to be dealt with and I made a new beginning and added much to the 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter - the delay in publication has really been beneficial to the book as I have taken hold of the root difference between Australian National responsibilities, and the philanthropic methods employed elsewhere - I do not see why the book should not command a large sale -

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<sup>1029</sup> *North American Review*, founded in Boston 1815, moved to New York 1870s, a quarterly magazine for literature, current affairs and politics. It still exists in 2006.

<sup>1030</sup> Gertrude Ella Mead (1867-1919), Western Australian medical practitioner, educated at Adelaide University and in Dublin and London. She supported the Children's Protection Society and Day Nursery and the Silver Chain Cottages for the Aged. She was the first woman appointed to the Senate of the University of Western Australia.

<sup>1031</sup> Charles Henry Goode, later Sir, (1827-1922), merchant and philanthropist with a special interest in young people, president of the Royal Institute for the Blind 1884-1922, a founder of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>1032</sup> Mr Kelso was the head of the department dealing with State Children in Toronto. He corresponded with Spence. Toronto had the credit of establishing the first Children's Courts in the world.

<sup>1033</sup> Andrew Alexander Kirkpatrick (1848-1928), compositor, president United Labor Party, president Trades and Labor Council, member of the Legislative Council, was Chief Secretary and Minister of Industry.

Our Price<sup>1034</sup> ministry in S A has some of the biggest things in hand that ever fell into the work of any ministry. The Tramway Trust has been formed - two appointed by the Govt and the rest elected by the municipalities and district Councils, where the tram lines run - The price has been paid. £80,000 less than the Snow<sup>1035</sup> people engaged to pay. In three years we will get electric cars up to 2½ miles of the city, and later we shall have extensions. The people who opposed it were quite eager to be elected on the tramways trust though the remuneration is quite moderate. Even the Chairman gets only £300 a year, the others I think £40 or less. I forget the exact amount.

Then Mr Price has arranged with the Commonwealth Govt to take over the Northern Territory and subject to ratification by the Federal and the State parliament I think it will be satisfactory - Our difficulty here will be the Leg Council, which is in favour of S. A. retaining the N. T and making a Land Grant railway - Did I write to you about R Barr Smith<sup>1036</sup> writing and distributing a pamphlet Against the Railway from Pine Creek to Oodnadatta<sup>1037</sup> [sic] and Against Land Grant Railways. He is just 83, but the pamphlet is most vigorous and his being a wealthy man and a most successful business man it was a bad blow to the promoters of the Land Grant railway -

The third big thing is the agreement about the Murray waters between the three States N S. W., Vic, and S. A., and I think that is in a fair way to be settled amicably and equitably -

I sent your Outlook<sup>1038</sup> article to Lucy and Amy Tomkinson and now Crawford Vaughan<sup>1039</sup> has it. Did I tell you Ward Locke have accepted a childrens book from Evelyn Vaughan<sup>1040</sup>; she does not know when it will come out - Lucy Morice is as delighted with Mrs F. Martins Old Roofree as I was. Cole<sup>1041</sup> in Melbourne has not sent me the copy I ordered. I could not pay for it then, for I had no idea what the price would be. 'His Mother's Boy'<sup>1042</sup> is to come out in London about Easter, but I dont know who will publish it. They are enjoying Spain and Seville reading Spanish

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<sup>1034</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, foreman, chairman United Labor Party 1909, member of Parliament 1893-1909, Premier of South Australia, commissioner of Public Works, minister of Education, 1905-1909.

<sup>1035</sup> Mr Snow was the representative of companies like British Westinghouse Electric Company and Callender's Cable and Construction Company which wished to take the tramways into private ownership. The Tramways Bill to enable this was commonly known as the Snow Bill. It was eventually defeated and the tramways bought by the Government. Spence had fought for public ownership.

<sup>1036</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), businessman and philanthropist, and his wife Joanna née Elder, were friends of Spence and helped her in many ways.

<sup>1037</sup> The railway south from Palmerston (Darwin) to Pine Creek in the Northern Territory had been completed in 1889. The railway north from Adelaide to Oodnadatta in South Australia (over 1000 kilometres) had been completed in 1891. The Adelaide-Darwin Railway was eventually opened in 2004.

<sup>1038</sup> *The Outlook*, New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

<sup>1039</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

<sup>1040</sup> *Days that Speak* was published by Ward, Lock & Co in London in 1908 under Mrs Crawford Vaughan's maiden name, Evelyn Goode.

<sup>1041</sup> Edward William Cole (1832-1918), bookseller.

<sup>1042</sup> *His Mother's Boy* was finally rejected by Macmillan, its sympathetic portrait of an aboriginal woman's desperate attempt to find her stolen son apparently considered unlikely to succeed in England. In 1923 a later version was published by Jonathan Cape as *The Incredible Journey* by C. E. M. Martin. It was the first of Catherine Martin's books to be published under her own name.



newspapers novels and plays - especially interested in the plays, but I think they are turning towards their home in S A and will be back before the end of the year.

I see that it is really four weeks since I wrote to you and that it is three weeks since I got your letter - The initials are doubtful, but I think it is Mrs Watson Lister who had not been writing to you - The information about the present aspect of the Chicago school fight I made up into an article for the Register which was declined, as what was new was not interesting to the S A public - So I wrote it over again with great additions and sent it to the Sydney Telegraph, which Prof. Anderson<sup>1043</sup> had told me would be glad to publish what he heard from me, and which was absolutely new to him - Of course I think the square mile is also most interesting - As the Telegraph article was posted a fortnight ago, I suppose it is accepted - I wrote to Eleanor and to Prof. Anderson to look out for it - It was to the Telegraph that I sent a letter every four weeks when I was in America and Canada and I was paid £35 for it and got £25 for two or three more written to the Register - I think the Register had 17 or 18 - I am sorry you have not this Australian string to your bow - But your subjects are more popular than mine - Do you ever say a word for P. R.? I still live in hopes but not from the E V League - I think my letter may do good that I wrote to the supporters of the Price Govt in Novr -

I sent the letter on E V<sup>1044</sup>, which I published in both papers with a private note to Prof Nanson and he sent in return a third of a column of the Age on preferential voting as exemplified in the count at the Caxton Hall Westminster<sup>1045</sup> and he writes that he thinks the Age or its proprietor is beginning to see the importance of large electorates where only real P R. can be carried out. The Argus ought to have taken notice of the Caxton Hall Count, but if so, either my neice [sic] or Mrs Webster would have sent it to me - I saw a London Spectator (date I did not note) at a friends house, with an article on the House of Lords and its relations with the Commons on the Ed. Bill - in which it said that since the count at Caxton Hall had shown the simplicity and equity of the Hare system, perhaps the ideal Chamber of Second Thought should be a House elected by proportional representation but did not specify whether the United Kingdom should be taken as one constituency, or be divided into many large electorates.

I have to take the church for one perhaps two Sundays to give Mr Reid<sup>1046</sup> a holiday in the hills, and I can't think of suitable subjects for sermons - I wonder if I should have sent on your last letter to Mrs Watson Lister -

Always Yours C H Spence

Mrs Young is still tied to the farm. I have not even had a p c from her for a month.

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<sup>1043</sup> Francis Anderson, later Sir, (1858-1941), philosopher and educationist, fierce reformer of the New South Wales education system, supporter of the Kindergarten Union of NSW.

<sup>1044</sup> Spence's letter 'Proportional Representation' had appeared in the *Register*, 17 January 1907, p.8fg and in the *Advertiser*, 18 January 1907, p. 7de.

<sup>1045</sup> Caxton Hall was constructed in 1878 as the Westminster City Hall. It became an important location for political events and marriages. The public count had been held to demonstrate the working of the 'Hare ballot'.

<sup>1046</sup> John Reid, MA, the minister of the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church.

**PRG 88/7/79**

North Norwood  
8<sup>th</sup> March 1907

My dear Miss Henry

I had your post-card telling that you had received my long letter and that you felt the extreme cold of Chicago in January very much - I was there in the three summer months June July August but Dr Renwick now Sir Arthur<sup>1047</sup> told me that when he was making preparations and arrangements for the N. S. W. exhibit the previous winter the ink used to be frozen in the ink bottles and had to be thawed - It was impossible to heat artificially the vast Halls that were built and that was the main reason they were built for six months only - May to November -

Well on the whole you have done well in the U. S. I do not think you need fear running yourself out. Do you not receive a Melbourne daily or weekly paper regularly? That would be a help to keep you up to date on Australian matters. But the dailies and big weeklies do not emphasise the matters which make the stuff for treatment by pen and voice you want for Americans and they are not accessible to new ideas from abroad. I told you that I had altered and enlarged an article rejected by the Adelaide Register on the School fights in Chicago and sent it to the Sydney Telegraph. After 3 weeks having heard nothing about it I wrote to Professor Anderson<sup>1048</sup> of Sydney University to ask for the M.S. That was thirteen days ago and I have not heard from him - I never tell the story without exciting great interest - and I wrote the article as well as I could.

I enclose you a letter<sup>1049</sup> I sent to both our dailies which explains itself - It was rather amusing to see The Times credited with a suggestion quite new that I had published 30 years ago in Frasers Magazine.<sup>1050</sup> That was not absolutely new because I borrowed from an article called "Why not the Lords too" meaning that the Lords need reform and proposing to reduce their number by election. But my new application was that the reduction must be by P. R. and not by the block vote - The Melbourne Review<sup>1051</sup> thought it ~~must~~ had had enough of the subject and rejected my article but Frasers Magazine accepted it and gave me £8.15 for it whereas I never got a penny from the Melbourne Review - I got £12 for an article An Australians Impressions of England<sup>1052</sup> in the Cornhill Jan 1866 £10 for an article<sup>1053</sup> written for Ed Wilson<sup>1054</sup> signed by his name in the Fortnightly but he paid me and gave the article to the Fortnightly - £15 from Harpers Magazine for an Australians Impressions

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<sup>1047</sup> Sir Arthur Renwick (1837-1908), medical practitioner, philanthropist and member of the NSW Parliament, first president of the Sydney branch of the British Medical Association.

<sup>1048</sup> Francis Anderson, later Sir, (1858-1941), philosopher and educationist, fierce reformer of the New South Wales education system, supporter of the Kindergarten Union of NSW.

<sup>1049</sup> Spence's letter 'Reform of the House of Lords' appeared on 27 February 1907 in the *Register* p. 11b and in the *Advertiser* p. 8c.

<sup>1050</sup> 'Australian Federation and Imperial Union' by a Colonist appeared in *Fraser's Magazine*, London, 1877, vol. xvi pp. 526-539.

<sup>1051</sup> *The Melbourne Review* 1876-1885 was Australia's first successful quality review. Spence's friend Henry Gyles Turner was co-founder, contributor and sometime editor.

<sup>1052</sup> 'An Australian's Impression of England', unsigned article in *Cornhill Magazine*, vol. xiii, pp. 110-120, January 1866.

<sup>1053</sup> 'Principles of Representation' by Edward Wilson. *Fortnightly Review* 1866 vol. 4, no. xxii, pp. 421-436.

<sup>1054</sup> Edward Wilson (1813-1878), journalist and philanthropist, for many years proprietor of the *Argus*. Born in London, he lived in Melbourne until bad eyesight forced him to return to England.

of America<sup>1055</sup> - and £20 for as long an article in the *Arena*<sup>1056</sup> but also a years *Arena* to boot - These have been my largest earnings or rather my only earnings from *Review* Monthly magazines or Reviews - I got £40 for four long articles in the *Methodist Weekly*<sup>1057</sup> published in New York - I wrote a lot in the U S that I was not paid for at all - But on the whole America the U.S. I mean was the best - It was the only place where I was paid for lecturing - but as I have always told you - New York was the worst place I was in -

I thought I would have my book out this week to send you but I have not - I think I am sure of it to send next week via Vancouver - I intend to send you six copies - Keep one with my love - sell the others if you can. It is to be published here at 2/- but the postage will be 5d or 6d and I must send by post - There is awful baby farming in Perth two thirds of the babies placed with one woman died and there was a woman inspector who gave no notice at headquarters and a doctor who gave certificates. I believe my book will sell in Perth - We find that the printing of 1500 copies and good binding of three will cost £35. We have £50 so the balance should put half of the 1500 in cloth - We offer to the S. C Depts<sup>1058</sup> in the other states as many copies as they want at 1/- in paper 1/6 in cloth - To all our visitors and all our staff we give copies in cloth and we mean to send away hundreds -

The address of the Texas people is Miss Brackenridge<sup>1059</sup>  
San Antonio Texas  
Miss Fenwick<sup>1060</sup> Journalist  
San Antonio Texas

I have before me a post card with a view of Brackenridge Park presented by brother George (Brackenridge)<sup>1061</sup> to San Antonio - He is a large land owner and a Single Taxer - She is an elderly lady at the head of movements for education and philanthropy in San Antonio - I am going to send her a copy of my book -

I have the greatest wish to see Margaret Haley<sup>1062</sup>, Rebel. Could you send me the Nos. of the 'Times' Magazine<sup>1063</sup> in which this appears? I can see no allusion to Ernest Crosbie's<sup>1064</sup> [sic] death in my American and Canadian papers - I'd like to

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<sup>1055</sup> 'An Australian's Impression of America', *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, an American monthly journal of literature, politics, culture and the arts, 1850-present day. July 1894, vol. 89, pp. 244-251.

<sup>1056</sup> *Arena*, Boston. An American monthly, advocate of social reform. 1889-1909. Spence published 'Effective Voting - the only effective moralizer of politics'. November 1894, vol. x, no. lx. p. 767-776.

<sup>1057</sup> *The Christian Advocate*, New York, was the weekly publication of the Methodist Church. One of Spence's articles was 'Notes political and social of ten months in America'. 23 August 1894. p. 4-5.

<sup>1058</sup> State Children's Departments.

<sup>1059</sup> Mary Eleanor Brackenridge (1837-1924), advocate of temperance and women's and children's rights and welfare.

<sup>1060</sup> Marin B. Fenwick (c.1860-1928), writer, suffragist and civic leader, journalist with San Antonio Express from 1892, and close friend of Mary Brackenridge.

<sup>1061</sup> George Washington Brackenridge (1832-1920), business man, benefactor and philanthropist.

<sup>1062</sup> Margaret Angela Joliet Haley (1861-1939), born Illinois USA, became a teacher in Chicago in 1876. With Catharine Goggin (1855-1916) she led the Chicago Teachers' Federation from 1890s to 1920s, securing many improvements in salaries and conditions, and allied the Chicago Teachers' Federation with the American Federation of Labour.

<sup>1063</sup> *The New York Times Magazine*.

<sup>1064</sup> Ernest Howard Crosby (1856-1907), American lawyer, social reformer, single taxer and writer. In 1894 he founded the Social Reform Club of New York City and in 1900 the Anti-Imperialism League of New York.

send you Mrs Martin's Old Roof-Tree<sup>1065</sup> it is so stimulating. If I do, it will be the fourth copy I have bought but I hesitate about ordering it through Mr Petherick<sup>1066</sup> and buying it here - Perhaps you have not time for much reading and are choked up with American newspapers. I have the church for two Sundays and have two sermons to finish - one which seems to have stuck in the middle and cannot be coaxed to move - I was surprised to hear more than a month after it happened that the U C C Committee had given Mr Reid<sup>1067</sup> six months notice - He is an able man and a most scholarly man but he is old - Half our congregation the paying half are strong conservatives - the other half are radicals and single taxers. When Mr Reid touched on politics which he did too often he pleased neither of these extremes. One might be tempted to say then he must have been in the right but it was not quite the case. And he scolded the people in church because of people that did not. Personally I like him much and I am very fond of Mary<sup>1068</sup> - But how this could happen and no one tell me for nearly five weeks puzzles me extremely. Six months notice from 1st Feby. He is taking a three weeks holiday. Mr Whitham took the first Sunday. I take the other two - I preached on Antonio Fogazzaro's 'Saint'<sup>1069</sup> on Sunday eve - I am taking an old subject Mrs Gaskell's<sup>1070</sup> life literary work and influence for Sunday evening. I have read all her works which took a lot of time -

Always yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>1065</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1066</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917), bookseller, publisher, bibliographer and book collector and his wife Mary were friends with whom Spence had stayed in England in 1894. After bankruptcy in 1894 he worked as a cataloguer until he returned to Australia in 1908 to present his great book collection to the Commonwealth of Australia.

<sup>1067</sup> John Reid, MA, the minister of the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church.

<sup>1068</sup> John Reid's daughter Mary Reid.

<sup>1069</sup> Antonio Fogazzaro (1842-1911). *The Saint*, translated from the Italian by M. Prichard-Agnetti, London, Hodder & Stoughton 1906.

<sup>1070</sup> Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell née Stevenson (1810-1865), British novelist. Her father and her husband, William Gaskell, were both Unitarian ministers. She wrote nine novels, many short stories and a life of Charlotte Brontë. It is unlikely that Spence had access to all of these.

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**PRG 88/7/80**

North Norwood  
9th April 1907

My dear Miss Henry

Over three weeks ago I posted you one copy of my book<sup>1071</sup> but I only put 2d on it not knowing that the book postage to the US is double what it is to the UK. I hope however it has reached you. A week ago I posted you 6 copies but on going to the G. P. O I found that I had to pay 1/6 postage and 3d extra for registering to make sure. I cannot get copies bound in cloth for our subscribers yet. Yesterday the subscribing members of the S C Council got theirs and there were few more in cloth - We have some hundreds in paper but we need 200 for subscribers and they must be in cloth - I am most happy to tell you that Miss Clark now that she has read the whole book is delighted with it. It is not at all too long and it is all right and ought to do a great deal of good. Mr C H Goode<sup>1072</sup> whom I mention towards the end as so charmed with the free homes in Canada tells us that there are 21 000 children in English workhouses and about 30 000 in institutions district schools under the unions - He is glad that we have the stereo-plates preserved for he does not think 1500 will be enough for the demand - but I am doubtful - I feel much annoyed at the delay - It is eight weeks since I corrected the last of the proofs that was the additional matter I wrote in Janry including the first page and most of the last chapter - I feel sure you will like the book - the whole scope of it - It is only in Australia that there are State Children. In Leipzig there are city children. In England there are parish children in America - there are neglected children - many of them cared for by philanthropic individuals and institutions but in Australia it is a national possession and a national responsibility - That is the point I want you to make.

I have had a number of missives from you. The first a short letter undated saying that you were better - and no longer paralysed by the extreme cold - and that you were offered \$50 for three articles aggregating 2500 words which I thought most handsome. Then came a long and most interesting letter chiefly on the Woman Suffrage movement telling how the Convention had missed their opportunity and had not been present at the Municipal meeting when the New Charter was being discussed and the question of the Municipal vote for women was lost - probably through their absence -

Of course, it was a monstrous blunder but both with the suffragists and the W. C. T. U. the eloquence is expended on themselves - on the already converted - I read your N A R<sup>1073</sup> article on Sunday at Glenelg - There you lay down the methods which have been successfull [sic] in N. Z. and in Australia to keep the subject before the public and especially before all candidates for Parliamentary seats. I like the article very much, though not so much as that in the Outlook<sup>1074</sup>. I am quite sure you are right in your opinion that unless women feel sympathy with the struggles of labour for better conditions, they waste their time in fighting for the ballot - Many English and still more American women think that the influence of the votes of intelligent and

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<sup>1071</sup> *State children in Australia: a history of boarding out and its developments*. By Catherine Helen Spence. Adelaide, Vardon and Sons, Printers, 1907. pp. 147.

<sup>1072</sup> Charles Henry Goode, later Sir, (1827-1922), merchant and philanthropist with a special interest in young people, president of the Royal Institute for the Blind 1884-1922, a founder of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>1073</sup> *North American Review*, a journal of literature and culture, the oldest literary magazine in the USA. It was published in Boston and ran from 1815-1940.

<sup>1074</sup> *The Outlook* New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

educated women will elevate politics and prevent mob rule - But the property vote for our Upper House is a block in the path of democracy as it is in Victoria - It is because the Commonwealth is founded on Adult Suffrage that it has been able to do so much for liberty and for true democracy. In this second letter you say you have refused the \$50 in the first you said you thought it too little - I wrote what I thought a remarkably good article for the Register entitled Immigration Quantity and Quality - dealing mainly with Mr Wells book the Future of America<sup>1075</sup> - but giving some extra information from reading and experience. It was returned next day. Mr Sowden<sup>1076</sup> said Mr Wells book has been dealt with briefly - and American Immigration had been treated in a leading article - I took it down to Lucy Morice and read it to her - She said it was far too valuable and original to be wasted, and recommended me to send it to The Lone Hand<sup>1077</sup> the magazine Archibald of the Bulletin is starting -

Well for a Magazine I thought it should be longer and for Bulletin people I could put in some things that I did not dare to put in the Register so I wrote it all over again and added about a third and sent 20 pages - of an average of 200 words - If it is accepted and I get £5 for it I will think myself very lucky.

I have still my rejected article on the School fight by me. The Register declined it as what was new was not interesting to Australians. Following the advice of Prof. Anderson<sup>1078</sup> of Sydney University I sent it to the Sydney Telegraph after having revised and added to it and it was sent back after five weeks - And these two articles are especially good - I see the Booklover<sup>1079</sup> gives me a short paragraph without having seen my book - but it is impressed by the fact that I could write and publish a book when I was over 80 - The Sydney Dept has got 50 copies and the Melbourne Dept 50 - at 1/- each. Mr Mackly [sic] of the C O S<sup>1080</sup> was charmed with the copy sent him by Mr Gray and orders 6 - Miss F. D Hill ordered 12 at 2/- which have been sent to her - If you sell the copies I sent you - add the postage to the price

I received the Times Magazine<sup>1081</sup> with Margaret Haley<sup>1082</sup> Rebel most interesting and so is the article you marked about False Confessions - In fact I think I read it all through with interest. I did not receive Mrs Stetsons<sup>1083</sup> poems - but I had a P C in which you said you were going to the Lloyds - Query for a call or for a longer visit. I think you are in luck to be earning \$16 a week and have your evenings - I begin to fear that the Americans will capture you - They tried to capture me but I had too many family ties in Australia - I certainly had more desire to stay in America than in England. There appears to be so much grand work to be done there - But it is hard work - Australia is the field of the least resistance - I think that is very plainly shown in my book.

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<sup>1075</sup> *The Future in America: a search after realities* (1906) by Herbert George Wells (1866-1946).

<sup>1076</sup> William John Sowden, later Sir, (1858-1943), journalist. He worked for the *Register* from 1881 and was editor from 1899-1922.

<sup>1077</sup> *The Lone Hand* an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* 1907-1921.

<sup>1078</sup> Sir Francis Anderson (1858-1941), philosopher, educationist and education reformer, Challis Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy at Sydney University.

<sup>1079</sup> *The Book lover: a literary review*, published in Melbourne 1899-1921 by J. W. Cutting.

<sup>1080</sup> T. C. Mackley, of the Charity Organization Society.

<sup>1081</sup> New York Times Magazine.

<sup>1082</sup> Margaret Angela Joliet Haley (1861-1939), born Illinois USA, became a teacher in Chicago in 1876. With Catherine Goggin she led the Chicago Teachers' Federation from 1890s to 1920s, securing many improvements in salaries and conditions, and allied the Chicago Teachers' Federation with the American Federation of Labour.

<sup>1083</sup> Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights. She divorced Stetson in 1894 and in 1902 married her cousin George Gilman. She is now known as Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

Miss Clark says the only criticism she is inclined to make is that I make too much of her share in the movement but we can scarcely give too much credit to pioneers - Now when I see how timid and apprehensive she is by nature, I wonder she had the courage and tenacity she showed in the beginning - Probably the timidity has increased but her sister Mrs Crompton<sup>1084</sup> says Emily always anticipated the worst - I know very well that I have been a great help and support to Miss Clark all through, but she was the initiator -

Mr Reid<sup>1085</sup> has become quite unpopular with the congregation and quite unknown to me the Committee gave him six months notice from the 1st Feby. asking him to send in his resignation. He will not resign but he will go at the end of July. He feels very sore. Half of our people the paying ones are Conservatives - the other half are Radicals and Single Taxers - When he touched on politics which he did too often he offended both parties. Personally I like him very much but I am aware he has done some unwise things - I did not know of this till the 3rd March - perhaps I wrote of it to you. But I had a letter from Mr H G Turner yesterday which I may make an extract from on the margin of my letter - By the by I read with interest your short article in the Aust Herald<sup>1086</sup> 'A Dramatic Situation'.

[The remainder of the letter is on the margins of four separate pages]

Mr Turner writes 5th April - "I am distressed about Mr Reid. When I heard that he was leaving in July I wrote to invite him here for three weeks to exchange with Mr Lambley<sup>1087</sup> who does not leave until June. The correspondence between the two parsons ended unfortunately with misapprehensions on both sides and the visit is off - - I am in despair about our churchs future - What we are now waiting for is some overture from the Australian Church<sup>1088</sup> which is on its last legs. The mortgage (£11 500) takes possession on 30th June, and what they will do then it is impossible to say. If Dr Strong would only own himself a Unitarian we should be glad to welcome him and his people to a church that at least has no debt even if it lacks a congregation - But I fear the Doctor's inclinations are towards America and if he goes there he will certainly not return. There are plenty of creedless churches there ready to absorb him".

The F Martins will have left Seville by this time. Fred is much better they are going by stages through important Spanish cities to Madrid to stay there a while on their way to Paris. Katie says the worst thing in Seville is the cruelty to animals - She attributes this callousness largely to the influence of bullfights - Lucy Morice is well - Miss Tomkinson better - both always much interested in news from you - Thanks for sending me Mrs Spencers letter with news about little Lucy

Ever yours C H Spence

I am sending a copy of book to Mrs Ames. I should like you to give one to Mrs Bayard Holmes with my love - I want to see if 3d will send to America with wrapper before I send more by post - It is deplorable about Mrs Watson Lister. I cut a paragraph which mentions her husbands losses out of this mgs newspaper but I suppose they have come to an end.

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<sup>1084</sup> Susan Mary Crompton née Clark (1845-1940), a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>1085</sup> John Reid, MA, minister of the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church.

<sup>1086</sup> *Australian Herald: a religious social magazine* 1889-1908, published in Melbourne by Mason, Firth & McCutcheon.

<sup>1087</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906, editor of the *Month by Month* Journal of the Unitarian Church at the turn of the century.

<sup>1088</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church.

**PRG 88/7/81**

North Norwood  
10<sup>th</sup> May 1907

My dear Miss Henry

We have not had an American mail for five weeks outward, but I have received newspapers from time to time perhaps sent via England. But I have never received Mrs Stetsons<sup>1089</sup> poems which you said you were sending - I had the Outlook<sup>1090</sup> which I think I acknowledged - through Mr Morice I read your article in the NA Review<sup>1091</sup> and later I had the Times Magazine<sup>1092</sup> with Margaret Haley<sup>1093</sup> Rebel in it which the Morices and I thoroughly enjoyed. I think I told you that the Sydney Telegraph returned my article on the Chicago School matters, after keeping it 5 weeks; I tried the Lone Hand<sup>1094</sup> with 'Immigration - Quantity and Quality' which I thought excellent, but it was returned, saying that Wells<sup>1095</sup> book (which was the main subject, but added to by my own experience and reading largely) was ancient history, but Frank Fox<sup>1096</sup>, who is editor, says he will take copy from me - 3000 words - and stick to one subject - Well, I am trying him again, but I am not sanguine - In a very charming book, *Felicity in France* by Constance Elizabeth Maud<sup>1097</sup> - there is an account of Metthaye Mettray<sup>1098</sup> [sic], which used to be the model for Boys' Reformatories 40 or 50 years ago, and which I know Miss Clark had in her mind when the boys were moved from the hulk Fitzjames<sup>1099</sup> to Magill<sup>1100</sup> - But institutions, unless the public eye is intelligently upon them, are liable to the dry rot of indifference, and the worst cankers of callous cruelty.

[The following comment is written along the side margin directed from a cross after Constance Elizabeth Maud.] I wrote to her publishers Heinemann's address a

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<sup>1089</sup> Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights. She divorced Stetson in 1894 and in 1902 married her cousin George Gilman. She is now known as Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

<sup>1090</sup> *The Outlook*, New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper.

<sup>1091</sup> *North American Review*, founded in Boston 1815, moved to New York 1870s, a quarterly magazine for literature, current affairs and politics. It still exists in 2006.

<sup>1092</sup> *New York Times*.

<sup>1093</sup> Margaret Angela Joliet Haley (1861-1939), born Illinois USA, became a teacher in Chicago in 1876. With Catherine Goggin she led the Chicago Teachers' Federation from 1890s to 1920s, securing many improvements in salaries and conditions, and allied the Chicago Teachers' Federation with the American Federation of Labour.

<sup>1094</sup> *The Lone Hand* an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* in Sydney 1907-1921.

<sup>1095</sup> *The Future in America: a search after realities* (1906) by Herbert George Wells (1866-1946).

<sup>1096</sup> Frank Ignatius Fox, later Sir, (1874-1960), journalist and Imperialist. He joined the *Bulletin* in 1901 and became first editor and manager of *The Lone Hand*. After 1909 he worked for many years for the *Morning Post* in England.

<sup>1097</sup> *Felicity in France*, by Constance Elizabeth Maud, London, 1906. Constance Maud (c. 1860-1929) wrote fiction about France in French and English, about woman suffrage, heroines of poetry and Shakespeare's stories.

<sup>1098</sup> Mettray, a farm colony for young delinquents on the Loire, near Tours, founded by French judge and penal reformer, Frédéric-Auguste Demetz (1796-1873).

<sup>1099</sup> The hulk Fitzjames was a derelict ship, moored off the coast of Adelaide, which was used as a boys' reformatory from 1880. It was scandalously run as a penal settlement though many of the boys were 'neglected' rather than criminal. It was taken over in 1887 by the newly formed State Children's Council, which worked to make other arrangements. It was finally closed in 1891.

<sup>1100</sup> The reformatory for boys at Magill.



postcard to her saying that if she would send me her address I would send her a copy of my book in which I show how Australia differentiates between destitute and delinquent children and makes them a national concern.

You know that you feel that strict Govt inspections should be made of all charitable & benevolent institutions where women and children are employed - I have got from Miss Clark pamphlets showing what Mettray was from 1855 to 1872 and I show how it has deteriorated - I point out that whereas boys may go to Mettray at 8, and stay almost always till 18 - Here boys go in older, and may be placed out on the expiration of a third of their sentence if well behaved - and indeed sooner, if they get into the first class and are well reported on - they can be moved to the Industrial School which is really a depôt for placing out. - You will note in my book that owing to this elasticity in S A and in Vic. there are less than a third of the Reformatory boys in Vic that there [are] in N S W and our proportion is still smaller for the population -

The Mettray boys are poorly fed, sleep on hammocks without blankets all summer - work 10 hours a day on the farm have 10 hours schooling a week from 11 to 1 - The younger boys have more school and less work, but apparently only half an hour's recreation - I have not finished my article, and of course Frank Fox may say it is not sufficiently Australian - but I begin and end with congratulating Australia on Reformatories being a national and not a benevolent concern - Even in its best days the life at Mettray was hard - the hours long for work and short for school - Many stringent regulations made - But Demetz was an enthusiast and he loved the boys and the boys knew it. The heads of houses or ~~Families~~ families whom he selected were human. But strict regulations enforced without any love at the back of them are inhuman - Clement Wragge<sup>1101</sup> tells us that the convict system in New Caledonia makes a hell of the loveliest island in the world -

I wrote to Mrs Watson Lister a well filled post card when she got her four books<sup>1102</sup> - but have had no response - Vida Goldstein is charmed with it - I gave her a copy. I have the greatest praise for it from people who are interested in the subject, but up to now there has not been an order for a copy from any of the other states. I have sent and posted copies to 50 or more friends in various parts. This mail takes about a dozen to the US and Canada. I find to my grief that book postage is as high for England as for America and that my friends must have paid surcharge - I thought when I had finished the writing my work was done, but the last month I have been writing letters and posting books - and trying to see that they are sent to all the staff 45 of them with their names 'From the Author' in each - and to 180 visitors 'From the Author' without the names, and to various people - Unfortunately Mr Gray who has been sadly out of health for some time took so ill that on the 12th April he had to get two month's leave on a doctor's certificate - He was most zealous for the book, and Mrs Houlgrave<sup>1103</sup>, who is Acting Sec, was not posted up in the matter.

Of course I want to sell the books that are not given away - but I am more anxious to have the book read. Mr Goode<sup>1104</sup> is the only one of the Council who sees the immense value of the information and example, and he and some others suggest a large edition to be distributed gratis all over the world but the linotype has gone into the melting pot -

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<sup>1101</sup> Clement Lindley Wragge (1850-1922), pioneering meteorologist in England, Scotland, South Australia, New Caledonia and Queensland.

<sup>1102</sup> *State children in Australia: a history of boarding out and its developments*. By Catherine Helen Spence. Adelaide, Vardon and Sons, Printers, 1907. pp. 147.

<sup>1103</sup> Celestine Houlgrave, appointed Inspector in 1889.

<sup>1104</sup> Charles Henry Goode, later Sir, (1827-1922), merchant and philanthropist with a special interest in young people, president of the Royal Institute for the Blind 1884-1922, a founder of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and a member of the State Children's Council.

50 copies were sent to the Vic. Dept and we got 50/- less cost of carriage and discount on cheque, and that has all gone on postage - as well, I think, as Miss F D Hill's 24/- for 12 copies. 50 copies were sent to the N S W Dept, but I don't think the money has come in yet, and it is six weeks ago - I wrote a week ago to remind Mr Green<sup>1105</sup> - the Sec. My cousin Laura Stow Symon<sup>1106</sup> a widow is going to join her son Stow who is in the employment of the Illinois Central Railway in Indianapolis - by this mail. I gave her a copy of book for Miss May Wright Sewall<sup>1107</sup>, and two other friends there - I am posting to the Ed of Juvenile Court Record<sup>1108</sup> to Miss E Howland<sup>1109</sup> Sherwood, Mrs Emily P Collins Hartford Conn<sup>1110</sup>. Alice Blackwell<sup>1111</sup> - Sarah Hooper an old lady who helped to found the Melbourne Unit<sup>1112</sup> Church, Miss Brackenridge<sup>1113</sup> Texas - Kelso<sup>1114</sup> and Tyson<sup>1115</sup> Toronto and by mistake a second copy for K Musson<sup>1116</sup>. She Mrs Garrison & Mrs Ames had copies previously. If you can sell any let me know and I will send to you.

Well I suppose this is enough about the book - Miss Tomkinson is in a private hospital with a sort of nervous fever in addition to the neuritis in the right arm, and she complains of the noises. In fact, of three private hospitals and one public, Lucy Morice has lately heard very poor accounts, as to hardness and unkindness and discomfort - In Sydney, I was shown the draft of a Bill for Govt inspection of Private Hospitals which had not passed, but would be brought forward again. I think it a good idea. Lucy is so busy and I am so busy that we see very little of each other -

I am sorry to tell you that the Hare system was not carried in Tasmania, as the newspaper telegraphic reports led me to suppose - and I wrote to Tyson and to the English people that it was carried - But France is interested in it - the example of Belgium and Switzerland shows that P. R. allows independent Liberals to be represented - Finland has some system of P. R. in her new constitution and Sweden

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<sup>1105</sup> Mr Alfred W. Green was the Boarding Out Officer of the New South Wales State Children's Relief Department.

<sup>1106</sup> Laura Louise Symon, born 1859, was the daughter of Jourdiana Brodie, Spence's first cousin, and Jefferson Stow. She married William Symon in April 1884. Herbert Stow Symon, known as Stow, the oldest of her four children, was born in 1885.

<sup>1107</sup> May Wright Sewall (1844-1920), American feminist, educator and lecturer, supporter of woman suffrage, president of the National Congress of Women 1891 and of the International Congress of Women 1899.

<sup>1108</sup> *The Juvenile Court Record* (sometimes *The Juvenile*), an irregular monthly, published in Chicago 1900-1932, originally by the Chicago Visitation and Aid Society.

<sup>1109</sup> Emily Howland of Sherwood, New York (1822-1929), philanthropist and educator, woman suffrage, temperance and peace activist. In 1890 she became the first female director of a National Bank in the United States.

<sup>1110</sup> Emily Parmely Collins (1814-1909), American suffragist, abolitionist and writer, of Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

<sup>1111</sup> Alice Stone Blackwell (1857-1950), editor, translator, founder of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1890, serving as recording secretary until 1918, editor of *Woman's Journal* 1893-1918.

<sup>1112</sup> Unitarian.

<sup>1113</sup> Mary Eleanor Brackenridge (1837-1924), advocate of temperance and women's and children's rights and welfare.

<sup>1114</sup> Mr Kelso was the head of the department dealing with State Children in Toronto. He corresponded with Spence. Toronto had the credit of establishing the first Children's Courts in the world.

<sup>1115</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1116</sup> Spence met Katharine Jane Musson of Philadelphia, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893.

and Norway are considering it - I am still hopeful of some result from the letters I wrote in November from Sydney to the supporters of the Price Ministry.

Last Friday in the mg, I had a letter from the young editor of the Interstate Collegian asking for an article to advocate 'originality' 2000 words about the middle of June. In the afternoon I had a request from the Melbourne Peace Society that I should initiate a branch here!!! I said 'no' decidedly to the second - the first I said I could not promise - People ask literary work for nothing very coolly.

I sent a copy to Mr Champion<sup>1117</sup>, and one to Vida Goldstein and she writes very appreciatingly of it but wants me to circulate an address to the English suffragists of sympathy and I suppose, to try to get subscriptions too - I really feel that my sympathies and my purse are both very largely drawn upon - I had a letter of acknowledgment from Mrs Webster. She is satisfied with my book, but she is enthusiastic about Mrs F. Martin's Old Roof-tree<sup>1118</sup> - her brother sent her a reading of the copy I gave him - The Martins are probably in Paris by now. They left Seville just after Easter (Katie had been in the Cathedral almost all Holy Week) - were to go to Cordova - Toledo - Burgos - spend a month in Madrid and then go to Paris - I hope they will come back to Australia soon. Vida Goldstein says she has heard nothing from or of you for some time. I hope you keep your secretarial work - I very nearly addressed to you a lecture I delivered to the Working Womans Union here in which I used a good deal of the matter in the lecture one Sunday afternoon in Melbourne on the Worth of Work with special application to women - I thought you might use it for your Union but withheld it thinking you were quite able to speak for yourself - If however you think it would be useful ask for it - I dare say you have had the Age sent to you about the Australian Church<sup>1119</sup> but in case you have not I enclose it - The answer to the Man in the Street will amuse you - and remind you of an Adelaide experience - Everything you do and write interests me -

Always yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>1117</sup> Henry Hyde Champion (1859-1928), journalist and socialist propagandist, married to Elsie, Vida Goldstein's sister. He suffered a stroke in 1901 which affected his speech and limbs but he later became prominent in the Victorian Socialist Party.

<sup>1118</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1119</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. The Church was in trouble financially.

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**PRG 88/7/82**

North Norwood.  
8<sup>th</sup> June 1907

My dear Miss Henry

In the first place I must acknowledge your long and interesting letter and Mrs Stetsons<sup>1120</sup> poems which is quite a handsome and enlarged edition - These came a day or two after I had written to you saying that the book had not come to hand. I feel for you for Margaret Haley<sup>1121</sup> and Jane Addams<sup>1122</sup> in the defeat of the honest and progressive Mayor Dunne<sup>1123</sup> - It means so much more than any municipal election in Australia - as it even effects [sic] the State Legislature - And the great entity - the city Chicago - the storm centre as I habitually call it to think that the reform party has had such a terrible knock out is pathetic or rather it is exasperating - What you say about Jane Addams having none of the joy of combat comes home to me. I think both you and I are different - Lucy Morice has taken down the names of the two books for the Parliamentary Library and I will bear them in mind for next year's book club - I am writing by this mail to Judge Lindsay [sic] with a copy of my book - I wonder I had not done it before. I have written some marginal notes in it - My attention was called to Edith Sellars<sup>1124</sup> [sic] article on Hungarian methods in the March Contemporary by the Bulletin laughing at the Sydney Telegraph advising Australia to copy Hungary when much of such work was done in N S W by the S C Relief Board<sup>1125</sup> and probably Hungary had copied S. A. where the best methods of treating neglected children had been practised for so long. I find that Hungary as a state keeps the children boards out and inspects and pays till they are 7 and after that leaves them to the local authorities - till 14 and apparently there is no dealings with delinquents -

In writing to Judge Lindsay [sic] I call his attention to the completeness of the administration and to the elasticity which has reduced the number of boys at Magill<sup>1126</sup> from 82 ten years ago to 28 today - My article on Mettray<sup>1127</sup> was sent back by Frank Fox<sup>1128</sup> editor Lone Hand<sup>1129</sup> because the subject was dealt with in my book

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<sup>1120</sup> Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights. She divorced Stetson in 1894 and in 1902 married her cousin George Gilman. She is now known as Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

<sup>1121</sup> Margaret Angela Joliet Haley (1861-1939), born Illinois USA, became a teacher in Chicago in 1876. With Catherine Goggin she led the Chicago Teachers' Federation from 1890s to 1920s, securing many improvements in salaries and conditions, and allied the Chicago Teachers' Federation with the American Federation of Labour.

<sup>1122</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1935) founded the world famous social settlement Hull-House in Chicago in 1889. She launched the first juvenile court in America. Spence met her when she was in America.

<sup>1123</sup> Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne (1853-1924), Mayor of Chicago, later Governor of Illinois. He was defeated by Fred Busse.

<sup>1124</sup> Edith Sellars article 'The State Children of Hungary' appeared in the *Contemporary Review* March 1907, pp.329-343.

<sup>1125</sup> State Children Relief Board.

<sup>1126</sup> The boys' reformatory at Magill.

<sup>1127</sup> French judge and penal reformer, Frédéric-Auguste Demetz (1796-1873) had founded Mettray, a farm colony for young delinquents on the Loire, near Tours.

<sup>1128</sup> Frank Ignatius Fox, later Sir, (1874-1960), journalist and Imperialist. He joined the *Bulletin* in 1901 and became first editor and manager of *The Lone Hand*. After 1909 he worked for many years for the *Morning Post* in England.

<sup>1129</sup> *The Lone Hand*, an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* 1907-1921.

and the Lone Hand wanted everything quite fresh and new. I tried Sowden<sup>1130</sup> of the Register he declined it because Felicity in France<sup>1131</sup> had been reviewed in the Register when I was in Sydney. Both editors miss my point - that institutions tend to become corrupt and need not only eternal vigilance to keep them up to the first standard but open ness to new lights - No one now would found a reformatory on such severe lines as M. Demetz<sup>1132</sup> did, but the successors keep to all the severity without the enthusiasm - This makes three of my best articles rejected in Sydney and in Adelaide. School matters in Chicago - Immigration quantity and quality and Mettray - I wanted Mettray especially for slips to send to West Australia where you will be glad to hear public opinion has been stirred up at last - I had just sent 24 copies of my book by a friend recently settled in Perth and written to another friend to help Miss Sutherland to place the book with the booksellers when I had a letter from a Mr A S Wilson<sup>1133</sup> Baptist minister saying his attention had been called to my splendid little book by his sister in law Dr Gertrude Mead<sup>1134</sup> and he had got Wigg & Sons<sup>1135</sup> Perth branch to send first for 6 and afterwards for 50 copies - and Wigg had advertised and there had been a good review in the West Australian and Wigg had sold 40 copies in ten days. He wanted to know at what price I would let him as a member of the Childrens Protection Society have the book to give to Govt to members of both Houses of Parliament mayors and prominent people - I telegraphed they could have them at 6d and he ordered 100 to be sent through Wigg who had consented to include them in his parcel - When I had arranged this I found to my grief that there were only 120 left in the office but I found afterwards that Mr Gray had hidden 50 to be kept for 20 years!

Mr Wilson says public opinion is in favour of legislation on SA lines - There is not a child boarded out all are sent to denominational institutions as you would see in my book - Curiously enough in a review of nearly two cols. there was nothing said of Children's Courts or Infant Life. One would think the book dealt only with B. O.

I am glad to say that Mr Gray is much better. I saw him for ten minutes at the office two days ago but he takes his whole two months leave - and returns to work on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup>. We agreed that if the timely appearance of our book aided legislation in W. A. it is a grand result - but Mr Gray is very much irritated by the melting down of the linotype contrary to agreement made when the money was paid -

There is a vacancy in the Council owing to the removal of Mrs Brown<sup>1136</sup> to a station near the Western border but alas! Miss Tomkinson is still in wretched health - I think too delicate to undertake it - I suppose on Monday at the Council meeting there will be a recommendation made. The Bishop wants a strong Anglican - but I

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<sup>1130</sup> William John Sowden, later Sir, (1858-1943), journalist. He worked for the *Register* from 1881 and was editor from 1899-1922.

<sup>1131</sup> *Felicity in France*, by Constance Elizabeth Maud, London, 1906. Constance Maud (c. 1860-1929) wrote fiction about France in French and English, about woman suffrage, heroines of poetry and Shakespeare's stories.

<sup>1132</sup> French judge and penal reformer, Frédéric-Auguste Demetz (1796-1873) founded Mettray, a farm colony for young delinquents on the Loire, near Tours.

<sup>1133</sup> A. S Wilson left Adelaide for Perth with his father-in-law Rev. Silas Mead, who for 34 years had been Pastor of the Flinders Street Baptist Church, in 1901.

<sup>1134</sup> Gertrude Ella Mead (1867-1919), Western Australian medical practitioner, educated at Adelaide University and in Dublin and London. She supported the Children's Protection Society and Day Nursery and the Silver Chain Cottages for the Aged. She was the first woman appointed to the Senate of the University of Western Australia. She was the daughter of the Rev. Silas Mead.

<sup>1135</sup> E. S. Wigg & Sons, Adelaide Booksellers.

<sup>1136</sup> Ellen Jane Brown, née Tucker, was the wife of Tom Brown of Nullabor Station. She had been a member of the State Children's Council for many years and had acted as Lady Mayoress for the four years that her brother, Charles Tucker, was Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

should prefer Miss Stirling<sup>1137</sup> Dr Stirling's<sup>1138</sup> daughter who is an A 1 Visitor and who was intensely interested in the various activities of the Council as revealed to her in the book -

I enclose an article about infant Mortality in Melbourne cut out and sent to me by my neice [sic] at Yarragon - Note that there is no mention of S A or her methods - no censure of giving this delicate work to policemen - Victoria is to solve the difficult problem off her own bat - It will be more difficult there than here but we are on the right lines -

I sent my book to your brother Alfred<sup>1139</sup> saying I looked for Miss Addams Newer Ideals of Peace<sup>1140</sup> when he and his wife had read it - It will be a wonderful book if it surpasses the earlier one -

I wrote to Dr Fishbourne<sup>1141</sup> & to Vida Goldstein and to Kent Hughes<sup>1142</sup> editor of the Church Commonwealth<sup>1143</sup> saying that the book on State Children should be in the Melbourne book shops - that Progressive Leagues - doctors - and all people interested in child saving should have it - I told Vida the latest news I had from you but I said we would hand the request for support and questions to leading politicians to the W. C. T. U. for the Social Students were a feeble folk and carried no weight. Lucy Morice seems to have lost the paper but I think she may find it again -

Julie Sutter has sent her latest book<sup>1144</sup> to Mr Herbert Phillips with a request to send it on to me when read - It is "An open letter to John Burns – Eng Britains Hope!" What such a strong supporter of the Aust Nat League<sup>1145</sup> will think of it is a doubtful question - Lucy is hopeful of a new Kindergarten to be opened next year - At present she is nursing one of the Kindergartners the latest imported back to health – I have not seen Mrs Young for a month. I am never sure of her being at home – but I must make an effort next week. The Lone Hand is too Bulletiney and prints in terribly small type most of its matter and with the glazed paper it is more trying to my eyesight than anything except the Bulletin itself – No serial story as yet – But there is stuff in it – There is a good paper on the Arab Horse by Sir James Boucaut<sup>1146</sup> but he has a whole book on it so I think it was only a pretext of the editor's – A friend in Melbourne sent me Walter Murdoch's<sup>1147</sup> paper on the Enemies of Literature given to the Literature Society The Philistine the Puritan and the diletante [sic] - very good

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<sup>1137</sup> Harriet Adelaide Stirling (1878-1943) devoted her life to the education and welfare of children, to the support of women and women's health. With Dr Helen Mayo she established the School for Mothers in 1909. She was a member of the State Children's Council from 1907-1926 and President from 1922-1926.

<sup>1138</sup> Sir Edward Charles Stirling (1848-1919), surgeon, scientist, first Professor of Physiology at the University of Adelaide, member of the House of Assembly. In 1886 he had introduced a Bill to enfranchise women.

<sup>1139</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>1140</sup> Jane Addams, *Newer Ideals of Peace*, New York, Macmillan, 1907.

<sup>1141</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1142</sup> Ernest Selwyn Kent Hughes (1860-1942), an Anglican clergyman.

<sup>1143</sup> A periodical published in Melbourne by the Church of England in Australia.

<sup>1144</sup> Julie Sutter, *Britain's Hope: an open letter concerning the pressing social problems to the Rt. Hon. John Burns*, London, James Clarke & Co, 1907.

<sup>1145</sup> The Australasian National League was founded in 1891, as The National Defence League, to counteract the progress of socialism and the political strength of the union movement.

<sup>1146</sup> *The Arab: the horse of the future*. Preface by Sir Walter Gibley, London 1905, by Sir James Penn Boucaut (1831-1916), former Premier of South Australia.

<sup>1147</sup> Walter Logie Forbes Murdoch, later Sir, (1874-1970), founding Professor at the University of Western Australia, later Chancellor, noted popular essayist. For some years from 1905 he wrote a 'Books & Men' column for the Melbourne *Argus* under the pen name 'Elzevir'.

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- We have not heard of any one who can or will come out to take our Adelaide church  
- and Mr Reid<sup>1148</sup> leaves the end of July.

I wrote to Mr Turner nine days ago asking what they are going to do when Mr  
Lambley<sup>1149</sup> leaves this month - but have no answer - nor have I ever had an  
acknowledgment from Mrs Turner of the gift of my book - nor from Lady Northcote<sup>1150</sup>  
- But from a great many people I have had most kind letters though of course none  
from England or the U S A

By last mail the Martins were in Madrid and Katie spending her days in the  
great Library. She has discovered great things in Spanish literature - and has been  
especially struck with the new novelists and dramatists - We hope to see them back  
within twelve months probably considerably sooner - I cannot fix any date for your  
return to your own native land. So long as you are helping the U. S A the  
Commonwealth must be resigned.

Always yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>1148</sup> Mr John Reid MA, minister of the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church.

<sup>1149</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906.

<sup>1150</sup> Lady Northcote was the wife of Henry Stafford Northcote, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Northcote, (1846-1911), Governor-General of Australia.

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**PRG 88/7/83**

North Norwood -  
5<sup>th</sup> July 1907

My dear Miss Henry

I had your letter of 19th May on the 19th June which was more than a week after I had written to you - I received the 1<sup>st</sup>. no. of *Charities*<sup>1151</sup> and I am very much obliged to Mrs Raymond Robbins<sup>1152</sup> [sic] for subscribing to it for me, as it will keep me au courant with some important movements in the U. S. Yours is the first acknowledgment from America of my little book - and Miss Florence Hill, has written to Miss Clark about it three separate mails and to me in the middle one. I heard from your brother<sup>1153</sup> that you and Myles [sic] Franklin<sup>1154</sup> were 'rooming' together. I hope you will find it comfortable and economical.

Everything you are doing interests me. I do hope that Alfred Deakin<sup>1155</sup> will reconsider the matter of the Report on Defectives &c which you are prepared to draw up for the Commonwealth - There is much that can be better done by the nation as a whole than by the separate States -

I believe the 100 copies of book I sent to W. A. have been wisely distributed, but I have not got the 50/- yet - It cost £5 and more for postage, and I have received from sales £3 - Of course the £5 was from sales, for we had not a penny left of the subscriptions after the printer was paid - Miss Clark and all her connections are abundantly satisfied with the book. Of course I knew Florence D. Hill would be - She asks even about rights of translation!!! She and Miss Clark have so absorbed themselves in Boarding Out and Childrens Courts that they do not much care for anything else.

I was at a Council meeting of the Kindergarten Union on Tuesday - They hope by the New Year to be able to open another Kindergarten in Brompton or Bowden, one of our poorest suburbs - Professor Mitchell<sup>1156</sup> son-in-law of the Barr Smiths<sup>1157</sup>, has guaranteed the rent of building - Mrs Aves<sup>1158</sup>, who with her husband is travelling through Australia said the Adelaide K G was better than anything she had seen in London - that is in its tone - the Golden Rule - the spirit of love and helpfulness, which is of more value than the training of eye and hand. Our instructors have come from the U. S. and not from the U K.

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<sup>1151</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1152</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1153</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>1154</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

<sup>1155</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1156</sup> William Mitchell, later Sir (1861-1962), scholar, educationist and administrator. He was associated with the University of Adelaide from 1894 until 1948, as Professor, Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor. He married Marjorie Erlistoun Barr Smith.

<sup>1157</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915) and his wife Joanna (1835-1919). They were much travelled wealthy philanthropists, friends of Spence, who helped her and her causes in many ways.

<sup>1158</sup> Eva Mary Maitland Aves, wife of Ernest Aves.



Mr Ernest Aves<sup>1159</sup> assisted Charles Booth<sup>1160</sup> with his great book, and I believe Mr Booth lent him to the Govt. to enquire into Labour conditions in Australia - but a month or more of his stay in S A he was ill - Lucy collected Mrs Nicholls<sup>1161</sup>, Mrs Birks<sup>1162</sup>, Miss Tomkinson and myself to meet the Aveses at the Parliament Library office, that we might be asked about women workers - Mrs Nicholls says the Wages Boards in Melbourne were more satisfactory than those in S A, not only because they had been longer in operation, and extended to a greater number of trades, but because there were such good strong men put on the Board - On the whole we think Wages Boards preferable to Arbitration Courts for they do not give the same opportunity to lawyers -

The 3rd No. of *The Lone Hand*<sup>1163</sup> has a trenchant paper on the Sweater in Society giving the details of the life, the hours, the conditions, the wages, of Starch employés, male and female. He Mr Harper<sup>1164</sup> says state and interstate competition prevents him from giving higher wages - There is short but admirable sketch of J C Watson<sup>1165</sup> Labour leader in The House of Representatives - which I send in another envelope -

I have again had bad luck with an article written for Register on Julie Sutters last book - *Britains Hope*.<sup>1166</sup> The main Contention being for the reopening widening and extending the canal service of Great Britain. Mr Sowden<sup>1167</sup> says that subject has been dealt with in the paper already - This is the fourth rejected article - in four months - and nothing accepted elsewhere.

Mr Phillipps<sup>1168</sup> kept the book by him unread for over three weeks and I had to write for it -

I am enclosing you some cuttings from the Argus on Protection of infant life - Your brother Alfred sent to Mrs Carrie Crozier my book after he had read it. I think Mrs Croziers strictures as to the homes found and supervised by the Dept are most unjust<sup>1169</sup> - We know the registered nurses are not under it - Some of the letter-writers think they shd. be guaranteed 12/6 a week - Her scheme wd be most costly, and as I said to Miss Grace Watson who wrote for two copies - it is easier to put hundreds of good enough women to attend to one or two children in their homes than

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<sup>1159</sup> Ernest Harry Aves (1857-1917), social investigator and civil servant, collaborator with Charles Booth. He was appointed special commissioner on wage boards and compulsory arbitration in Australia and New Zealand in 1907-1908

<sup>1160</sup> Rt. Hon. Charles Booth (1840-1916), English philanthropist and social researcher. His most famous work is the 17 volume *Life and Labour of the People in London* (1889-1903), one of the founding texts of British sociology.

<sup>1161</sup> Elizabeth Webb Nicholls née Bakewell (1850-1943), activist, suffragist and temperance worker. She became Colonial President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She worked with Spence on many occasions.

<sup>1162</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

<sup>1163</sup> *The Lone Hand* an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* 1907-1921.

<sup>1164</sup> Robert Harper & Co. manufactured starch.

<sup>1165</sup> John Christian Watson (1867-1941), NSW Labour politician, later member of the Federal House of Representatives and first Labour Prime Minister of Australia (1904).

<sup>1166</sup> Julie Sutter, *Britain's Hope: an open letter concerning the pressing social problems to the Rt. Hon. John Burns*, London, James Clarke & Co, 1907.

<sup>1167</sup> William John Sowden, later Sir, (1858-1943), journalist. He worked for the *Register* from 1881 and was editor from 1899-1922.

<sup>1168</sup> William Herbert Phillipps, later Sir, (1847-1935), merchant, businessman and active philanthropist.

<sup>1169</sup> Mrs Carrie Crozier's letter appeared in the *Argus* on 19 June 1907 p. 8g.

tens of very superior women to be entrusted with the sole charge of 10 or 12 children as their ~~work~~ sole work. Our motto has always been dispersion - not aggregation. I think I must have told you of my going with Mr Pope<sup>1170</sup> Inspector of Ind<sup>1171</sup> Schools in N Z. to Edwardstown and talking hard with him on the way down and up. He was very intelligent - He liked Magill<sup>1172</sup> much better than the Sobroan<sup>1173</sup> where there are an average of 409 boys - We have 30 now at Magill, and they do very well in the world - After Mr Pope we had Mr Longmore<sup>1174</sup> from W. A. Mr Longmore first visited the office at 11 A. M. on Monday 17th June and he remained to hear the proceedings of committee - He was surprised to see the number of good applications that came in in a fortnight - He is not satisfied that many could be found in W. A. He was amazed with a day with Miss Moule and at the wonderful women who cared for the babies - but he loves institutions - and I do not think that he was so much impressed with a round about Aldgate and Mount Lofty with Miss Penny<sup>1175</sup> to Children Boarded out by the Department. Unluckily one of the first homes visited was that of a very garrulous woman who held forth on the excellence of her own care and methods - so much better than that of other women who thought of nothing but the 5/- a week - and indeed some foster-mothers were really cruel to the children - Mr Longmore went with his wife and Mr Gray and me to Beaumont S. A. for girls<sup>1176</sup> and to Magill the day between these days - He went on to Victoria, and and [sic] I think he will prefer a department that is not hampered by a Board or a Council - but he will not see there any protection for infant life such as we have here. I believe he has returned, but I did not see him as he went through.

The vacancy on the Council which has come by the resignation of Mrs Brown<sup>1177</sup>, I had hoped for years might be filled by Miss Tomkinson, but for the last 18 months her health has been so bad that I dared not propose her and Lucy Morice agreed with me - So I proposed Harriet Stirling who is one of our best if not our best visitor - all round Mt Lofty - I think the Council thought this would be extending the olive branch to Dr Stirling<sup>1178</sup>, our first President, and it was carried in the absence of the two members of the Ch. of Eng Lady Way<sup>1179</sup> and Ed. Hawker<sup>1180</sup>, that we shd. recommend Miss Stirling for appointment and the appt. has been made - The Bishop wanted a High Anglican, and I don't think he is pleased that the two Members were

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<sup>1170</sup> James Henry Pope (1837-1913), teacher, writer and educationist, had been a specialist in Maori education and an inspector in Maori schools. He had recently retired.

<sup>1171</sup> Industrial.

<sup>1172</sup> The reformatory for boys at Magill.

<sup>1173</sup> The *Sobroan* was a ship anchored in Sydney Harbour which was used as a boys' reformatory or industrial school from 1897 to 1911.

<sup>1174</sup> James Longmore, Superintendent of Public Charities and of the Government Labor Bureau, and Inspector of Industrial and Reformatory Schools in Western Australia.

<sup>1175</sup> Evelyn Emma Penny, inspector for the State Children's Department.

<sup>1176</sup> There was an Industrial School for Girls at Beaumont.

<sup>1177</sup> Ellen Jane Brown, née Tucker, was the wife of Tom Brown of Nullabor Station. She had been a member of the State Children's Council for many years and had acted as Lady Mayoress for the four years that her brother, Charles Tucker, was Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

<sup>1178</sup> Dr Edward Charles Stirling, later Sir, (1848-1919), surgeon, scientist, first Professor of Physiology at the University of Adelaide, member of the House of Assembly. He had been the first President of the State Children's Council, but had resigned together with most of the Council when there was friction between the Council and the Ministry. When the matter was resolved most of the Council members were reappointed, but not Dr Stirling.

<sup>1179</sup> Katherine, formerly Blue, née Gollan, wife of Sir Samuel James Way (1836-1916), Chief Justice of South Australia. She was a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>1180</sup> Edward William Hawker (1850-1940), barrister, grazier, politician, metallurgist, member of State Children's Council 1898-1909.

absent. Harriet Stirling was suggested to me by Miss Penny<sup>1181</sup> - who is a pretty high Anglican - but she said H S was only nominally a member of the C of E. We send C. of E. to C of E homes as far as possible and we are asked to furnish lists monthly of such children placed out - We hope Pres. Wes. Cong. and other churches will not make similar demands -

Eleanor Wren and Marjorie are over for Midwinter holidays. Eleanors headquarters are here, and Marjorie is at Glenelg which is rather awkward but there is not room for Marj here and Daisy Stephen and her little Mary fill up the Glenelg house -

They travelled at the beginning of the coldest weather ever known in S A - four consecutive frosty nights - Eleanor has had a cold with influenza symptoms, more or less ever since arrival on the 25<sup>th</sup> June - and now she feels a little better she is terribly on the go -

Dr Fishbourne<sup>1182</sup> sent me back your article on Childrens' Courts which he could not get placed anywhere and I am sure I cannot place it in Adelaide. You say you hear that A Dramatic Situation has been published - It may be published in Melbourne but I know it was sent back to me here.

Miss Tomkinson gave Mrs Aves a letter to Vida Goldstein and some one else in Melbourne -

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>. I have just written a good 4 page letter to Mr Tyson<sup>1183</sup> telling him that the Hare Bill was not negatived but hung up in Tasmania as in S A. and both places it may be put forward again - Also that Mrs Youngs neice [sic] Mrs Jessie Pethick in W A says that a bill will be brought forward probably this session in the Assembly in Perth and that she is trying to interest her local member who is Min. of Ed. in Effective Voting.

Also I told him that you in Chicago never seem to hear about P. R. though the need of it is shown in all elections even in the late disastrous election of Mayor for Chicago -

I never see P R hinted at in the Star now - We lost a brave champion in Alfred Cridge<sup>1184</sup> - who died on the staff of that San Francisco S I paper -

I am sending you a packet of cuttings mostly about infant life protection but I am cutting out the page of the Lone Hand dealing with Watson<sup>1185</sup> -

I see by todays paper that Keir Hardie<sup>1186</sup> is leaving England for a world tour but will take Canada first - I wonder if he is as able a man as Ramsay McDonald<sup>1187</sup> - I fancy he is not so much of a free trader.

My friends the Fred Martins may be expected back about October - they want to return to heat for his sake - I fancy they will go to Mt Lofty for summer but it will be too cold in winter - I believe Eleanor and Marjorie are going for a ride in a motor car to Norton's Summit this afternoon if the weather holds up - with Mrs Ed Kay - Well I recollect the happy days we spent together there - Ever yours C.H. Spence

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<sup>1181</sup> Evelyn Emma Penny, inspector for the State Children's Department.

<sup>1182</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1183</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the Review published by the American Proportional Representation League from 1901-1913. Spence had met him when she was in Canada.

<sup>1184</sup> Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco.

<sup>1185</sup> An article by 'F. R' praising John Christian Watson appeared on pp. 327 and 328 of the July issue of the *Lone Hand*.

<sup>1186</sup> James Keir Hardie (1856-1915), Scottish coal miner, Labour leader, politician and pacifist.

<sup>1187</sup> Ramsay Macdonald (1886-1937) in 1906 became a Labour member of the British Parliament and much later in 1923 the first Labour Prime Minister. Spence had met him when they were both in Melbourne in November 1906.

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**PRG 88/7/84**

North Norwood.  
2<sup>nd</sup> August 1907

My dear Miss Henry

This mornings telegrams include A Chicago Scandal. Municipal Perfidy. The municipality of Chicago has been robbed of £3 400 000 through a collusion of the municipal officials with a Street car Company.

Your last two letters - one received the day after I wrote you a month ago and one a fortnight after - are sad reading for all who are interested in the reform and purification of Chicago;- and the want of courage on the part of Miss Jane Addams<sup>1188</sup> was most disappointing - You had previously told me that you especially pitied Miss Addams for she had none of the joy of combat which you and I feel in the face of the evil that is in the world - Probably she thought she might do good by remaining on the Board<sup>1189</sup> even when her fellow workers had been thrust out of it - Of course the matter of the telegram has been said over and over again - and more money in it - by those who uphold municipal ownership as against corporations - but it has never crystallised into a world wide telegram before - and perhaps public indignation has been aroused - The way in which Americans consent to be plundered, because active protest will cost more time and money than the individual loses, has been long to me a matter of the deepest regret - I believe that in America, reform must ~~come~~ begin through the cities, by the creation of a civic spirit - and if you had proportional representation with districts returning six or seven men, instead of single wards engineered and financed by political parties often, perhaps always, in the pay of the corporations all American cities would be moralised and the citizens would no longer be plundered - Do agitate for that - it is the means by which the voice of the wisest and best must be heard and can't be silenced.

Lord Courtney<sup>1190</sup> known to me as Leonard Courtney, brought forward in the House of Lords a Bill for optional use of the Hare system in Municipal elections, and I have heard it passed its second reading - I had a copy of his speech introducing it - very good it was -

Here, until we get the Franchise bill lowering the qualification for the Upper House, we can get no forward legislation - The Leg Council has not yielded - but yet it does not want a double dissolution - Mr Coombe<sup>1191</sup> has moved to bring in again his bill for Proportional Representation - Prosperity rules in Australia - every treasury except W A has large surpluses, but they are wisely almost all employed to pay off debt - amt of 300 000 has nearly all gone in that way. Never were prospects better. Since the beginning of August these last three days an inch and a half of rain has

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<sup>1188</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1931), sociologist, philosopher and reformer. She was known as 'the mother of social work' but had wide interests. She worked for woman suffrage, was first president of the National Conference of Charities and Correction and chairman of the Labor Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. However according to Margaret Haley (*Battleground: The autobiography of Margaret A. Haley* 1982) she lacked moral courage and betrayed the interests of the teachers she had undertaken to support.

<sup>1189</sup> Board of Education.

<sup>1190</sup> Leonard Henry Courtney, Lord Courtney of Penwith (1832-1918), British politician, sometime president of the Royal Statistical Society, and strong advocate of proportional representation. In 1884 he was a founding member of the British Proportional Representation Society.

<sup>1191</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician. He was member of the House of Assembly for Barossa and a staunch supporter of proportional representation.

fallen at Broken Hill which previously had been like Gideons Heir<sup>1192</sup>, left out - so there is no dread of a water famine. There are now 40,000 population all dependent on the mines - and the mines greatly dependent on the water supply - The Broken Hill traffic is a very large factor in our railway revenue - The pastoralists never had such a lambing all over Australia nor such abundant feed nor such heavy fleeces nor such good prices all together - I am glad the ~~Wages Board~~ or the Federal Judge O'Connor<sup>1193</sup> for the Commonwealth has fixed a higher rate for shearing - differentiating however. Victorian rates are lowest because the distance between shearing sheds is less there. I know that in S A and I hope in other states the accommodation for shearers has been vastly improved by legislation -

I see The Lone Hand<sup>1194</sup> says in August that the wages at Harpers Starch<sup>1195</sup> works have been improved since their scathing July article -["The Sweater in Society"] of which I must have written - I hope other conditions there have also improved - The Lone Hand says that it was not because Harper was the only sweater or the worst, - probably he is not - but because the evidence as to his factory had been brought before the public in a most convincing way - The motif of the article was that people who grind their employés do not lose prestige by it but are courted and respected because of private good character - They don't swear or drink or keep mistresses - the last two sentences are my own -

Did you send a copy of my little book to Mr. J.B. Montgomery of the Michigan State School for neglected Children at Coldwater. Three or four weeks ago I had the biennial report of that school, over which I spent hours - It is the only detailed report of Child Saving operations that does not ask for subscriptions. All its expenses are met by Appropriations - but it is only the expenses of the School - a receiving depôt that are thus met, and the expenses of visiting children in free homes. They declare that they never subsidise children in homes - A fortnight later I had a postcard acknowledging receipt of my book. I had intended writing to him and sending it - so I have written to him at considerable length - four of these pages - asking what number of children may be in Denominational or private asylums and orphanages - for less than 6,000 children in 30 years for the State of Michigan, with over 2½ millions of inhabitants is very little compared with the Commonwealth with 4 millions where our number for 30 years in N S W. Vic S A. & Tas & W A must have been 20,000 or more.

But by what I can see, there is better care of placed out Children in Michigan than in other parts of the US. There are details - showing that children are returned from homes and placed in others - one child having been ten times indentured - showing that a child is not dumped down for whole terms - and it appears that school attendance is enforced - but I see no provision for wages when children are free from school - and that I think is the reason they get free homes in the U.S. and Canada so easily -

I have not heard again from W. A. as to the progress of the movement for new legislation there - but I hope for the best - I am glad - very glad you can earn your livelihood - but sorry you cant find time to review my little book - I think it will come rather as a shock to workers for children in America, that Australia regards it as its duty to pay for all children thrown on the State - I am convinced it is the right course to pursue -

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<sup>1192</sup> Gideon, one of the great tribal leaders of the era of the book of Judges (Chapters 6-8), refused to inaugurate a hereditary monarchy.

<sup>1193</sup> Richard Edward O'Connor (1851-1912), barrister, Federationist, Senator for New South Wales and High Court judge.

<sup>1194</sup> *The Lone Hand* an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* 1907-1921.

<sup>1195</sup> Robert Harper & Co manufactured starch.

Lucy Morice lent me a Fabian tract by Sydney [sic] Webb on the Decline of the Birthrate<sup>1196</sup> showing that it is universal - most marked in industrial centres where married women work - even more marked in members of Friendly Societies - not confined to cities but as great in the rural districts. Do you recollect Dr Norris<sup>1197</sup> saying we should endow motherhood, and respect maternity however it came about - Sydney Webb says the same. "Infant mortality which kills a third of the population is a quite needless thing. We ought to remember that 1/3 of our paupers are children, and that it is of far more consequence to the community that this quarter of a million over whom it has complete control, should be brought up to be respectable and industrious, than the exact degree of hardness with which it may choose to treat the adults. Instead of turning out the children to tramp with the father or beg with the mother, whenever they choose to take their discharge from the workhouse, which is the invariable practice today in England, we should rather jump at the chance of 'adopting' these unfortunate beings in order to make worthy citizens of them".

In Australia we don't allow children to tramp or to beg though we do not get hold of all we ought to have.

Mr Turner tells me that the Lambleys<sup>1198</sup> - 6 in all - stayed at his house for the last week and a hundred people came to the At Home at Bundalohn<sup>1199</sup> between 3 and 10 - enough to make a good congregation if they would go to church. They sailed by the *Suevie Persic* on 18<sup>th</sup> July to arrive 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - He was to leave his family at Nottingham, and go on to the meeting of Liberal Religious Thinkers in Boston towards end of Sept 22-27<sup>th</sup> - Dr Strong<sup>1200</sup> wanted to go there, but could not get a supply for his own pulpit - A Mr Sinclair<sup>1201</sup> [sic] is expected to fill the Melbourne Unitarian pulpit from England, where he has been 3 years studing [sic] at Manchester College Oxford. His home is New Zealand and even if he agrees to take the church, he stipulates for time to see his family in N.Z. Meantime Mr Turner is taking the services. The Committee asked Mrs Webster but at the date of his letter, she had not replied - Her husband may prevent her - We in Adelaide have not had any response to our offer of £250 - but over a fortnight ago we wired that we would guarantee £300 for three years and that may bring an applicant - Mr Reid<sup>1202</sup> preached his last sermon on Sunday - and there has been no rapprochement with the committee or any of the members of the families of the committee, whom he and his wife and his daughter seem to look on as personal enemies - His sermons kept up in quality and in manner of delivery to the last - I wrote to him and sent a cheque for £6.5. If things had been different I said - I would have joined with others in a farewell gift - but under the circumstances I could only send this small token of gratitude for pleasure and profit from his five years services. I had a very nice letter in reply - It was the only thing of the kind received - I suppose they will go back to Melbourne after a time -

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<sup>1196</sup> *The Decline in the Birth-Rate* Fabian Tract no 131 by Sidney Webb, Baron Passfield (1859-1947), 1907.

<sup>1197</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1198</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906 and his family.

<sup>1199</sup> Henry Gyles Turner's home, Tennyson St., St Kilda.

<sup>1200</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church.

<sup>1201</sup> Rev. Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911. A New Zealander, he returned to New Zealand from Australia in 1932.

<sup>1202</sup> Rev. John Reid, minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide since February 1902.

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The Rev George Walters<sup>1203</sup> from Sydney is here for the four Sundays of August - After that they will be glad of help from me, and I told the committee that I would expect a guinea for each service - I hope my Voice will keep good - At present I am having a troublesome cough that I cannot shake off -

Miss Scotts cousin, David Scott Mitchell<sup>1204</sup> died lately, and left no less than £70,000 to build a Library worthy of the great gift of books bestowed eight or nine years ago - I wrote to Miss Scott this week. I hope the cousin left her something - She was almost the only person the invalid and recluse cared to see; she spent all her Sunday afternoons with him -

Crawford & Evelyn Vaughan<sup>1205</sup> are reviving the Criminological Society. There is a Bill before the House for Indeterminate sentences on the model of recent N S W legislation - In my last letter I think I told you that Mrs Young expected another baby - which I cannot but think a misfortune - It was a marvel the little 8 mths baby did not kill her - but she says she will be more careful this time - I am going to see her this afternoon with four sleeved singlets which I have made for the expected little one - She is going into a private hospital for her confinement, so that she can get quiet -

The Fred Martins write from Bremen and will be back in S. A. in summer. Fred says that half the time since he left SA he has had breakfast in bed - First the lungs - and the last six months chronic diarrhoea had compelled precaution - I half fear that the diarrhoea is another form of tuberculosis -

This is not a short letter but it is not so personal as it might have been - you know however how interested I am in your career - I should think Miles Franklin<sup>1206</sup> is too pessimistic to be a cheerful mate - My Brilliant Career though very clever was depressing - and I thought crude - so she may mellow with lifes experiences. Miss Tomkinson is still far from well. Lucy Morice quite well but she would like to see the Nat C. of W die out and leave us to concentrate on our own line of work - Eleanor went back to Sydney after a month but Marjorie stays longer and is getting painting lessons from Hans Heysen<sup>1207</sup> a very clever painter, and good teacher. She enjoys the lessons very much -

Always yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>1203</sup> Rev. George T Walters was the minister of the Unitarian Church in Sydney.

<sup>1204</sup> David Scott Mitchell (1836-1907), book collector, especially of books relating to Australia, and national benefactor. He endowed the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

<sup>1205</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee. He had married Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist, children's writer, pianist and public speaker in 1906.

<sup>1206</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League. *My Brilliant Career*, her first novel was published in Edinburgh in 1901.

<sup>1207</sup> Hans Heysen (1877-1968), Australian painter, renowned especially for his watercolours of Australian bush landscapes, based after 1912 at Hahndorf in South Australia

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**PRG 88/7/85**

North Norwood  
31<sup>st</sup> August 1907

My dear Miss Henry

Your letter of July 15th came to hand a fortnight ago - I was distressed to hear that Judge Mack<sup>1208</sup> had been removed to the Criminal Court but I see that Judge Tuthill<sup>1209</sup> is to preside over the Juvenile and he was well thought of when he was there - I hope that nothing may be done to impair Judge Lindsays [sic] grand work in Denver.

But I mentioned in my little book that the American system of political appointments made the position of the best men precarious.

I am very much afraid that the people to whom I sent State Children in Australia have not received it - Mrs Emily P. Collins (age 93)<sup>1210</sup> got the wrapper only but I had sent a letter with it which she answered and I have posted it again to the others. I think I wrote only post cards but I think they would have acknowledged receipt if the book had come to hand - I suspect I was so desirous of saving postage that I put too slight wrappers for the rough handling -

The Times has a paragraph about it which reads very well<sup>1211</sup> but quite two thirds is taken verbatim from the page "For Editors only" of which I sent several copies to F Davenport Hill<sup>1212</sup> who has sent to the press - and the Spectator gave a shorter par - favourable enough.<sup>1213</sup>

We are moving on - Mr Goode<sup>1214</sup> and I had an interview with the Police Magistrate<sup>1215</sup> who tries our Juvenile cases asking that all young delinquents under the First Offender Act should have the benefit of our probation officers supervision. He said that he hesitated to commit to Ind. or Ref. School<sup>1216</sup> till 18 for trifling offences but that he was preparing an amending bill - and a clause - simply committing to the care of the Council would meet our wishes. The supervision would only last as long as it was necessary or helpful.

In case I forget as I have done for the last four letters to you, I ask you if the Red Light districts are those where brothels abound and that the red light in the U S A and in Canada is not the sign of a doctors residence and consulting room, but the

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<sup>1208</sup> Julian W. Mack, formerly judge of the Juvenile Court of Cook Count, Illinois. He described the relationship of the State and its representative, the Court, to the child as a parental relationship, intent more on correcting behaviour than punishment.

<sup>1209</sup> Richard S. Tuthill, Republican, judge, formerly District Attorney for the North District of Illinois, pioneered probation as the most useful way of dealing with juvenile delinquents.

<sup>1210</sup> Emily Parmely Collins (1814-1909), American suffragist, abolitionist and writer, of Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

<sup>1211</sup> The Times notice appeared on 17 July 1907, p14e. It was followed on 3 August 1907 p. 10c by a letter from Florence Davenport-Hill [sic] enlarging on this review.

<sup>1212</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>1213</sup> This appeared in the *Spectator* on 8 June 1907, p. 910.

<sup>1214</sup> Charles Henry Goode, later Sir, (1827-1922), merchant and philanthropist with a special interest in young people, president of the Royal Institute for the Blind 1884-1922, a founder of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and a member of the State Children's Council.

<sup>1215</sup> James Gordon, Stipendiary and Police Magistrate.

<sup>1216</sup> Industrial or Reformatory School.



sign of something exceedingly bad - In a land where "Mrs Warrens Profession"<sup>1217</sup> was not allowed to be acted - is it really permitted to hang out this sign to show where it is carried on.

I am reading Bernard Shaw's new book - John Bull's Other Island - How he lied to her husband, and Major Barbara<sup>1218</sup> with the pregnant prefaces - It gives one to think furiously - We do not seem able to shake off our responsibility for the evil things which directly or indirectly we profit by. The young man Mr Sinclair<sup>1219</sup> [sic] who is engaged to the U. C. on Eastern Hill for 12 months who spent his long vacations from Manchester College, Oxford in the slum districts of London I think taking over poor churches while the minister had a holiday was in pretty close touch with the Fabian Society<sup>1220</sup>, says I cannot judge of Bernard Shaw from the printed page - He has such power as a speaker - But he is so paradoxical and such an extremist that to me he is scarcely a Fabian - It was he who formed founded the School of Economics<sup>1221</sup> where Miss Tomkinson studied so long.

You recollect our talk with Dr Norris<sup>1222</sup> and another when Mrs Webster was with us when he exalted maternity however come by - as to be honoured and I said public opinion must change enormously before it would honour the mother of an illegitimate child - He has published an excellent piece on Infant Mortality in Victoria and an Advertiser press man seeing his figures looked up the matter for S.A and found our death rate was 29 per cent higher than that of Victoria or N S W. Now considering that we have more than a third of the ill. children under our care - and out of 131 there were only 6 deaths and even less among the babies absolutely under the Council - this made the death rate appalling for those with mothers and grandmothers - We had asked the Govt to give free medical attendance to all Miss Moule's babies and the Sec and the Pres went to the Chief Sec. to urge it - It was granted and we shall have Dr. Helen Mayo<sup>1223</sup> installed in Sept - But they pressed home the terrible death rate of those others so forcibly that I hope the Govt will give medical supervision to every natural child in the State as Dr Norris urges on the Vic. Govt to do - I had written to Dr. Norris previously on the subject, and called his attention to a recent Fabian tract by Sydney Webb on the fall in the birthrate for the last 20 years not only legitimate but equal among the illegitimate - He thanks me for calling his attention to it and hopes ere long to visit Adelaide S A - which he reckons the most advanced state in the Commonwealth in this direction. So as I said we are moving on in the State Childrens Dept.

In the Destitute the Board are letting the old people have liberty day once a week instead of once a fortnight - The men had only once in four weeks when I went

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<sup>1217</sup> *Mrs Warren's Profession: a play in four acts* by George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950), Irish dramatist, literary critic, socialist spokesman, freethinker and defender of women's rights. It was first published in 1902.

<sup>1218</sup> *John Bull's Other Island* with *How He Lied to Her Husband* and *Major Barbara*, Constable, 1907.

<sup>1219</sup> Rev. Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911. A New Zealander, he returned to New Zealand from Australia in 1932.

<sup>1220</sup> A British socialist reformist movement founded in 1884 by influential thinkers including Beatrice and Sidney Webb, George Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells.

<sup>1221</sup> The London School of Economics was founded in 1895 by Fabian Society members Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Graham Wallas and George Bernard Shaw.

<sup>1222</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1223</sup> Helen Mary Mayo (1878-1967), distinguished medical practitioner, specialising in midwifery and the health of women and children. She was University of Adelaide's second woman medical graduate. In 1909 she founded the School for Mothers with Harriet Stirling.

on the board - but we failed to get fuel added to the outside rations because the chairman wrote a strong protest agst our resolution -

We had Mr Walters<sup>1224</sup> from Sydney for the church four Sundays in August - I take charge tomorrow 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Morning sermon 'Redeeming the Time' - Evening "Should Women Preach?" I don't know how long it will last,- as yet we have heard of no one from England -

I have asked for a guinea a service and that is cheap enough. The only thing that I mistrust is my voice - Otherwise I feel equal to it - I may give old sermons - that is to say tomorrow mg I give one preached 8½years ago in the Evening - but they will generally be new - As Register has returned six articles successively that I have written this year, I may give up any idea of making money by the press - The Lone Hand rejected two excellent articles - and I don't think I shall try it again - I am glad I have an annuity that my bread and butter are secure - but if I earn extra money I have the more to give to causes and to needy people of whom I know a great many - deserving and undeserving -

Miss Moule is jubilant about the medical concession for her babies and Mrs Holmes my old servant who adopted Kitty page 64<sup>1225</sup> - who has had some of the most delicate babies to rear, said to me on Monday that all the foster mothers would bless me, for it must have cost her pounds taking these babies to the Children's Hospital, as well as long hours travelling and waiting - Miss Moule felt she would like to ring the Town Hall bells for joy.

I have my little book and a point lace collar in the Exhibition of Womens Work - We had an Adelaide exhibition here first.

Mr Turner writes me that Mr Sinclair [sic] stayed a week in his house, and that he was most favourably impressed by him - He even hopes that he may build up a congregation at Eastern Hill - I suppose Mr Webster would not allow Martha to come to hold the fort, and Mr Turner has to supply the pulpit till Mr Sinclair [sic] returns from seeing his family at Auckland - In all I think nine Sundays. Mr T. said he could hear every word that the young man said in the two services - whereas with Mr Lambley he often lost whole sentences -

I cannot go to Glenelg on Sunday between services, and I suppose I ought to go to see my sister in law once a week - and that takes something out of the working week - and all my other engagements continue -

My dear Mrs Young unfortunately is going to have another baby in a month - and dropsy has set in but not quite so soon or so bad as with the last poor little thing an 8 months child who only lived three or four months. If she had a more reasonable husband her chances would be better - She is going to a private hospital for her confinement which will give her a better chance -

Three weeks ago I had a p. c from Mrs Fred Martin dated Bremen saying she was to sail next day - as the best doctor in Bremen said she must take her husband to a quiet country place and cook for him. No medicine - but the rest cure - mostly horizontal - the lungs had healed but the chronic diarrhoea must be stemmed. They landed a week ago and after staying with his sister Mrs S Clark three days in which they saw their friends they went by train to Mount Gambier to her old home where her two sisters live and he was to have perfect quiet for three months possibly for longer - He looks as thin as a lath but is in good spirits. She looks more aged than he does - She has literary work that she thinks she can do as well as care for him. The Old Roof Tree<sup>1226</sup> has brought her some money and more kudos. Her position is

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<sup>1224</sup> Rev. George T Walters, minister of the Unitarian Church in Sydney.

<sup>1225</sup> The incident is referred to in Spence's book *State Children in Australia*.

<sup>1226</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin had been published anonymously.

distinctly raised - Whether her husband who is in his 60th year will ever be able to get into harness again as a worker or not she has a feeling that she will be able to maintain him. They were both glad to be home again - and I have still to write to them once a week I suppose so long as they stay at Mt Gambier. What interesting note books Katie must have - She was especially enthralled with Spain and with modern Spanish literature.

I had a letter of acknowledgment from Mr Kelso of Toronto<sup>1227</sup> - He says my acct of the development of Boarding Out was very interesting but that in Canada they would never think of paying for the children. I suppose it is the same with workers for children in the U. S. A. Mr Whiting sent me the Report of three years work of the State Childrens Association in England - and I made a precis of it with appropriate comments from the local standpoint and that was my 6th rejected article - In England they know they must pay - and when I think of the cost in the district Schools in Village Communities in Scattered Homes and the hideousness of life for 21,600 children still in workhouses I wonder that they speak of the great liberality of the permission to give as much as 5/- a week in decent family homes - which need no buildings - and no salaries - I have heard nothing recently of the movement in W A. Mr Wilson<sup>1228</sup> the Baptist minister who was my correspondent has moved to N. Zealand and I am afraid the vested interests of R C's and Anglicans trembling for their institutions may fight successfully against common sense and true economy - Dr Norris has not sent me the Infant Life Protection Act Bill for Victoria - I'd like to see it.

Now you will think this is not as kind a letter as I might send you but I do think of you much and often - as between two paths - one in the direction of earning your daily bread through secretarial work - the other to work up your valuable notes in literary form for the world to read.

Through a circular from a press cutting agency I learn that the book was noted in the 'Public'<sup>1229</sup> it would be your work. Miss Clark is well. Miss Tomkinson somewhat better. Mrs Morice is delighted that not only a mothers club but a fathers club has grown out of the Kindergarten. She gave a social there to the factory girls of our Co-op Clothing Co and to all the girl members of the W. W. trades union<sup>1230</sup> a fortnight ago a great success.

Ever yours in love  
C H. Spence

I do hope you will get to Denver.

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<sup>1227</sup> Mr Kelso was the head of the department dealing with State Children in Toronto. He corresponded with Spence. Toronto had the credit of establishing the first Children's Courts in the world.

<sup>1228</sup> . S Wilson left Adelaide for Perth with his father-in-law Rev. Silas Mead, who for 34 years had been Pastor of the Flinders Street Baptist Church, in 1901 and served as a Baptist minister until he left for New Zealand.

<sup>1229</sup> *The Public*: A journey [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919. Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacker Post 1914-1919.

<sup>1230</sup> Working Women's Trade Union.

**PRG 88/7/86**

North Norwood  
27<sup>th</sup> Sept [1907]

My dear Miss Henry

I enclose a little cutting which reports the last State Children's Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>1231</sup> and it includes a letter written by Herbert Samuel, Parliamentary under-Secretary of State<sup>1232</sup> - an absolute stranger to me - about my little book. I was much pleased, and Miss Clark I think was even more delighted, for it pointed to great reform in England - and the idea that our example was helpful, was the end she had in view when she herself wished to write a little pamphlet on the beginnings of Boarding Out - I do not know whether the copy Mr Samuel read was sent by Miss Hill<sup>1233</sup> or by Mr Whiting but I wrote at once to both of them - If you think you could sell any more - I would send them to you - but I believe that the Americans & Canadians have set their face against paying for children, and do not like any suggestion that they should do so. Mr Whiting says that in consequence of reviews of copies sent by Miss Hill to the English press there is some demand for copies - I wrote pretty fully to Mr. Samuel, and said that there was a man in London who could be of far greater assistance in the preparation of his Bill than my little book - that was Mr. J. B. Whiting in the Agent General's office Threadneedle House - telling of what he had done. Our department has long been the most comprehensive in the Commonwealth - and he is preparing a comprehensive Childrens Bill for the United Kingdom - Dr McKellar [sic] Sydney President of S. C R B<sup>1234</sup> has written an important little book on the State the Law & the Child - He wants the Reformatories put under the same Dept as the Neglected children - I advocated this in my book and I wrote to Dr McKellar [sic] to send his valuable book to Mr Herbert Samuel - I wish Mr Gray's health was better - He is often obliged to be absent. I think I wrote to you that Dr. Helen Mayo<sup>1235</sup> was in Sept to undertake medical attendance on all Miss Moules babies - this is an accomplished fact - We are aiming at still greater things - that is medical supervision of all illegitimate babies in S. A. for though there were only 6 deaths among the 132 babies under Miss Moule, the death rate for all illegitimate babies was 29 per cent - higher than in Vic or N. S. W. - Miss Moule has about a third - those with licensed foster mothers - This looks black for the other two thirds - I told you of my correspondence with Dr. Norris<sup>1236</sup> -

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<sup>1231</sup> The State Children's Council meeting was reported in the Register on 11 September 1907 p. 7f. It contains a transcript of Samuel's letter, dated 5 August, from Home Office, Whitehall, London, which Spence had read to the meeting.

<sup>1232</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.

<sup>1233</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>1234</sup> Charles Kinnaird MacKellar, later Sir, (1844-1926), physician, Director with Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary 1884-1903, member of Board of Health until 1925. From 1902-1914 he was President of the State Children's Relief Board.

<sup>1235</sup> Helen Mary Mayo (1878-1967), distinguished medical practitioner, specialising in midwifery and the health of women and children. She was University of Adelaide's second woman medical graduate. In 1909 she founded the School for Mothers with Harriet Stirling.

<sup>1236</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

This mg- I have a summons for a Special meeting of S. C. Council on Monday afternoon to consider Police Magistrate Gordon's<sup>1237</sup> Amended Act in which he promised to insert a clause permitting him to commit delinquents simply to the care of the Council - At present he can only commit to Ind or to Ref School and it must be till 18 - Our new member Miss Stirling is now well and most keen. Miss Tomkinsons health is most unsatisfactory.

I am preparing a sermon on the work of Judge Lindsay [sic] chiefly from three articles in McClure's<sup>1238</sup> which Lucy Morice lent me - I have preached seven times - 3½ Sundays - there is a mere man to take the services tomorrow - but as there is no word of any one coming from England - we may be months yet with a pulpit officially vacant - I preached once on Engines of Social Reform last Sunday quoting what young Mr Sinclair<sup>1239</sup> [sic] said about poverty in the slums - once Should Women preach quoting the letter of Mrs Martindale<sup>1240</sup> Sussex Eng, who was so impressed by my preaching in Adelaide, that she had arranged for women to take services for three months in the new free church her brothers (Sir Albert Spicer one of them) and herself had raised money for - one on Helen Keller's Optimism and once on Anthropomorphism.

I think I wrote you a month ago that Mr Turner wrote most appreciatively of Mr Sinclair [sic], for I see I got his letter the day I wrote to you - but I might have posted it first - They liked him personally the week he spent in their house they liked his two sermons - and Mr Turner could hear every word - Webster would not let Mrs W go to take the church so Mr Turner had to hold it till October when Mr ~~Web~~ Sinclair [sic] returns from visiting his relatives in New Zealand - The Reids remain here for the present, but will go eventually to Melbourne - Our people thought a great deal of Mr Walters<sup>1241</sup> the four Sundays he was here -

I was deeply interested in the pamphlet on Sex education - I sent it to the Morices and both Lucy and Jim were as much impressed as myself - Mr Gray has it now and it will be passed on to Dr Morris<sup>1242</sup>, who is the Adelaide doctor to the Destitute and State Children's Depts. He tells me that there is not so much venereal disease here as in other places - that you may say there are no brothels here but there are houses of assignation, and that the danger of infection is greater among the casual prostitutes than among the professionals - The Destitute authorities say that when the Girls Reformatory was under their care there were a great many of the girls diseased - gonorrhoea chiefly - now Mrs Holden<sup>1243</sup> says there are very few of such - I am quite sure that Adelaide is not anything like Chicago for prostitution - Miss Jessie Ackermann<sup>1244</sup> spoke to the Nat Council of Women last Tuesday on the 900 illegitimate births at the S. Army Rescue home - but she did not say it was a 15 year

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<sup>1237</sup> James Gordon, Stipendiary and Police Magistrate.

<sup>1238</sup> *McClure's Magazine*, a United States illustrated monthly magazine which ran in various forms from 1893 to 1929.

<sup>1239</sup> Rev. Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911. A New Zealander, he returned to New Zealand from Australia in 1932.

<sup>1240</sup> Louisa Martindale, née Spicer, (1839-1914), British suffragist and campaigner for the education of women had travelled to Australia and New Zealand in 1900-1901. She lived in Brighton, Sussex.

<sup>1241</sup> Rev. George T Walters, minister of the Unitarian Church in Sydney.

<sup>1242</sup> Bedlington Howell Morris, medical officer to the State Children's Department.

<sup>1243</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden was the matron in charge of the Redruth reformatory. The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls in the former gaol at Burra.

<sup>1244</sup> Jessie A Ackermann (1857?-1951), traveller, journalist, social reformer and political activist. Born in USA, she travelled much in Australia for world wide organizations like W.C.T.U. and the Girls Realm Guild of Service, which she was supporting in Australia in September 1907.

record. I had to get up to say it was not really a greater evil in S. A. than elsewhere in Australia - She told us she has had an interview with the President of the Swiss Federation, and that the law there is that the illeg. baby is registered in the name of the father and that if there is property, that baby gets its share along with the others - That is fair enough - but the lies that are told about paternity are amazing. Just this month, a girl came to the Destitute naming as the father of her child a man in a fairly good position for the D. B. to approach - Soon after, she gave another name and this second man has married her when she was still in bed - and will take her home - he is a respectable employé like the other - Which is the father? Miss Ackerman says the paternity question is thrashed out before a competent Board in Switzerland. Well the women baffle our skilled enquirers many times -

You recollect my talking of my cousin Andrew Handyside in the train when we went together to Melbourne, and that he died before I returned to Adelaide - One of his three daughters got engaged on her voyage to England and is settled near Whitby Yorkshire very happily - The youngest the survivor of the twins who cost the mother her life, is just engaged to a Mr H H. Bradshaw<sup>1245</sup> - Adelaide manager of Reuters' Agency - She is a fine looking girl of 28 and has had many admirers, but her sister Jessie the oldest says this is far the best of them - As she has about £500 a year from station property and freehold land near Bordertown, she might have been sought for her money but I am most favourably impressed by the young man who is in a very good position for 26 - Jean Brodie Handyside is 28 - but he looks the elder of the two - They are bubbling over with happiness, and will be married by Xmas.

There was such influenza at Mrs Spences that Marjorie Wren was summoned home last week - rather sorrowful - both on acct of her painting lessons and some dances ahead - I have been warned away for fear of infection but I hope to get down on Sunday between services -

Lucy Morice is in high spirits about the Kindergarten for Mr Barr Smith<sup>1246</sup> gave £500 and they hope to start one at Bowden, a poor suburb and another in the city, the beginning of next year. One thing that drew me to my prospective grand nephew, was that a friend induced him to go with him to see the Kindergarten for an hour - and they could not tear themselves away but stayed till it was dismissal time -

My book & other printed matter have been sent on from the local exhibition to the big Melbourne one, but my point lace collar was not thought worthy. I got it back and gave it straightway to Mrs Young who is in a private hospital awaiting her confinement - If I had kept it a week it would have been available for Jean - I am very anxious about Mrs Young - but the hospital is the best place for her though she grudges three guineas a week - she went on a false alarm.

[Pages 5 and 6 are missing]

I am thinking much of your possible visit to Denver to have one sight of Judge Lindsay's [sic] juvenile Court. The McClure article shows how hard he had fight the corrupt Govt and rings and trusts - It will be a woeful thing if his work is stopped or dwarfed by the evil influences arrayed against him - If I don't say much about your work in Chicago it is not that I am not thinking of it- In the *Arena*<sup>1247</sup> one snatched hour at the Public Library I saw such a beautiful paper about the Rev Jenkin Lloyd Jones<sup>1248</sup> who asked me to tell what we did for Children at the Church of All Saints which he has left for the Lincoln building. Such a brotherly man he was and a close friend of Henry D Lloyd whose funeral sermon he preached. There was also an

<sup>1245</sup> Henry Hulatt Bradshaw.

<sup>1246</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), businessman and philanthropist.

<sup>1247</sup> *Arena*, Boston. An American monthly, advocate of social reform. 1889-1909.

<sup>1248</sup> Jenkin Lloyd Jones (1843-1918), Unitarian minister in Chicago, pacifist, opponent of child labour, supporter of Hull House and the Trade Union movement, co-founder and editor of the periodical *Unity*. He opened the Unitarian ministry to women.

article on Henry D Lloyd but Lucy Morice who had made an appt to meet there came in ere I had well begun it – I had opened other numbers first – Mr Whiting sent me 3 years Report of State Childrens Assn England and I made an excellent abstract of it for Register but that was declined the 6<sup>th</sup> article written this year 1907 and all six rejected – But I read it to the Ladies Committee –

Of course my work is more elastic than yours but I am much like you I want to write in the morning when I am fresh. That not only means serious things like sermons and newspaper articles but letters – I have still Mrs Martin to write to at Mt Gambier instead of Spain<sup>1249</sup> – My mind misgives me much about her husband but they are going through the rest cure for him – Vida Goldstein says a good word for the State children in Jus Suffragi<sup>1250</sup> Rotterdam – I should hope the Victorian women will get State Suffrage soon now -

I have written today a long letter to Mr Tyson<sup>1251</sup> especially about Singer Fowlds<sup>1252</sup> Min Ed N Z. who is for S. T. & P. R.<sup>1253</sup> and who hear[d] much of me in America as the apostle of P R. They say the Ward Ministry is tottering and he will go out with it - He has tried several times to introduce PR but Seddon<sup>1254</sup> and his supporters cling to single electorates - I think almost all the copies of book sent to the U.S. have been lost for I get no acknowledgments. Dr Holmes sent me pamph[let] with the new Juvenile Court. We are going to have a complete new building by & by. Govt has bought the next block and as the Education Dept will be crowded out of the Post Office building which the Commonwealth will completely occupy. We will have a new three story building to include the State Children Special Centre with the Juvenile Court as well as the whole Public Education Department. And we shall then have premises worthy of the great and good work they have to do. Give my love to Mrs Holmes when you see her.

Always yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>1249</sup> Mr and Mrs Martin returned to South Australia in mid August 1907.

<sup>1250</sup> *Jus Suffragii*, begun 1906, was the monthly periodical published by the International Alliance of Women established in 1902. It was originally named the International Woman Suffrage Committee with Susan B. Anthony USA as President and Vida Goldstein Australia as Secretary.

<sup>1251</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1252</sup> George Fowlds (1860-1934), New Zealand clothier, politician, university administrator, progressive community leader, Liberal Member of Parliament 1899-1911.

<sup>1253</sup> Single tax and proportional representation.

<sup>1254</sup> Richard John Seddon (1845-1906), miner's advocate, Liberal politician and Premier of New Zealand. Member of New Zealand Parliament 1879-1906.

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**PRG 88/7/87**

North Norwood  
9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1907

My dear Miss Henry

I am writing to you via England in answer to yours received yesterday dated 13<sup>th</sup> August accompanied by a most interesting Labour paper with the full report of the great meeting of Womens Unions<sup>1255</sup> in Chicago which I read through - it took me hours. There was so much to interest me in that meeting and in other parts of the paper - I found that the teachers had not only lost the rise of \$50 promised but had been cut \$50 besides - and had larger classes to teach. My cousin or cousin's daughter Laura Symon used to have 80 children to teach at the school near Port Adelaide on Lefevres peninsula - She is now in a nice flat in 1725 College Avenue Indianapolis on the invitation of her son Stow Symon who is chief clerk in the railway. I think it is the Illinois Central and Harriman is his boss.

She is meditating a visit to Chicago in the fall - and as it will cost her nothing and is only five hours journey she could go any day - I am sending her a note or card for you and for Miss Addams<sup>1256</sup> and for Mrs Holmes - I notice that Hull House is not said to be in Halstead St now but 244 Polk St presumably the street round the corner. I fear Miss Addams has no time for visitors but Laura should see Hull House - I much want her to see the American schools both city and rural and report to the State Teachers Union here which she had so much to do with founding.

I suppose the Bayard Holmes still have the old address. It is a grand child they are taking with them to the cabin. You spoke or rather wrote of a trip to Denver to see Judge Lindsays [sic] Court. I hope it will materialise - I preached a sermon on his work on Sunday evg to a very small congregation but it was a good sermon - I am very glad his position is for the present more secure but after your woeful experience in Chicago one trembles for Denver - But surely the women should rally round the friend of Children and the friend of justice - I do hope something will be done in Chicago to revoke or to modify that iniquitous charter -

I am glad you see a prospect of having a rise of salary, and in consequence of past hard work in organisation, somewhat less exacting work so that you can get at your valuable notes and work them up into a book - I am not in the way of hearing about your brother<sup>1257</sup> - but I should fancy it has only been influenza which has been very prevalent all over Australia - After a month I hear that I may go to my sister in laws at Glenelg - She did not have it but the others had.

I had a nice letter from the Sec to Ed Dept in New Zealand<sup>1258</sup> and an order for 50 copies of the book - I thought Mr Gray would not send as many as they are getting few but he has done so - and that will be £3 in my pocket - I have conducted nine services at the Unitarian Church which ought to bring me £9.9 but there is no news of a Minister from England yet so I may have months of it yet. Mr Whitham has offered to take the Childrens anniversary service next Sunday mg - I don't always give new sermons - but mostly -

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<sup>1255</sup> This was a meeting of Working Women's Unions

<sup>1256</sup> Jane Addams (1860-1935) founded the world famous social settlement Hull-House in Chicago's Near West Side in 1889. She became USA's most prominent woman through her writing, settlement work and international efforts for world peace.

<sup>1257</sup> Alice's brother, Alfred Henry (1859-1937), lived in Victoria.

<sup>1258</sup> George Fowlds (1860-1934), New Zealand clothier, politician, university administrator, progressive community leader, Liberal Member of Parliament 1899-1911.



Dr Helen Mayo<sup>1259</sup> writes that she is much pleased with the licensed foster mothers and Miss Moule is delighted with the way she has taken up the work - Did I tell you in my last that we wanted to have a gathering of all our visitors for a conference. The Govt has agreed to meet the expenses and to pay half the reduced railway fares and half the coach fares and provide lunch and tea - Our own children are to do the cooking and the attendances provisions and vegetables from Magill<sup>1260</sup> - Redruth<sup>1261</sup> - Edwardstown<sup>1262</sup> - and the Salv Army probation home for girls are to make some cakes & scones - but I'll tell you all about it. Mr Gray is to have his annual fortnights holiday first and it will probably come off early in Oct - A book has been written by Mrs Withers<sup>1263</sup> called Boarding Out which is either a great libel on the Victorian dept or the inspection is very faulty - I have just read it and mean to write to the Sec. on the matter as I did about Mrs Carrie Croziers letter<sup>1264</sup>. He replied that he had talked to the lady and convinced her she was wrong - but there was no public retraction - What we want to do at our meeting especially is to show the visitors what we expect from them - and the extent and the limits of their power. In Mrs Withers book she says the local visitor was most perfunctory and the official inspector only came round once a year - In S. A. the woman who had the children would never have had any intrusted to her.

Mrs Young had a little son on the 29th Sept and both mother and child were doing well up to yesterday - His name is Courtney Spence - called after the English and the Australian proportionalist - Her younger son (not the youngest of course) passed his primary well. His name is Blakeney and his age 13 -

I enclose you an address on Effective Voting - I am sure you must see all over the U. S. how much the reform is needed there - I must congratulate you on your boss Mrs Robins<sup>1265</sup> - I think she is just splendid - One of my young admirers asked me the other day if I had never thought of writing my life - I said I had sometimes but I really had not the time - She said if she could get the facts she would like to write it - but that is about as much trouble as writing it myself - I am reading Leslie Stephens<sup>1266</sup> life & am much interested in his correspondence with American friends. I am somewhat off American novels just now on acct of their very careless English. I shall let Lucy Morice know about the book Charity and the Social Crisis - I have a lot more letters to write one to Laura Symon first

Ever yours  
C H Spence

I am awaiting the arrival of the May No. of Charities and the Commons<sup>1267</sup>.

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<sup>1259</sup>Helen Mary Mayo (1878-1967), distinguished medical practitioner, specialising in midwifery and the health of women and children. She was University of Adelaide's second woman medical graduate. In 1909 she founded the School for Mothers with Harriet Stirling.

<sup>1260</sup> The reformatory for boys at Magill.

<sup>1261</sup> The reformatory for girls at Redruth near Burra.

<sup>1262</sup> The Edwardstown receiving home for babies.

<sup>1263</sup> *Boarded Out: a story founded on fact* by Mrs Walter Withers, Melbourne, Fraser & Jenkinson, 1907.

<sup>1264</sup> Mrs Carrie Crozier's letter appeared in the *Argus* on 19 June 1907 p. 8g.

<sup>1265</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1266</sup> Sir Leslie Stephen (1832-1904), English author and critic, founding editor of the *National Dictionary of Biography*, father of Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell.

<sup>1267</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

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[in large writing down the margin of page 2]

What about the author of *My Brilliant Career*<sup>1268</sup>.  
Is she still with you.

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<sup>1268</sup> (Stella Maria Sarah) Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League. *My Brilliant Career*, her first novel was published in Edinburgh in 1901.

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**PRG 88/7/88**

North Norwood  
24<sup>th</sup> Octr 1907

My dear Miss Henry

I believe I wrote to you about the 9th via England in acknowledgment of a letter and a lot of literature and telling you that my cousin Laura Stow Symon meant to go to Chicago in the Fall from Indianapolis - She is an old State School teacher here and she finds the Indianapolis schools shut up for three months vacation - that appears outrageous in a city of 250,000 inhabitants. Laura found Mrs May Wright Sewell<sup>1269</sup> [sic] removed from Indianapolis to someplace in Maine which she regrets as she heard every one thought very highly of her.

After I wrote- I got Chicago Bulletin with Mr Raymond Robbins<sup>1270</sup> [sic] admirable address on the City Charter passed by the Legislature - so different from what the Convention of Good Citizens drew up and I came to the conclusion that the husband was quite as able as the wife whose address at the great meeting of Working Women's Unions had so much impressed me - But the paper on Homeless Men in that invaluable pamphlet you sent me by Raymond Robbins [sic] has also deeply sunk into my mind. Under what circumstances and and [sic] in what capacity did he become personally acquainted with 33670 homeless men of whom 4875 were suffering from venereal disease -

I have done a good deal with this pamphlet. First I sent it to Lucy and Jim Morice - and Miss Tomkinson read it at their house - next to Mr Gray - Then I took it to Mr Atkinson<sup>1271</sup> Chairman and Tregenza<sup>1272</sup> Superintendent of D Asylum and they passed it on to Dr Morris<sup>1273</sup> who is not only doctor for the Destitute but for the jail and the Stockade and yesterday I had half an hours serious talk with him. He read every word of it and says it gives subject for thought especially Raymond Robbins [sic] and Dr Belfields - We agreed that it should be sent to Crawford Vaughan<sup>1274</sup> who is moving for reform of the jails - The women drunks who are sent to jail for a week or a fortnight are frequently prostitutes as well and as we have no Magdalene Ward in our hospitals they cannot be sent there to be cured which they would willingly do - This very year quite lately such a woman's sentence expired [suffering from a bad form of syphilis - inserted above], just on the eve of the September Agricultural and ~~Legrea~~ horticultural show when there are thousands of visitors to the metropolis - in a few weeks she was taken up for drunkenness and sent to jail again - She told Dr Morris that she had had connexion with seventy men. The thing is appalling - I shall write to Crawford Vaughan asking him to press for a Magdalene Ward. You cannot and ought not to send such cases to the gynecological [sic] ward where ~~virtuous~~ other women are treated. We have not a Lock ward for men either - so that as Dr Morris says while scarlet fever which is a clean disease is strictly isolated - this far worse disease is allowed to spread its poison unchecked - But Atkinson and

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<sup>1269</sup> May Eliza Wright Sewall (1844-1920), American educator and reformer, best known for her work with woman suffrage and world wide women's organizations.

<sup>1270</sup><sup>1270</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. Robins and his wife Margaret, née Dreier, (1868-1945), worked together to expose corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1271</sup> T. H. Atkinson, Chairman of the Destitute Board.

<sup>1272</sup> E. J. Tregenza, Superintendent of Destitute Asylum an Accountant to the Board.

<sup>1273</sup> Bedlington Howel Morris, Medical Officer for the State Children's Department.

<sup>1274</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party, Member of Parliament and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

Tregenza say that there is much less disease among women who come in for confinement than there used to be and Mrs Holden<sup>1275</sup> says there is very little among our reformatory girls. 30 years ago there were half of them infected.

The most important public news is that Mr Watson<sup>1276</sup> has resigned the leadership of the Labour party in the Commonwealth Parliament on account of health but will continue to sit in the house as a private member. He hopes to go on a visit to Europe - and I hope with you he may visit America. From all sides from all parties there are tributes to his abilities and his character - It is to be feared that his successor in the leadership will not possess his wise moderation.

For the last seven years he has been a leader of whom Australia may well be proud - No doubt your Melbourne papers tell you all about it but I enclose a paragraph about the Chamber of Manufactures.

Miss Scott tells me Miles Franklin<sup>1277</sup> writes gratefully about you but I dont know if you are really still living together - David Scott Mitchell<sup>1278</sup> left £5000 to his cousin Rose Scott - who gave every Sunday afternoon to him for many long years - She has had three attacks of influenza one after another and is rather run down - Amy Tomkinson spent two hours with me yesterday Friday - She thinks she has taken the turn once she stopped taking any medicine. She lost two stones weight - and was reduced to 6 stone 4 - She went with her mother up the Murray as far as Renmark and thinks it did her good - She is much impressed with the value of the great waterway as well as the irrigation possibilities. The Renmark people say the minimum sought to be secured by the Bill before the SA Parliament is too small -

Our Franchise question is settled and though it does not go as far as the Assembly wanted it will admit a great many new voters for the Leg Coun. and then we may carry a measure for land taxation and compulsory purchases of big estates - A bill is all but passed through both houses for indeterminate sentences - but Crawford Vaughan wants reorganisation of gaol and stockade administration - and a separate department for habitual drunkards -

We are to have a conference of Visitors for State children on 19<sup>th</sup> November - all mooted with great concessions from railway Dept - Lunch and tea provided cooked and served by State Children. Lunch 12.30. At 2PM Meeting University buildings kindly lent for the occasion. President Mr Rhodes to deliver inaugural address - followed by

Miss Spence -	On the Work of Committees and Visitors
C H Goode <sup>1279</sup>	Our work compared with that Elsewhere
Secretary Mr Gray	Some Misconceptions.

Two hours will be devoted to open discussion, in which members of the Council will take part - The Council hopes that every one present will freely state their questions difficulties & suggestions - Tea at 5.30 - Meeting again at 7.30 The Governor will

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<sup>1275</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden was the matron in charge of the Redruth reformatory. The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls in the former gaol at Burra.

<sup>1276</sup> John Christian Watson (1867-1941), NSW Labour politician, later member of the Federal House of Representatives and first Labour Prime Minister of Australia (1904).

<sup>1277</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League. *My Brilliant Career*, her first novel had been published in Edinburgh in 1901.

<sup>1278</sup> David Scott Mitchell (1836-1907), book collector, especially of books relating to Australia, and national benefactor. He endowed the Mitchell Library in Sydney.

<sup>1279</sup> Charles Henry Goode, later Sir, (1827-1922), merchant and philanthropist with a special interest in young people, president of the Royal Institute for the Blind 1884-1922, a founder of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and a member of the State Children's Council.

preside - The Premier Thomas Price<sup>1280</sup> - Professor Jethro Brown<sup>1281</sup> and others will address the meeting -

We think this will be a good thing for both the visitors and the Council - but I expect to be a very tired woman at the end of it - for I dare say I will do a good deal of talking besides giving the most important of the addresses -

There is still no word of a minister for our church - I have had help for five services - but tomorrow I take two which makes thirteen in the two months for which I get £13.13. I dont always give them two new sermons - but touch up old ones for our service. I seem pretty full of ideas - but it takes time to write sermons for a very critical and very small congregation. My sermon on the work of Judge Lindsay I preached to twelve besides the choir - but the usual morning congregation is 40 or more - I thought it might attract strangers who are more apt to come in the evg but I was quite disappointed - it was the very worst audience I ever had -

George Hood is going to be married on the 16th Novr to Ellie Wight<sup>1282</sup> some years older than himself but a thoroughly good girl - She has been in the choir for years and wherever there was any bickering or jealousy as is apt to be in choirs Ellen always said and did the right thing - George went to live with the Wights after Kittys tragic death and Ellie was always his confidant and consoler - He asked Mr Reid<sup>1283</sup> to tie the knot which I think pleased the old gentleman - It is to be at the house not in the church. Harry Reid has won his case on appeal to the High court triumphantly - which is good for him, and will enable him to help his father and mother -

You were going to visit the Bayard Holmes at Lake side. Have you given up the idea of the round trip to Denver - I do so want to hear your impression of that Juvenile Court -

I had an order for 50 copies of my book from Gibbes sec to Min. of Ed. N. Z. because it was full of kind feeling and common sense - I feared Mr Gray would not spare as many - but he did -

Mr Garrison sent me a delightful letter but I fear he did not get my book as he does not acknowledge it though he speaks of literature on P.R. received and tells me he lunched with Mr and Mrs Leonard Courtney<sup>1284</sup> when on a recent visit to England -

Mrs Young had a little boy name Courtney Spence - four weeks ago at a private Hospital which gave her a chance. He is a fine boy and she is doing much better than last time but that husband of hers is in every way so difficult and so exacting that she always has far too much to do - He thinks house work is nothing and does not think he can afford her a servant. Not only that he expects her to help him with his newspaper work and to read books for the reviewing he has to do every Saturday. Bonython (S Langdon)<sup>1285</sup> gets the most amazing lot of work from his staff for wretched pay - I dont think Mr Young gets much more than £5 a week - He is a hard worker and a quick worker - Mrs Robertson wife of the chief of staff tells me she thinks Mr Young does more than anyone in the office - but I dont see why his wife should be so treated for the blooming Advertiser.

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<sup>1280</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier.

<sup>1281</sup> William Jethro Brown (1868-1930), political thinker, writer, academic and jurist. He was Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide from 1906 to 1916.

<sup>1282</sup> George Hood married Ellie Alberta Wight

<sup>1283</sup> John Reid MA, former minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1284</sup> Leonard Henry Courtney, Lord Courtney of Penwith (1832-1918), British politician, sometime president of the Royal Statistical Society, and strong advocate of proportional representation. In 1884 he was a founding member of the British Proportional Representation Society.

<sup>1285</sup> Sir John Langdon Bonython (1848-1939), editor, newspaper proprietor and philanthropist. He was knighted in 1898.

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We had a great loss in the death of Andrew Scott<sup>1286</sup> teacher of the State school trainees at the University and also the strong man in the Kindergarten Union - Also the buyer for our Book Club after Mr Hartleys<sup>1287</sup> death - Mrs Hartley felt the death which was sudden very keenly.

Believe me  
always yours  
C H Spence

I don't think Fred Martin is getting on very well –

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<sup>1286</sup> Andrew Scott, prominent South Australian educator, Principal of the Training School, (later Teachers College).

<sup>1287</sup> John Anderson Hartley (1844-1896), educationist, Chairman of the Central Board of Education in South Australia, President of the Council of Education, Inspector-General of schools, a founder of the University of Adelaide. He had lived near Spence and they had been friends and colleagues.

PRG 88/7/89

North Norwood  
22<sup>nd</sup> Nov [1907]

My dear Miss Henry

In the first place what on earth do the Minnesota people mean by calling their State works Muglie? Next, are you still chumming with Stella Franklin<sup>1288</sup>? - Third, Have you got the rise in salary you were led to expect?

You say there is no means of getting my book, and wonder if Charities<sup>1289</sup> would sell it - We have not many for sale and perhaps we had better keep them for people anxious to have them - I can see that both Canada and the US do not like the principle on which Australia works. The J. C. Record<sup>1290</sup> printed my letter with such awful mistakes. Instead of a national possession and a national responsibility it was made natural in both cases but the worst was when I said We have nothing in Australia of free homes unless the child is really adopted, they transmuted it to fee money. In spite of this I had an order for a book from a reader of the J C. R. - Elsa von Liszt<sup>1291</sup> Charlottenberg Berlin. I had previously through Vida Goldstein a request for a copy and also for the right of translation from Clara Linzen-Ernst<sup>1292</sup> of Berlin through reading Jus Suffragii<sup>1293</sup>, in which Vida had mentioned the book as the work of Australia's Grand Old Woman. Of course I gave permission ~~and~~ but the thing got into the papers and I had two requests from German ladies to undertake the translation!!! Clara L. E. is a writer on Economics &c and will only translate it if on reading it, she thinks it will sell - If the book had not been brought out by subscription - it would have been a dead loss - I don't think I shall get £10 out of it - and it cost £50 to print it. But it has done splendid work - and it has been invaluable in showing to our visitors and committees the importance of their work -

I wrote you that we were to have a conference on the 19th. It was I think, most successful - We are having a verbatim or nearly so report printed - but the newspapers gave considerable prominence to this unique function - I shall cut out and send you some extracts and also a paragraph attacking the Victorian Dept - When I read Boarded Out<sup>1294</sup> I wrote to Mr Davis<sup>1295</sup> [sic] Acting Sec. and he had not seen it but got and read it - and made quite light of it as also in another case when he

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<sup>1288</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League. *My Brilliant Career*, her first novel had been published in Edinburgh in 1901.

<sup>1289</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1290</sup> *Juvenile Court Record*, also known as *The Juvenile*, an irregular monthly published in Chicago 1900-1932. 'Published in the interest of defective and delinquent classes'.

<sup>1291</sup> Elsa von Liszt was a pioneer of social work in Germany.

<sup>1292</sup> Clara Linzen-Ernst gibt in Berlin die Zeitung 'Korrespondenz Frauenfragen' heraus. She was the author of *Die Arbeiterin* and *die Arbeitskammern*.

<sup>1293</sup> *Jus Suffragii*, begun 1906, was the monthly periodical published by the International Alliance of Women established in 1902. It was originally named the International Woman Suffrage Committee with Susan B. Anthony USA as President and Vida Goldstein Australia as Secretary.

<sup>1294</sup> *Boarded Out: a story founded on fact* by Mrs Walter Withers, Melbourne, Fraser & Jenkinson, 1907.

<sup>1295</sup> John L. Davies was acting secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory School.

convinced Mrs Carrie Crozier<sup>1296</sup> that she was wrong but he did not get a written retraction of her accusations from her.

I believe the enclosed is exaggerated - but the Vic. idea of inspector is not our idea - Miss Clark came for an hour. She could not hear the president's address but she heard mine - You may be glad to hear that I spoke well - and that my extempore address was called an inspiration - and that people said they must do more as visitors than they had done. But Mr Gray's address on Some Misconceptions was most illuminating - Our two meals were perfect - well cooked and well served, and our 12 boys and 12 girls did us credit - The weather was perfect - the Council and Visitors were photographed together - and the children and the officers together for the *Chronicle*<sup>1297</sup> - We had a blind baby and a crippled girl in a wheeled chair, to show how we care for defectives - Our Doctor says that after a wide experience in nurses he gives the patient to Miss Sheppard at the Edwardstown receiving home for babies. Infants that did not seem to have a day to live, she pulls through. When we were threatened with a bad bout of ophthalmia of the worst kind before we had the isolation ward she herself attended to the patients night and day. She has the apparently dying infants who need periodical attention at night often every half hour in her own room and attends to them herself -

With regard to your Chicago Pamphlet Dr Morris<sup>1298</sup> read every word of it and it gave him furiously to think - He says what we need urgently is a Magdalene Ward - and he told me of a woman in jail for a fortnight, a prostitute & diseased - He treated her but could not detain her - She went out on the eve of the Agr and Hort Show<sup>1299</sup> where thousands of visitors are in the city. Two or three weeks after she was again taken up as drunk and disorderly, and sent to jail. She told him she had had intercourse with 70 men in the interval. He and I agreed to send the pamphlet to Crawford Vaughan who is working for Penal reform and his wife, which we did - He says nothing can be done this session. I have sent it to Dr Rogers, who is my doctor and is not only on the State Children's Council but on the Hospital Board - We had a talk last week and he says the reason why the Magdalene Ward was disused was because at that time there was no means of distinguishing between gonorrhoea and other venereal discharges and leucorrhoea<sup>1300</sup> or Whites a very common ailment among women - but now that we have a complete bacteriological laboratory we ought to have this and he will move for it on the Hospital Board - I don't know how much of this I wrote you a month ago - Mrs Young says the press shd take it up - I have just posted the pamphlet to her - I see the name of R.W. Holmes<sup>1301</sup> and not his fathers in the list of members - You say adolescent insanity - surely you mean incipient insanity - If he is a full fledged doctor he can scarcely be in his adolescence - I think he was seven in 1893 he is young for an M.D.

Mr Herbert Samuel<sup>1302</sup> sent me this week the English Probation Bill Act for first offenders - children under 16 shall have probation - adults may have them - It is however the Comprehensive Childrens Bill for 1908 that is most deeply interesting to

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<sup>1296</sup> Mrs Carrie Crozier's letter had appeared in the *Argus* on 19 June 1907 p. 8g.

<sup>1297</sup> These two photographs were published in the *Chronicle* on 23 November 1907 p. 31.

<sup>1298</sup> Bedlington Howell Morris, medical officer to the State Children's Department.

<sup>1299</sup> The Agricultural and Horticultural Show

<sup>1300</sup> leucorrhoea, a whitish discharge from the female genital organs.

<sup>1301</sup> Ralph Holmes was the son of Spence's friend Bayard Taylor Holmes (1852-1924), innovative physician, scientist and teacher. Ralph Holmes suffered from schizophrenia and died in 1915.

<sup>1302</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.



me - Yesterday I had a letter from a Mrs Cowan<sup>1303</sup> in W.A. with the Bill drafted but not yet put before Parliament. She says "We are not having a good time over the new bill - it is so clearly designed to weaken our Society (for Protection of Children) in its work of Boarding Out - besides it means placing enormous power in the hands of one man . . . Certainly he who runs may read the guiding hand of the Bishops of the two principal denominations - They seem to think it is safe to trust the administration of so much money and so much power in one man's hands - but that a mixed committee of 12 are not to be trusted. . . The Romans and Anglicans want to cripple us in the B. O. They want their big subsidies, as well as cheap labour to develop their large properties - The Salvationists also discourage B O and for the same reasons. And it is all done in such an underhand way - Still we are hopeful. The 50 children we have boarding out and if the Govt will pay us the 1/1½ a day we will give the right kind of supervision and it will save Govt money and show good results." I think you will agree with me that such accusations as Mrs Crozier's and as Mrs Withers' Boarded Out could not arise where there are 12 laymen & women keeping a watch over officialism - I don't think your Mr Davies or Capt D would have taken these things so lightly - You recollect how the Dept glossed over your Argus report on Brookside -

Mrs Young's baby thrives and is promising, but she herself has a life of such slavery unappreciated by her husband - His monstrous egoism is comic, if it was not so tragic - I hope that her children will repay her, for he never will - It would make it worse for her if I quarrelled with him - and there are sides of his character - intellectual - that appeal to me - But his sublime unconsciousness of the daily hourly labours of his wife - His idea that all she knows and all she is able for is due to his teaching - and that it is a privilege for her to exist as his wife and the mother of his children - his requiring her to help him with his newspaper work the poorest dept of it - as well as do everything for the household would be called untrue and overdrawn if it were introduced into fiction - Like Dickens he is all nerves - and like Dickens he has no patience with the nerves of his wife -

I get breezy letters from Mr Tyson<sup>1304</sup> but I cannot see that PR is making progress in Canada or the U. S - All seem to think that what is wanted is a perpetual appeal to the people by the Ref. & In.

I was delighted to hear that the popular vote of Chicago was strong against the Charter, but I am not sure that it has reversed it - My admiration of Mr Raymond Robins<sup>1305</sup> for his attitude on the Charter is great. But that paper in the pamphlet made me set him down as one of the Worlds true leaders and I am glad that he has so grand a helpmate - I have at last heard from K J Musson<sup>1306</sup> - Mrs C G Ames and Miss Emily Howland<sup>1307</sup> Sherwood that they have got my book - Poor K. J. M. had not time to read it. Her father was ill and from 7 A M to 11 P. M she is on duty at the drug

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<sup>1303</sup> Edith Dircksey Cowan née Brown (1861-1932), social worker for woman and children. She was later a member of the Bench of the newly formed Children's Court in Western Australia, and later still in 1921 became the first woman member of Parliament in Australia.

<sup>1304</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1305</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. He and his wife Margaret Dreier Robins worked together, committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1306</sup> Spence had met Katharine Jane Musson, a supporter of single tax and proportional representation, at the International Conferences held in conjunction with the Chicago World Fair in 1893.

<sup>1307</sup> Emily Howland of Sherwood, New York (1822-1929), philanthropist and educator, woman suffrage, temperance and peace activist. In 1890 she became the first female director of a National Bank in the United States.

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store but her letter was full of love - Her brothers patent failed and he died - The fathers savings had gone to push the patent, and they were left heavily in debt. Mrs Ames thoroughly appreciated my book and sent it a friend in the West to educate her - Old Mrs Collins (93)<sup>1308</sup> has received the second copy - and acknowledged at once - there are only two or three not acknowledged.

We have had a cable that a married minister has been engaged but cannot hear particulars for three weeks - George Hood was married a week ago. I am quite pleased with the bride. Eleanor Wren has been nursing Dora Davies through the measles. I am getting [illegible name] poems for a birthday gift from C Wren also an easy chair from the Destitute Board and some of the staff.

C H Spence

Fred Martin is making no progress

P.S. By the next English mail I will send you three copies of my book to sell or give to anyone much interested.

It is of no use posting it today as it will go via England – I have just had a talk with a member of the Hospital Board who came to see Mrs Quiltys little neice [sic] and he says there is no chance of having a Magdalene Ward in Adelaide Hospital because public feeling is against it. Then I said he must fight for it – public feeling says that a woman who goes into a M W is branded for life – public feeling must be educated –

C H S

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<sup>1308</sup> Emily Parmely Collins (1814-1909), American suffragist, abolitionist and writer, of Hartford, Connecticut, USA.

**PRG 88/7/90**

North Norwood  
18<sup>th</sup> Decr 1907

My dear Miss Henry

I write a few days ahead for time presses hard on me - and there are no end of things at this season of the year. I have not got rid of the church and do not even know when the new man is likely to arrive though I think the church secretary must have had letter -

Your long letter about women's clubs being too respectable and that you are not sure that the Denver women will stand by Judge Lindsay [sic] - accompanied by the Labour paper with your admirable address on the subject of the suffrage arrived together and I read all the speeches on the question of public servants forming unions with the greatest interest - You are most fortunate in Mrs Raymond Robins<sup>1309</sup> both for womens causes and for yourself as an individual "Thank the Lord she has a sense of humour!' One of the Bensons (A.C. I think)<sup>1310</sup> writes that Humour should take its place as a fourth Christian grace - I am sure it sweetens life as much as the others. But I am equally impressed with her husband - Have they any children? if not, it is a pity.

A Dr. L. T. Royster 64 Granby St. Norfolk, Virginia, has written for a copy of my book, and sends pamphlets of his writing that shows that the Protection of Infant Life is what he cares most for - I thought of referring him to you, but as I wanted to write to him myself I sent it from here via England - You say in your last that you think you could sell 12 copies - Three were sent to you a fortnight ago and nine will be sent today that is done via England - I feel that whenever any one wants to buy - he or she will read attentively - As for the price I only get 1/3 and postage for paper covers and 2/- and postage for the copies bound in cloth - I have actually got £11 for myself out of the sales - but there has also been £5 or £6 of sales gone in postages - We want the Govt. to print the extended report of the conference for distribution but I am afraid they will jib at the cost - If I can manage it, I shall get you an Advertiser which will give you some idea of the proceedings but it appears difficult for me to get to the Advertiser office. I am keeping well, but I am having hard work - last week for instance - two services on Sunday - Monday correspondence and State Childrens Council Tuesday devoted to a sermon on Mercure Conways<sup>1311</sup> Autobiography which I had borrowed and which took me the previous week to read - Wednesday Thursday & Friday at the Destitute Board - Saturday to vote for reduction of public houses at Norwood Town Hall, and to make my way to Christchurch North Adelaide to see the marriage of my great neice [sic] Jean Handyside to H H Bradshaw manager of Reuter's agency in Adelaide.

A Society marriage - 120 invited guests - I got home after six tired - and on Sunday again both services. One new sermon and one seven years old in the evening.

This week is not much better though I have only Thursday at the Destitute - This whole forenoon was taken up trying to put things right with our ~~Jawler~~ Gawler committee - and the two ladies did not seem satisfied after all - The correspondent in

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<sup>1309</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together, committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1310</sup> Arthur Christian Bentley (1862-1925), distinguished British academic and prolific author.

<sup>1311</sup> Moncure Daniel Conway (1832-1907), American minister, writer and abolitionist. He was a Unitarian pastor in England from 1864 to 1897. He was co-editor of an anti-slavery newspaper, *Commonwealth*.

whom they trusted implicitly had been most rude to the inspectors and to the Secretary - and lost no opportunity of speaking ill of the Department.

I am glad you are determined to go to Denver - the lady my fellow traveller to Chicago in 1893 appears to have moved for my little booklet was returned to me - the 80th birthday.

Dr Strong<sup>1312</sup> was here a fortnight ago to inaugurate our Adelaide centre for the Australasian branch of the Peace Society. He had a good audience about 170 and 59 enrolled since augmented to over 70 - I am preparing a special sermon for Peace Sunday - on the 22nd - He was invited by Rev Depledge Sykes<sup>1313</sup> of the oldest Cong<sup>1314</sup> church here a man who is preaching the New Theology and drawing away our Unitarians to hear him. He came to see me along with Mr Sykes - He got me to move the first resolution -

20th - I believe the name of the new minister engaged for the Unitarian Church here is Wilfred Harris and he is expected in February - In the meantime the church is saving money - but it is not gaining in strength - Mr Reid<sup>1315</sup> still remains in Adelaide nursing his grievances though I am sure both wife and daughter would gladly return to Melbourne.

Vida Goldstein would like me to be in Melbourne in March or April, when they are to have a conference on Children's Courts and as I shall be free of the Church then I can manage it and of course fit it in with a visit to Sydney.

Madge Murray has her yearly holiday from post and telegraph office Armadale and was at her neice [sic] Jean Handyside's wedding on Saturday, and staying on with Jessie<sup>1316</sup> as long as she can - Jessie means to spend a month or two or more visiting in Victoria to let the newly married pair settle down to normal conditions - She may live with them or she may take apartments - Each of the girls has four or five hundred a year so she can live where she likes. The father only left his only son<sup>1317</sup> capital to produce £100 a year - for he is unable to resist drink - not a soaker but goes on the burst - He lives with the Murrays at Yarragon and has been all right for twelve months - but feels much aggrieved by his father's will - You recollect my long talk with my cousin Andrew Handyside in the train nearly four years ago now - and his death in the telegraphic news from Struan<sup>1318</sup> in the S.E. in the paper I got at Mt Barker on my way home -

You said when you left you would like to have two years - and it is now getting on for three -

I do not have satisfactory news from Mrs F Martin about her husband. He is not worse but he is not better or very slightly so - I can read in her letters that she is most anxious about him -

Mrs Spence goes to Aldgate Mt Lofty for 8 weeks and has a tenant for her own house - paying £2.2 a week more than she receives. The Morices are all going to Pt. Lincoln for ten days for Xmas, leaving Pat longer - They are going to put him under a coach for a year - but unless he will work differently from what he has done in the past - he will never get through the Senior and I told him so -

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<sup>1312</sup> Charles Strong (1844-1942), formerly a Presbyterian minister in Scotland, formed the Australian Church in Melbourne in 1884, espousing a loving rather than a punishing God. He served on the Council of the Working Man's College and was deeply interested in social issues. His Church had much in common with the Unitarian Church which Spence attended.

<sup>1313</sup> Rev. A. Depledge Sykes, minister at Stow Memorial Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1314</sup> Congregational Church.

<sup>1315</sup> Rev. John Reid, former minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1316</sup> Jessie Handyside, Jean's sister.

<sup>1317</sup> Charles Handyside, born 1874.

<sup>1318</sup> A property in the South East of South Australia, 17 miles south of Naracoorte

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Mrs Young thinks no end of her baby who thrives well but she has no rest - and much worry - She has a washerwoman once a week and that is all the help she gets - Freda hopes she has passed the Senior and Blakeney hopes he has won a scholarship but the results are not out yet -

George Hood has got a house but they are not straight yet so I have not called yet -

[Letter stops here. A page or pages missing.]

**PRG88 7/91**

North Norwood  
14<sup>th</sup> Janry 1908

My dear Miss Henry

As I fear the Govt will not print the extended report of the Conference and though I offered to give £2 towards it, it was not thought advisable that the Council should pay for it - I send you the Advertiser report and paragraphs in separate envelope. I meant to send it last mail but the 28<sup>th</sup> was sent me instead of the 20<sup>th</sup> Nov which I had ordered - Your last letters are in Lucy Morice's hands but I think I recollect the points - I am much pleased with your speech on suffrage showing the methods used in Australia - but I think Am. women would misunderstand what you say about election to all offices - we elect only to representative bodies - In the U. S. women fancied that was not worth much - it was the electing individuals to administrative offices that was of value in their eyes - I am deeply interested in what you say about Judge Lindsay [sic] and the risk he runs - Like you, I do not trust the women because the majority of them as of the men are ignorant apathetic or prejudiced - I have forced myself to finish the *Jungle*<sup>1319</sup> and the political part is as terrible as the industrial - not only are the ignorant aliens cheap labour to be exploited - they have corruptible votes which help to twist the chains which force the worker to enrich the plutocrats - Lucy has lent me Upton Sinclairs<sup>1320</sup> *Industrial Republic* and I am in the midst of it. Wells' *Future of America*<sup>1321</sup> [sic] and this book give us good gleams of hope - but it is in the education and in the Union of the workers that we must trust to bring about the revolution without more bloodshed and violence than is absolutely necessary - In Australia and N. Z. the revolution comes gradually - Never can we be grateful enough that it did not appear tempting to British capitalists to build any Australian railway except from Melbourne & Hobson's Bay - because if the capital had been forthcoming, we would have been glad of it - I don't think that 50 years ago there were any national railway lines - Upton Sinclair makes a mistake when he says that New Zealand was originally a convict colony.

My cousin Laura Stow Symon was in Chicago for two days visiting an invalid lady who had been very kind to her son Stow but she did not get my cards of introduction till she returned. She hopes to make out a visit to Chicago later - Everyone asks her if she knew an Australian lady called Miss Bain (you recollect meeting her at my house) who stayed some months with Mrs May Wright Sewall<sup>1322</sup> - she knew nothing about her - but U S people think all Australians have their backyards adjacent and she has to repeat over and over again that Australia is as big as the United States - I am writing to her that Miss Wilhelmina Sheriff Bain<sup>1323</sup> is a

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<sup>1319</sup> *The Jungle*, a powerful novel by Upton Sinclair, which deals with political and industrial corruption in Chicago. It was published in 1906.

<sup>1320</sup> Upton Beall Sinclair (1878-1968), American novelist. He won world-wide fame with *The Jungle* which is a bitter exposure of the methods existent in the stockyards and meat-packing plants in Chicago, and led to Congress passing the first national pure food law. *The Industrial Republic: a study of the America of ten years hence* was published in London 1907.

<sup>1321</sup> *The Future in America*, by Herbert George Wells (1866-1946), published in New York and London, 1906.

<sup>1322</sup> May Eliza Wright Sewall (1844-1920), American feminist, educator, lecturer, peace worker and campaigner for woman suffrage. In 1899 she was elected President of the International Congress of Women.

<sup>1323</sup> Wilhelmina Sheriff Bain (1848-1944), teacher, librarian, writer, feminist and peace activist. She worked for peace through the NZ National Council of Women and attended the Quinquennial Convention of the International Council of Women which was held in Berlin in 1904.

N.Z. lady from Christchurch who never saw Australia till she passed through it to go to the Quinquennial in Berlin - and that I believe she is descended from the Sheriffs of Luggett next farm to Scraghall where my mother and her grandfather played with the Sheriffs<sup>1324</sup> - I have a letter from a J S Logan of Fairhope the S T colony<sup>1325</sup> in Alabama saying he sees by my book that I come from Melrose - There his mother Mary Sibbald lived when a child - were we playmates? I recollect the name Sibbald but not Mary -

We are having a terrific January for heat all over S.A. - I recollect feeling the heat of Chicago in July and August but the Jungle speaks far more about the excessive cold - Central America seems to have extremes in both directions - We have no extreme cold in Australia though in Melbourne on the sudden change after Xmas day, I read of snow in the mountains of Victoria! -

Mr Turner writes to me that Mr Lambley<sup>1326</sup> was disappointed in not being able to go to the Boston Congress of liberal religions - He would have liked a year in a German university to qualify for a professorship but probably could not finance it and has taken a Church in Lancashire somewhere. We are going to get the Rev Wilfred Harris 41 - married - 3 children 11 - 9 - 6 bringing out his sister with the family. Educated at Ripon, Durham, and Manchester College, Oxford - gained a Hibbert scholarship which allowed him to study at Leipzig Heidelberg and Harvard - Has been 5½ years in Manchester and 7 at Bolton - Had to give 3 months notice, and comes out in the Persic to take duty 29<sup>th</sup> March - It all sounds very well - Mrs Harris had been to China before her marriage, and is spoken of as a good parish worker - I hope there will be peace within the walls of our Zion for the remainder of my life - Meantime I am tied here till Mr Harris arrives - but I am getting more aid - Indeed I had a whole holiday last Sunday. A state school teacher who used to preach occasionally in our little Church in the Woods<sup>1327</sup> took both services - and one young layman David Blyth (brotherinlaw of George Hood who is now a married man) has taken in all five evening services. Every one gets a guinea, and is free to read a sermon of any approved Unitarian divine - or one of his own.

15<sup>th</sup> We have had the hottest of fortnights since the New Year came in - I shall enclose a thermometrical record - We are promised a change to morrow or next day - the test cricket match - last of the series being played with the sun at 108° in the shade - and Australia is doing well or was yesterday. Gained the match - [added later]

Lucy rang me up last week at the Destitute to have lunch with her and Miss Tomkinson - who is going to England and perhaps to America with her mother and two of her sisters - The youngest prefers not to go. I hope this voyage and change and rest will do Amy Tomkinson good. She has been woefully out of health and spirits for two years - You know I wanted her on the State Childrens Council on the first vacancy but when it came, I could not conscientiously recommend her - Miss Harriet Stirling is excellent - no one could be better - but poor Miss A. T. was disappointed -

I cannot gather whether you have separated from Stella Franklin<sup>1328</sup> - All you say about the Raymond Robins<sup>1329</sup> is most interesting to me - The Hope of America

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<sup>1324</sup> Farms in Scotland.

<sup>1325</sup> Fairhope was founded as a Single-Tax Colony in 1894.

<sup>1326</sup> Rev. R. H. Lambley, Unitarian Minister in Melbourne from 1898-1906, editor of the *Month by Month* Journal of the Unitarian Church at the turn of the century.

<sup>1327</sup> Shady Grove Church near Hahndorf, the only other Unitarian Church in South Australia.

<sup>1328</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

lies in people like these - I have been written a sermon which was to be delivered the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the year in the evg - (but I seemed to feel the heat so much that David Blyth took the evg) about Righteousness exalting a nation but isn't a reproach to any people - with the Jungle in my mind and the warning of America that the price not only of liberty, but the price of righteousness is eternal vigilance and that this is more needed in prosperity than in adversity - The homogeneousness of our Aust population is a great safeguard. The Jungle shows that the ignorant aliens are not only tools to be exploited industrially but tools to be exploited politically and that the good citizenship Americans are ruled by the bought votes of the foreigners as much as by the bought or apathetic votes of Americans who only see the business side of all questions. I intend to give this sermon on Sunday morning - I heard last night in a tram car a teacher of a private school denouncing the labour party and the payment of members, and the strangling of private enterprise and when I called her attention to the U S. she said she did not pay any attention to America - it was not worth noticing - but England was the model for the world - with Freedom slowly broadening down - From precedent to precedent.

Miss Tomkinson says that whatever statements she makes about Australia will be contradicted by her mother and her two sisters - 3 to 1 - Mrs Tomkinson must be 75 or more - She wants to go to Vancouver where a stepdaughter Mrs Turner lives - but Amy would rather go to Boston New York & Chicago -

Mrs Spence has let her Glenelg house for 8 weeks and has taken a house at Aldgate 5 miles beyond Mount Lofty for 8 weeks. I hear that it is very comfortable and she is pleased with it. She has Daisy Stephen and Mary there for a month -

The weather has kept me from Mrs Youngs but I hope to see her ere I close this letter.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> This has been impossible on account of the terrible heat - I have to save myself for Sunday - and I did not even go to the Destitute yesterday - We are promised a change tonight or to morrow and I hope to be able to take the services - I had a letter yesterday from Mr Turner, and copy what he says of Mr Lambley who had the great misfortune of putting his heavy luggage including the more valued of his household goods & all his sermons - on a cargo steamer which was wrecked on the English coast. He writes "All my effects are either lost or badly damaged - this has involved us in endless worry - in frequent journeys to London and visits to lawyers. After two months of negotiation, the affair with the Insurance Co is still unsettled, but I hope the end is in sight at last - All these weary weeks my goods, or that part of them which has been recovered from the wreck, have been lying in their sodden state getting worse and worse -" Is not this tragical - Mr Lambley speaks very highly about Mr Wilfred Harris -

I enclose an interview with Mr Price<sup>1330</sup> our labour premier by a representative of the opposition paper - the Register - which I think will interest you. Price is very much disappointed that Watson<sup>1331</sup> cannot go to England now - The interview & the Conference are in a separate wrapper but I hope will reach you with this letter via Vancouver. But inside this I give the temperature for the fortnight [cutting from newspaper attached]

Ever yours C H Spence

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<sup>1329</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1330</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier.

<sup>1331</sup> John Christian Watson (1867-1941), NSW Labour politician, later member of the Federal House of Representatives and first Labour Prime Minister of Australia (1904).



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[The temperatures for the first three weeks of January 1908 were extraordinarily high.

Wed	1 January	97.3	Sat	11	77.9
Thurs	2	104.4	Sun	12	93.6
Fri	3	101.9	Mon	13	102.2
Sat	4	107.9	Tues	14	107.3
Sun	5	108.3	Wed	15	111.4
Mon	6	108.8	Thurs	16	110.4
Tues	7	108.4	Fri	17	110.3
Wed	8	90.3	Sat	18	110.5
Thurs	9	75.2	Sun	19	110.9
Fri	10	76.0	Mon	20	92.4
			Tues	21	78.0

The cutting Spence included gives temperatures until Wednesday January 15, but the heat increased after that. 100<sup>0</sup> Fahrenheit equals 37.8<sup>0</sup> Celsius.]

**PRG 88/7/92**

North Norwood  
14<sup>th</sup> Febr 1908

My dear Miss Henry

In the first place did you receive 12 copies of my little book from the Department to sell or to give away? In the second place Dr Mary Bates 630-10<sup>th</sup> St Denver Col sent me 50c in 8 six cent ~~money orders~~ little postal notes for as many of my little booklets as that would buy. Dr Bayard Holmes had told her about it - The little notes are not negociable [sic] here so I told her to send them to you, and you might send her one copy of a book of 150 pages illustrated - 3<sup>rd</sup> I stayed a night with Emily Greene Balch<sup>1332</sup> Jamaica Plains and she took me to a meeting at Boston where I met Mr and Mrs Ames - I am reading with the greatest interest her articles in *Charities*<sup>1333</sup> on the Slav immigrants to the US, and I should like her to have a copy with my kind regards - She may not be still at Jamaica Plains but I shall write to her to the address of *Charities* and tell her to communicate with you. Dr Bates is I think most interested in protection of infant life - for she enquires if we have much infantile syphilis and how we treat it.

I am still working for a Magdalene Ward somewhere, but the good women who war against drunkenness and its results will not touch the other more dangerous evil - The objection is that if a woman is cured, she will go on in her evil ways, and make the men with whom she has commerce, believe they can sin with impunity - I wrote a long letter to the leading WCTU woman Mrs Nicholls<sup>1334</sup>, saying that it was not a question of sin, but of a disease which did not appear in the most licentious cities of the ancient world, but appeared first somewhere about the time of the discovery of America - that unlike the smallpox which went right through the system in a sharp attack leaving the patient absolutely sound and was not hereditary syphilis the great pox might remain for life - was extremely contagious - and so hereditary that for several generations it might be traced in impaired vitality and definite disease. That other diseases had been dealt with by medicine with the full concurrence of the public - but that this disease was let alone by the women who ought to be the best helpers. Drunkenness injures the individual and his family - but this injures the race. I told her to send on my letter to the Rev J.C. Kirby<sup>1335</sup> to whom also I sent the Chicago pamphlet - He is not a prohibitionist now. He worked many years for prohibition, but for the last ten years has been for some form of the Gothengen<sup>1336</sup> system, which makes the W. C. T. U women look askance on him, but he has been

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<sup>1332</sup> Emily Greene Balch (1867-1961), outstanding American teacher of economics and sociology, who worked for woman suffrage, racial justice, control of child labour and better wages and conditions for workers. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

<sup>1333</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1334</sup> Elizabeth Webb Nicholls née Bakewell (1850-1943), activist, suffragist and temperance worker. She became Colonial President of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She worked with Spence on many occasions.

<sup>1335</sup> Joseph Coles Kirby (1837-1924), minister of Port Adelaide Congregational Church. He formed the Temperance Alliance of South Australia in 1881, and in 1901 was the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Retail Liquor League.

<sup>1336</sup> This is surely an error for Gothenburg. The Gothenburg system was a Scandinavian system of eliminating private profit from the sale of liquor in the belief that it would curb excessive drinking. A monopoly of the sale of liquor was entrusted to a body of citizens who were supposed to have no personal interest in it. The profits were applied to public purposes. Spence was always interested in this system.

such a strong opponent of State Regulation of vice, that in this he is in full agreement

The woman whom Dr Morris<sup>1337</sup> told me about is again in gaol for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. He asked her how many customers - separate individuals, she had in a week - She said if she has not 20, she could not live. [Added on margin - This woman has what is called a chancre - true syphilis] She paid 30/- a week for board and lodging, and a fee besides for accommodation - I told you there were perhaps no brothels in Adelaide - meaning by that, places where the keeper took the payments, and kept the girls - but there are Houses of Accommodation in which payment is taken -

But under the recently passed Suppression of Brothels Act, the police have prosecuted several of these houses and the keepers have been heavily fined - Mrs Nicholls says that these diseased women will not go to a Refuge or to the Salvation Army to be cured - the reason is, that there they are looked on as *patie* sinners - in a hospital they are sufferers - In Upton Sinclairs *Industrial Republic*<sup>1338</sup> he says that prostitution is now carried on by moneyed syndicates in American cities, for they alone are strong enough financially, to bribe the police, and to pay the fines - In Australia we have not come to this - If I could get Mr Kirby to see the real inwardness of the subject, he would be a valuable ally - though he is over 70.

I see that David Syme<sup>1339</sup> is dying - What will become of the *Age*? A Limited Liability Co probably - The *Times* itself is reconstructed after 120 years of the Walters family<sup>1340</sup> - Miss Clarks eldest brother Sydney 18 months younger than she is - is dying - I see little or nothing of her. The Church is such a big addition to my work that I have not time for visiting - and she thinks it is the greatest kindness to me to leave me alone - Mary Reid<sup>1341</sup> wrote to her that her father and mother were better; and that they were settled in a pleasant house in a suburb, near others of the family. I am very glad they are gone. We had six weeks of great heat of which you must have heard from your Melbourne friends for they suffered quite as much. I had four very hot Sundays, but only one of them I had the two services. - Last Sunday it was quite moderate and I got through both services comfortably - and now for six Sundays, I expect to be relieved for three of them in the evening. After six Sundays the Rev Wilfred Harris<sup>1342</sup> will come. One of my admirers says she she [sic] will be sorry when the change comes but that is not my feeling, nor that of the most of them - though I have had many compliments as to the quality of my sermons - new and old - mostly new.

I enclose a letter that was held over because I was not sure about Tasmania. As I got no replies to letters I asked Mr Hood<sup>1343</sup> of the A.M.P. to write to Johnson<sup>1344</sup> [sic] the Statist asking if the Hare bill had passed and held the letter over - for a month. He got no reply but as he was going to Tasmania for his holiday, he promised

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<sup>1337</sup> Bedlington Howell Morris, medical officer to the State Children's Department.

<sup>1338</sup> Upton Beall Sinclair (1878-1968), American novelist won world-wide fame with *The Jungle* which is a bitter exposure of the methods existent in the stockyards and meat-packing plants in Chicago, and led to Congress passing the first national pure food law. *The Industrial Republic: a study of the America of ten years hence* was published in London 1907.

<sup>1339</sup> David Syme (1827-1908), proprietor of the *Age* newspaper in Melbourne for 50 years, 'the father of protection in Australia'. He was very influential in Victorian politics and had immense influence on the development of the State.

<sup>1340</sup> John Walter founded the *Times* in 1785. He was succeeded by John Walter 2, and John Walter 3.

<sup>1341</sup> Daughter of Rev. John Reid, former minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1342</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA, the new minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1343</sup> W. P. Hood was an accountant with the Australian Mutual Provident Society in Adelaide.

<sup>1344</sup> Robert Mackenzie Johnston, Tasmanian Government Statistician and Registrar General.

to ascertain and let me know - I had a letter from Mr Tyson<sup>1345</sup> a fortnight ago enclosing copies of his letters from Nanson saying the Bill had passed with modifications, - so that was good enough, and I published the news in both newspapers - and they put it in the most inconspicuous part of the paper -

Two days ago, I got Mr Hoods letter, and the Act - the gist of which I wrote up on the margin as you see. [The whole margin has been cut off this page of the letter and has disappeared] Johnson [sic] excused himself for not replying to Hood - he was so busy!!! Why did not Nanson communicate with me? Mr Tyson said it might be sending coats to Newcastle!!!<sup>1346</sup>

I have just read The Convert<sup>1347</sup> - It gives the very best and most forcible presentment of the reasons why English women desire the Franchise - As a novel it is to me very much more interesting than the Magnetic North - People tell me that Elizabeth Robins is Mrs Joseph Pennell. Is it so? I gave Lucy Morice the Quarterly Charities<sup>1348</sup> to read Mrs Cobden Sanderson's<sup>1349</sup> interview, showing that she takes the same view of the American Suffrage movement that you do - and she lent me the Convert which Mrs Barr Smith<sup>1350</sup> gave her -

I believe the English women are going to get the vote soon. Our telegrams speak of armies of unemployed in American cities. If it is as bad as they say Upton Sinclair's revolution may not be held back till 1912 -

There is a question I have wanted to ask for years - What is the American dinner-pail that ought to be kept full. Are the solids put into the pail - or is it like the Australian billy for tea, and the solids put in a paper parcel? Do the working men have tea or coffee or beer or iced water to drink -

Saturday Mg

I see this must be a double letter so I enclose to you a letter to Mrs Withington<sup>1351</sup> or to the member of the Lloyd family, who sent me "A Sovereign People"<sup>1352</sup> if she is out of the U. S.

I was asked to meet Crawford Vaughan and Evelyn<sup>1353</sup> at Mrs Youngs last night and I kept my letter open to give the news but yesterday aftn. I had a p.c to say

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<sup>1345</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1346</sup> Probably a joke referring to Rose Scott's limerick - 'Teaching creatures in coats What to do with their votes'. See letter 41.

<sup>1347</sup> *The Convert*, a novel about woman suffrage, by Elizabeth Robins (1862-1952), published London, Methuen 1907. *The Magnetic North*, also by Elizabeth Robins, was published London Heinemann 1904. Elizabeth Robins had previously used the pseudonym C. E. Raimond.

<sup>1348</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1349</sup> Anne Cobden-Sanderson (1866-1926), wife of Thomas James Cobden-Sanderson (1840-1922) celebrated book binder and printer, was prominent in the woman suffrage movement in England, and had been imprisoned for protesting in the House of Commons. She was in America on a three months tour.

<sup>1350</sup> Joanna Barr Smith (1835-1919), wife of Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915). They were much travelled wealthy philanthropists, friends of Spence, who helped her and her causes in many ways.

<sup>1351</sup> Caroline Augusta Lloyd Withington was the sister of Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903), lawyer, editor, writer and reformer, described as America's first investigative journalist, strong supporter of woman suffrage and trade unions. Spence was a great admirer of his work. After his death and Spence's, in 1912, Caro Lloyd published a biography of her brother.

<sup>1352</sup> *A Sovereign People : a study of Swiss Democracy* by Henry Demarest Lloyd (1847-1903), was published in 1907, 4 years after his death, edited by John Atkinson Hobson.

<sup>1353</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party, Member of Parliament and later Premier of South Australia. He was a

that they could not come till next Thursday and asking me to postpone my visit. Thursday suits me very badly - for I wanted to cry off from Destitute and pay a visit to my sister in law at Aldgate Mt Lofty in the middle of the week - I cannot go at weekends - Daisy and Mary Stephen go today back to Melbourne -

Today I see that David Syme is dead. Both our papers quote chiefly from the excellent article in the Lone Hand<sup>1354</sup> on his career and his characteristics.

Today there is an election for one Senator - After about 14 months it is found that the S A Parliament had no right to fill the vacancy - for it was not one of death or resignation but of informal election. The seat had not been vacated - it had never been filled - I vote for Joseph Vardon<sup>1355</sup> because of Effective Voting but I think the Labour Candidate who had been elected by the ministerial majority in Parliament O Loghlin<sup>1356</sup> [sic] will get in for the Labour party have made enormous efforts for him - The Morices and the Martins support Labour - Effective Voting is not so much to them as to me - Did I write to you that Deakin<sup>1357</sup> has warned inventors of voting machines to make provision for Effective Contingent Voting - The proposal in Oregon is the Gove<sup>1358</sup> system by which the candidate signifies before hand to whom and in what order he wishes his surplus and or resume<sup>1359</sup> votes to be transferred -

Miss Tomkinson has sailed and will be away for nine months or more - Lucy introduced her to a French lady (a fellow passenger of hers) and very highly educated and intelligent who is also on the German Boat - But Miss T. is very much out of health and more irritable and suspicious than is natural to her. She is singularly ineffectual even in her best moods.

Well I have given you a long screed - and I suppose this is only one of many letters you will receive by the mail - Fred Martin is I fear losing ground more bad symptoms appear - His wife is most anxious.

Pat Morice has gone into the hands of a coach to prepare him for the Senior, and so far he is most hopeful, and is really working - Mrs Spence is well in health, but sadly deficient in memory but not only in that but in faculty - Nothing interests her - nothing is worth doing -

Believe me  
Always yours heartily  
C.H. Spence

Read the letter to Mrs Withington.

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Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee. His wife, Evelyn née Goode, was a writer.

<sup>1354</sup> *The Lone Hand* an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* 1907-1921.

<sup>1355</sup> Joseph Vardon (1843-1913), printer and politician, sometime president of the Effective voting League.

<sup>1356</sup> James Vincent O'Lochlin (1852-1925) was not elected.

<sup>1357</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1358</sup> The 'Gove' method of transfer was contained in a Bill submitted by Mr W. H. Gove to the Legislature of Massachusetts in 1891. Votes were to be transferred according to the request of the candidate for whom they were originally cast to a person named in a list furnished by the candidate before the date of the election. Spence met Gove when she was in America in 1893-1894.

<sup>1359</sup> More usually 'resumed'.

**PRG 88/7/93**

North Norwood  
11<sup>th</sup> March 1908

My dear Miss Henry

As I have not received the copies of the Labour paper to send to the Herald I have not gone to interview it -

This is a paper that has deteriorated - and became stodgy and rather narrow - I mean that it hammers abuse on all capitalists and employers - Lucy Morice and Katie Martin agree with me that it has fallen off sadly - I hope your Call is a great improvement on the Tocsin<sup>1360</sup> - When I am set free from the Church I may work on the enlightening of the Labour party in Vic or NSW as to the real inwardness of Child Protection -

Like Mrs Strong, I ought to write a grateful letter to Mrs Robins<sup>1361</sup> for Charities<sup>1362</sup> because I greatly appreciate it - and her kind thought in sending it. Had I read the Convert<sup>1363</sup> when I wrote to you last? I am greatly impressed with it - The speeches and especially the interjections and rejoinders are admirable - But I hope that there is exaggeration in the reasons why Miss Claxton carried a dog whip and used it - It is not made quite clear why the baby that never lived made an insuperable bar between Vida and Geoffrey Stonor - Only that she felt he would have been sorry ~~that~~ if it had been born - It is similar to Magda - Of course if it is dramatised, that will be the main plot - whereas in the book, the suffrage question is paramount -

I have to thank you for your P. O. O<sup>1364</sup>. If you sell at a dollar it is twice as much as I get here - I hope you may be able to sell some of the additional 12 that were sent later - or was it only 9? - If the Wisconsin people have not a copy give one for me for their library - I wrote in Feb for you to send one to Emily Greene Balch<sup>1365</sup> - and to Dr Mary Bates of Denver Col.

I am very sorry that you lost \$100 - (£20) in a dishonest little American Bank - It will take a good many weeks extra \$3 to make up that loss - but I presume you have still the money in London to take you home when you make up your mind to go - I am so glad that people appreciate your work - It is delightful to think of your spending a weekend with the Lloyds at Winnetka. - Do you ever see the Rev Jenkin Lloyd Jones<sup>1366</sup> who conducted the funeral services for H.D. Lloyd - He was the first man to offer me a pulpit in the U. S. and I remember him with affection and admiration - His sermons were both scholarly and eloquent.

I have only two more Sundays for the Adelaide church - and after the new man comes, and we have had a welcoming meeting I mean to turn to the East<sup>1367</sup> - I

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<sup>1360</sup> *Tocsin: The People's Penny Paper*; Victorian Labor paper 1897 to 1906, when it became *Labor Call* until 1953.

<sup>1361</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. She was Alice Henry's employer.

<sup>1362</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1363</sup> *The Convert*, a novel about woman suffrage, by Elizabeth Robins (1862-1952), published London, Methuen 1907.

<sup>1364</sup> Post Office Order.

<sup>1365</sup> Emily Greene Balch (1867-1961), economist, sociologist, educator, worker for women and children and peace activist. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

<sup>1366</sup> Jenkin Lloyd Jones (1843-1918), Unitarian minister in Chicago, pacifist, opponent of child labour, supporter of Hull House and the Trade Union movement, co-founder and editor of the periodical *Unity*. He opened the Unitarian ministry to women.

<sup>1367</sup> i.e. go to the Eastern States.

think I have given the congregation on the whole better sermons than they were used to, though whether I could keep up the quality year after year is doubtful - When I get paid the guinea each for the services I intend to return £10.10 as my contribution towards the expense of bringing out Mr Harris<sup>1368</sup> - Young Mrs Glyde<sup>1369</sup> has offered her furnished house for the first month, when she and her husband will go to the sea-side - My mind misgives me that he is not a very good preacher though excellent in every other way - because if he was, England would have kept him - I hear the Reids<sup>1370</sup> are comfortably settled (at Middle Beach I think) close to the sea.

You will be glad to hear that the 50 copies of my book that I feared were lost, actually reached New Zealand, and I have got the money. I have received £15 for the sales - and quite £5 besides, that paid postages and charges on what were sent or given away - So I have had more money than I expected, and sufficient kudos and better than all, a sense that the book has done good - If I go East I ought to take a few copies with me for distribution though there are not very many in stock. Mr Whiting writes that Miss Edith Sellars<sup>1371</sup> [sic] is writing an article on State Children and worked not only from my book but from documents he lent to her.

Florence Hill<sup>1372</sup> sent me a Times of 20 Jany in which she had a letter recommending our protection of every single child - but according to the Englishwomans Review<sup>1373</sup> there is a very great protest agst this because it will make the foster mother demand a higher rate and this will lead to the mothers throwing off the children altogether on to the rates - the E. R. is very strong against the restriction of women's working hours - which are in the best interests of the race as we think - but which put the women at an extra disadvantage in competition with men - for manufacturers prefer hands that will utilize machinery for the longest working day - The E. R. is I think the organ of the Individualist wing of the Woman's movement -

13<sup>th</sup> Yesterday after the Destitute I had lunch in town with Lucy Morice and we went together to pay a first visit to Jean Handyside Bradshaw who appears very happy - So is George Hood - If a sheet was left out I think I sent it on later, but I sometimes when writing several letters in a hurry forget to sign my name - Lucy has given the first of her 10 lectures on the history of Education to the Kindergarten Students of the 2nd year. They were much interested and she finds the preparation very interesting to herself - Pat is working very well and Mr Newman sent an excellent report of his progress especially in Eng. Lit. Lucy says her friend Geoffrey Burgoyne<sup>1374</sup> has got the editorship of the Herald out of 27 competitors chiefly because he had laid down a programme of work for the future - He asks her for a woman's letter which she has promised; - also to give your message to the young editor about exchanges with Madison Wisconsin - & the Labour paper. But I am waiting for the two copies - to be sure about the address. N. Y. or Chicago.

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<sup>1368</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA, the new minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1369</sup> Mrs Jonathan Glyde, formerly Emily Kay.

<sup>1370</sup> The family to the Rev. John Reid, former minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1371</sup> Edith Sellars had written several articles for the *Contemporary Review* which Spence had approved of.

<sup>1372</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>1373</sup> *The Englishwoman's Review* of social and industrial questions. A quarterly which ran from 1903 to 1910.

<sup>1374</sup> Geoffrey Lauderdale Burgoyne (born 1877).

Lucy tells me that Mr Johnstone [sic] of the Brighton D & D<sup>1375</sup> school tells her that at Minda<sup>1376</sup> the children are taught nothing or next to nothing. He does not hear of cruelty but if he gets a pupil from Minda it takes weeks and months for the child to have confidence in him and the staff - They seem to have been terrorised. The kindergarten children made a dolls' house for the Minda children and some of them went with one of the trainees to present it - But they did not see the children at all which they had hoped to do - Miss Fox<sup>1377</sup> is still the teacher -

Is Stella Franklin<sup>1378</sup> earning a livelihood with her pen in Chicago or only looking round for materials for future work? Do you find it a saving to live together? I think Chicago a most costly place for clothes on account of the dirt but I did not find clothes so much dearer than in Australia as I had expected -

I am still on the war path in a quiet way for a Magdalene Ward but Rev. J. C. Kirby<sup>1379</sup> enquired about the treatment of Venereal disease from the Hospital authorities and was told that all could get free out door treatment and if a medical man certified to their having complications - the woman would be taken inside - I asked Dr Morris<sup>1380</sup> if prostitutes were treated in the gyneocological [sic] ward - he said no but in a little room off it - by the same nurses but it would only hold one or two - it was a matter of favour - and so far as he knew the women were there for a short time - He does not advocate compulsory detention but that every effort should be made to induce the women to stay till the cure is complete - The Authorities wrote to Mr Kirby that the woman was kept ~~till~~ the doctor said she would do with outdoor advice and could attend to herself - But how is she to live? Only in one way -

Dr Morris says he believes the women really want to be cured but as you know it is a long process often lasting two or even three years - And no ordinary hospital likes such long periods of treatment - I am writing to Mr Kirby to send the Chicago pamphlet to Mr Young<sup>1381</sup> who now is head of the editorial staff for six months while Mr Robertson has his holiday.

Courtney Spence<sup>1382</sup> is a dear little fellow - weighs 16lb and has cut two teeth - very intelligent - five months old - I made some larger singlets for him as he had grown out of those I gave him and also sent two petticoats, intended for Miss Moule's babies -

Mrs Martin brought her husband to Adelaide before Mount Gambier got too cold for him but I fear he is not long for this world. Yesterday Lucy and I met him and her in Rundle St. They had been consulting Dr Joseph Vercoe<sup>1383</sup> [sic] our best diagnoser - I did not have courage to ask the verdict before him but the Mt Gambier Dr had said there was no hope - And as Katie said to me on Monday last they had

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<sup>1375</sup> Samuel Johnson MA was Superintendent and Principal of the South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb at Brighton.

<sup>1376</sup> Minda Home for the care, treatment and special training of 'weak-minded and epileptic' children had been established in 1894.

<sup>1377</sup> Edna Fox, the first teacher at Minda Home, had come from Royal Albert Asylum, England.

<sup>1378</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League. *My Brilliant Career*, her first novel was published in Edinburgh in 1901.

<sup>1379</sup> Joseph Coles Kirby (1837-1924), minister of Port Adelaide Congregational Church. He formed the Temperance Alliance of South Australia in 1881, and in 1901 was the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Retail Liquor League.

<sup>1380</sup> Bedlington Howell Morris, medical officer to the State Children's Department.

<sup>1381</sup> Alfred Howard Young, Jeanne Young's husband, was employed by *The Advertiser*.

<sup>1382</sup> Courtney Spence Young.

<sup>1383</sup> Joseph Cooke Verco, later Sir, (1859-1937), physician and diagnostician, leading conchologist, founder with (Sir) Edward Stirling of the medical school at the University of Adelaide.



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been such comrades all the 26 years of their married life - She is breaking her heart at the thought of losing him - I said "My dear you have made him very happy all these years - but for you he never would have had all these years of foreign travel - four years when he was quite well - three years more when you had to nurse and care for him - and the 19 years in his Australian home".

Lucy had in her hand yesterday "The Convert"<sup>1384</sup> which I had just returned to her - She handed it to Katie Martin saying she was sure she would enjoy reading it - So will Fred who can read four or five hours day without his eyes getting tired - He has completely lost his voice - and the chronic diarrhoea keeps the same as it has been for 15 or 18 months - The wonder to me is that he is alive - Evg. Here I was interrupted by Mrs Martin herself who stayed several hours - She is very sad - but Dr Vercoe [sic] is to see Fred again in a week.

I shall try to do some at least of the things you want when I go to Melbourne - but I am sure I can't do them all - But I shall hope to see your brother<sup>1385</sup> Dr Fishbourne<sup>1386</sup> and Dr Norris<sup>1387</sup> - and try to interview the Call - but you must bear in mind that I am going for a rest.

Always yours affectionately C. H. Spence

I am very sorry to hear that The Public<sup>1388</sup> is likely to be extinguished - Our Clothing Factory is making desperate efforts to keep alive - but we are working at a loss - We must give the statutory wages and cannot get higher prices for our work - and the tariff has raised the price of cotton and trimmings. The big factories make profit on materials we cannot.

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<sup>1384</sup> *The Convert*, a novel about woman suffrage, by Elizabeth Robins (1862-1952), published London, Methuen 1907.

<sup>1385</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>1386</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1387</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1388</sup> *The Public: A journey* [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919. Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacker Post 1914-1919.

**PRG 88/7/94**

North Norwood  
10<sup>th</sup> April 1908

My dear Miss Henry

I am on the wing for Melbourne and Sydney, going tomorrow Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> making a saving of 30/- for Easter trip, which allows you to stop off - and lasts three months - I hope to be back within eight weeks. You are the person I miss most now when I go to Melbourne, but I hope to see Mrs Webster who (I understand) is to be in Melbourne. I shall stop at Ararat and spend Sunday with Maude Gamble<sup>1389</sup>, whose husband is Acting Superintendent there - and I intend to go by a day train on Monday to Mrs. Turners' at St Kilda - And will probably stay till Saturday - I am letting your brother<sup>1390</sup> and Dr Fishbourne<sup>1391</sup> know - and hope to see them, and to get the book. I have written to Vida Goldstein, that I make my short visit to Melbourne now and a longer one later on -

I have read through the English Childrens Act, which is good but does not go far enough, - 14 is the limit they set beyond which a child cannot be sent to jail - up to 16 a reformatory is preferred but if no reformatory is available the young person may be sent to prison. There are [sic] ~~not such good~~ no regulation of child street traders such as is in N. S. W., and above all there is no mention of Boarding Out, and the powers for inspecting institutions speaks of not seldomer than once a year - which is inadequate -

But nevertheless it marks a great advance in the mother country -

I am sending you the verbatim report of speeches at the Novr Conference which the Govt has printed at last - I am sorry to say that the committees have not improved since - Lucy Morice, and Harriet Stirling, and I, think that committees are rather a failure - and that our old system of the individual visitor responsible for her own children in her own district is better - You in Victoria got your committees to pay the subsidy, and to make removals, and saved a lot of money and trouble to the central administration - but I am not sure that their inspection was as close as that of S A, and N. S. W, who have much more frequent visits from official inspectors.

Mr Gray has just finished a big piece of work consolidating three Acts of Parliament, and a Bill, and making a good many amendments - We seek to have power to supervise and protect up to 21 - at present it is 18 - with power in the case of girls to extend year by year till 21 -

We have had two meetings of Council/Special/ to revise and approve the consolidating Act. Mr Herbert Samuel<sup>1392</sup> consolidated 23 Acts, and took portions of others - and it is not a very long bill after all - Inside with the Report of Conference, is a Herald in which there is a short paragraph on your Outlook<sup>1393</sup> article - The question is not settled yet, so perhaps your hopes were too great - Lucy Morice

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<sup>1389</sup> Maude Gamble was the daughter of Janet Maule, the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>1390</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937).

<sup>1391</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1392</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.

<sup>1393</sup> *The Outlook* New York 1870-1935, a weekly illustrated paper. Six lines on Henry's article appeared in the *Herald* 4 April 1908 p. 10a.

writes every week *The Woman's View*<sup>1394</sup> and Geoff Burgoyne<sup>1395</sup> the editor thinks she writes above the heads of her readers - I suppose you got my packet after the letter - weeks - as I do - I liked your article extremely and was glad you had such good pay for it -

Our new minister<sup>1396</sup> has arrived and I have heard him twice on two Sundays - I hope he will suit the people but he comes from a homogeneous flock in Bolton of spinners & weavers artisans & small tradesmen - Ours is heterogeneous, and very difficult- but every one seems pleased with him - I don't think that he is so scholarly as Mr Reid<sup>1397</sup>, in spite of studies at Leipzig Heidelberg and Harvard - He has been a working minister like the Mr McDouall who was a sort of failure in Melbourne - A nice wife a capable looking sister and three beautiful and well behaved children are his family. Milly (Kay) Glyde<sup>1398</sup> gave them her furnished house and garden for a month, and I think they have found a house to go to -

I understand that Mrs Webster and her husband are in or near Melbourne and I want to see a good deal of her - for her visits to town are so rare. Mr Turner says that young Mr Sinclair<sup>1399</sup> and his wife are very much liked by all the small congregation, but he has not attracted outsiders yet.

I was relieved by Mr Wilfred Harris's arrival to take charge, but on the whole I rather like preaching. I have offered to take some services for Mr Harris Walters<sup>1400</sup> in Sydney - in grateful acknowledgment of his kindness last August giving us four Sundays.

The Martins I think had come back from Mt Gambier when I wrote last to you. They have now gone to one of their own two cottages at Hackney close to the Company bridge over the Torrens, facing the beautiful National Botanic Park - Dr Verco<sup>1401</sup> confirms the bad opinion of the Mt Gambier doctor and says that Fred cannot recover - It is sad to go and refurnish without hope just where they began life together 26 years ago, but in his state of health they could not get board or apartments - His sister Mrs Whitfield<sup>1402</sup> has left the mallee in Victoria to live with them - which is a comfort though she is a very ineffectual person - and conservative and illogical to a very high pitch. Fred and his wife are the only democrats in the wide connection.

11<sup>th</sup> My trunk and dress packet are ready for the carrier. It is about the day of the month 15 years ago that I went via Melbourne and Sydney on my adventurous expedition to preach P. R. to the Americans. It was then I made your acquaintance - I wonder if I shall see Prof Nanson this time. Your Melbourne friends are making up their minds that you will be in America for some time - where there is so much good work to be done - which an Australian can do better than a Britisher -

What I cannot help fearing on your return is that it will be difficult for you to get journalistic work again - I lost my work through being away for 20 months.

I was paid by the Unitarian Church forty guineas for 40 services - and gave back ten towards the fund for bringing out the new minister - I also got in all £15 for

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<sup>1394</sup> Lucy Morice's column in the *Weekly Herald*.

<sup>1395</sup> Geoffrey Lauderdale Burgoyne (born 1877).

<sup>1396</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA.

<sup>1397</sup> John Reid, the former Unitarian minister in Adelaide.

<sup>1398</sup> Emily Kay had married Jonathan Glyde in 1903.

<sup>1399</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1400</sup> Rev. George T Walters was the minister of the Unitarian Church in Sydney.

<sup>1401</sup> Joseph Cooke Verco, later Sir, (1859-1937), physician and diagnostician, leading conchologist, founder with (Sir) Edward Stirling of the medical school at the University of Adelaide.

<sup>1402</sup> Mary Jane Martin had married James Arthur Whitfield in 1871 when she was 25.

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my book and I have put money away - but mean to try to get Mrs Maule<sup>1403</sup> either to her son in India or to another son in Oklahoma. The difficulty is to decide which will be best -

Of course the church saved money not having to pay for 8 months at the rate of £300 a year but the subscriptions and collections were reduced -

I have been re-reading Wells<sup>1404</sup> Future of America [sic] and I think it far better and far more interesting than James's<sup>1405</sup> - The new Sec of the Y W C A Miss Esther Anderson<sup>1406</sup> a N Y lady thinks unlimited immigration is good for the U. S. and is confident that the schools make good citizens of the children - I think it is a peril? I am sending her some numbers of Charities<sup>1407</sup> which she says she used to read with great interest -

We have had an extraordinarily hot week about - 90 or higher most days and the country is crying out for rain - Victoria has certainly had a bad time with drought - but my Gippsland people have done well -

With much love  
Yours ever  
C H Spence

Is Stella Franklin<sup>1408</sup> on the press here in Chicago - or writing at all?

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<sup>1403</sup> Janet Maule, the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>1404</sup> *The Future in America*, by Herbert George Wells (1866-1946), published in New York and London, 1906.

<sup>1405</sup> *The American Scene* by Henry James. London, Chapman & Hall, 1907.

<sup>1406</sup> Esther Anderson had come from America to help organise the Joint Young Women's Christian Association of Australia and New Zealand along professional lines.

<sup>1407</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1408</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

**PRG 88/7/95**

Eurotas Edgecliff Rd Sydney  
11<sup>th</sup> May [1908]

My dear Miss Henry

It is a calendar month since I last wrote to you and it was the day on which I started for my journey to Melbourne and Adelaide<sup>1409</sup> - I got out early on Sunday morning at Ararat, and spent two days with my young cousin, Mrs Gamble<sup>1410</sup> whose husband<sup>1411</sup> is Acting Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum there - almost all chronics - He also is responsible for the criminal lunatic asylum, a mile and a half distant which he thinks should be done away with, as he does not think there is sufficient difference between them and the others to justify the harsher treatment. I believe that he has wrought great improvements in both establishments and would do more if he had the power. He says the great thing is to keep the employees up to their duties and to prevent them from being harsh and callous -

I went to Melbourne expecting to go to the Turners, but Mrs Webster met me at the station and told me that they were all at Dandenong - Mrs Boulter too; - and the spare room was being papered and painted - So I went to Daisy Stephen's from Tuesday to Saturday, when the Stephen family went to Geelong for Easter to spend it with old Mr Stephen-(93) - and after that I went to my neice [sic] Madge Murray, who is now postmistress at Armadale -

The Easter Holidays threw me out - I did not see either your brother<sup>1412</sup> or Dr Fishbourne,<sup>1413</sup> but when I went to Kew to see my cousin Mrs Maule<sup>1414</sup>, I lunched at Mrs McCreeries<sup>1415</sup>, [sic] and the D<sup>r</sup> came in when we were at afternoon tea. He thinks the Idiot Asylum has fallen off since he left, and that they have given up the teaching of the poor children - I tried to get at Dr Norris<sup>1416</sup> by telephone, but it was blundered and I managed to get to the King St. office instead - there is a new Secretary a Mr Smith<sup>1417</sup>, who has been promoted from an accountantship at the Yarra Bend, but he does not look as bright and alert as Capt Davis,<sup>1418</sup> or even as Mr Davies<sup>1419</sup> Acting Sec. for 18 months or more. I think him too old and set to take up great new work.

I discovered that the Children's Courts and the probation officers are not under the department at all but under the Attorney General - This is a pity!

However this three months old head, had to grapple with the new Infant protection law - and found it a big thing. But he will board out real State Children in homes where other children are placed ~~with~~ by their mothers, which we will never do

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<sup>1409</sup> Spence must have intended to write 'Sydney'.

<sup>1410</sup> Maude Gamble was the daughter of Janet Maule, the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>1411</sup> Morris F. H. Gamble.

<sup>1412</sup> Alfred Henry (1859-1937)

<sup>1413</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1414</sup> Maude Gamble's mother, Spence's cousin Janet Maule.

<sup>1415</sup> James Vernon McCreery, medical practitioner, chairman of the Police Medical Board and inspector of lunatic asylums in Victoria and his wife.

<sup>1416</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1417</sup> Thomas Smith, secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory School in Melbourne.

<sup>1418</sup> Captain William Davis, formerly secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory School in Melbourne.

<sup>1419</sup> John L. Davies.

and which Miss Barry the only woman inspectress of State children, thinks is a great mistake - I asked her about it -

The law in Victoria is that no one shall give less than 10/- a week for an infant - and I thought that if the mother could not pay it, the State was to make it up but when I spoke about this, Mr Smith said it was not the case. Then I said there would be a great many babies thrown on the State - Dr McKellar<sup>1420</sup> [sic] with whom I had an interview at my friend Mrs Garran's<sup>1421</sup> last Thursday, said it was an admirable thing for Victoria to do, and was surprised when I told him that it was not done - But I shall make further enquiries - Neither Mr Smith nor Dr McKellar [sic] had seen, or at least had not read the English Bill, which I studied carefully before I left Adelaide - and neither of them seems to be in touch with what is done for children in the U S or the U K. Vida Goldstein wants me to speak on Children's Courts & Probation in Melbourne and will see that all the probation officers are present - The date is fixed for Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May in the afternoon.

I am to speak here at the new Women's Club Concerning Children generally and State Children specially on Friday evening the 15<sup>th</sup>. I think I shall speak from notes till I come to Judge Lindsay [sic] when I shall read most of a sermon I preached on this Saint, this militant Saint of modern times - I find the general ignorance on the great movements of revolt in America is pretty dense - and of course the daily papers all over Australia are silent - We have sensational paragraphs about the wickedness & wealth of the U. S. but no notice of the valiant efforts to moralise and humanise society there - I did not hear Mr Sinclair<sup>1422</sup> for on the only Sunday I was in Melbourne I had a sharp attack of diarrhoea - Indeed it lasted three days, and prevented me from doing what I wanted to do - Mrs Webster came with her husband to Melbourne to consult Dr Grant about his health - but his report was favourable - He is asthmatic, and is 71 and was never strong - but his heart is not much affected. The only time I saw Mrs Webster besides at the station, was an afternoon and evening at the Rev John Reids<sup>1423</sup> Middle Bay but there were a good many subjects tabooed there. She has had a very poor acct of Adelaide and the congregation from the Reids. However the Reids are in a better house than they had in Adelaide and look comfortable enough. Mr Reid had vowed that he would never preach again but as Mr Sinclair was to speak at the Bijou theatre in reply to Tom Mann's attack on the churches, Mr Reid took his pulpit that evg. Both Mr Turner and Mrs Webster were present at the Bijou & Mrs W. writes thus: "It was not absolutely a reply, since it is impossible to show that the churches do not side with capitalism - also that in so doing, they do not contravene the teaching of the Master - Mr Sinclair did not attempt the impossible, but he gave a very good and spirited address, holding the interest of the very large audience which completely filled the theatre, for an hour and twenty minutes - without notes - I felt proud of our new minister".

Yesterday I took the church for Mr Walters<sup>1424</sup> - mg and evening to give him from the Monday to Saturday week at Kootumba<sup>1425</sup> [sic]- I had over a hundred in the

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<sup>1420</sup> Charles Kinnaird Mackellar, later Sir, (1844-1926), physician, politician and businessman. He was president of the State Children Relief Board (1902-1914) and worked for the establishment of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act (1905) which created Children's Courts and the probationary system.

<sup>1421</sup> Mary Isham Garran née Sabine (1829-1923) was the wife of Andrew Garran (1825-1901), journalist and politician. Spence had known them when they were in Adelaide in 1850-1856. Mrs Garran endeavoured to put Spence's ideas about child protection into practice in New South Wales. She served on the State Children's Relief Board from its inception until 1911.

<sup>1422</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1423</sup> Rev. John Reid MA, formerly minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1424</sup> Rev. George T Walters was the minister of the Unitarian Church in Sydney.

Mg and the church filled in the Evg - and Eleanor said she never saw as many men in a church or a more attentive audience - especially to the Sermons. Mr Walters himself is lacking in devotion, and the audience looks cold - I don't think our Mr Harris<sup>1426</sup> nearly so good a preacher as Mr Reid, but he may suit our people better.

On the day of my arrival here more than a fortnight ago I received a letter from you telling of your illness - I always feel very sad to think of my friends being ill away from home - far from their own people - I know you have made friends and good friends - but in my 20 months travel in 1893-4 I was so thankful that I kept well all the time. But it is more than three years since you left Melbourne -

Miss Scott is very anxious about Stella Franklin<sup>1427</sup> - and her mother does not think she hears sufficient particulars of her health - Is she trying to earn her living by her pen in Chicago? Miss Scott has at present as her guest Mrs Barbara Baynton<sup>1428</sup> - who finds London the best place to live in - People admire her work there. She can publish her books there. - She and Miss Scott are the antipodes in many ways but they are both most bitter agst federation and hate and fear everything the Commonwealth does or proposes to do - Mrs Baynton leaves for London next week -

I note to whom you have given copies of my little book and am glad indeed you have found such worthy recipients - Better give to people interested than sell to people who will make no use of the information.

I think one great difference between our S A department and this here is that in S. A we have an excellent staff mostly of women and that we know it is excellent. Neither Dr McKellar [sic] nor Mrs Garran believe in their staff. They say their three women inspectors are not much good - but then the men are little better - Dr McKellar [sic] is however very progressive in his ideas, and one or two I think I must present and advocate in S. A. When I get back to Adelaide I shall try to formulate all I have learned - I suggested to Mrs Garran to write a chapter on the beginnings of the movement in N. S. W and if we could have a similar chapter for Victoria - we might bring out a new edition for our 1500 are falling very low indeed. That may be a year or two later - especially if Mr Gray's Consolidating Act is passed satisfactorily with its amendments -

And the English Act too is a new feature that ought to be enshrined in a new edition - If Dr McKellar [sic] succeeds in banishing policemen (even in plain clothes) and lawyers from the Children's Court, and having a training school for girls to fit them to earn 14/- a week - these too would be worth chronicling -

The same mail that brought your letter brought the parable about Human Nature with Kindest message from Alice Thacher Post<sup>1429</sup>, and a pleasant letter of acknowledgment from Emily Greene Balch<sup>1430</sup>, as also the syllabus of the Wellesley Woman's College<sup>1431</sup> - and a dozen of newspapers and pamphlets - Charities<sup>1432</sup> I

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<sup>1425</sup> A resort in the Blue Mountains west of Sydney.

<sup>1426</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA, the new minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1427</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

<sup>1428</sup> Barbara Janet Ainsleigh Baynton, formerly Frayter, née Kirkpatrick (1862-1929), Australian writer, born in NSW. Short stories she had written for the *Bulletin* were published in 1902 as *Bush Studies*. Powerful but dark and uncompromisingly realistic, her stories undermine the mateship bush tradition.

<sup>1429</sup> Alice Thacher, an editor on two Swedenborgian papers, married Louis Freeland Post in 1893. He edited *The Public* 1898-1913. She edited it 1913-1919.

<sup>1430</sup> Emily Greene Balch (1867-1961), American economist, sociologist and peace activist, supporter of woman suffrage, racial justice, and control of child labour. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946.

<sup>1431</sup> Emily Greene Balch was on the staff of Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

read always from cover to cover. Also the Juvenile Court Record - I shall look out for your review in the May Charities - I have had reports from Wisconsin and Minnesota - I get a Weekly Toronto Globe<sup>1433</sup> and the San Francisco Star -

I left instructions not to send on my newspapers - but these are disregarded - and on the whole it is for the best, for I could not face the pile of literature that would accumulate in a two months absence.

New South Wales which used to have no local govt. has now got it and it is compulsory in rural districts and optional in cities to put rating on unimproved value of land - This some people are grumbling at very much - I hope to meet a very keen single taxer soon, to see what he thinks of it.

I have to thank you among many other things - for the information about the full dinner pail. Mr Fox editor of the Lone Hand<sup>1434</sup> says he has seen the American pail here - but it is not in use though it might well be -

Miss McDowell [?] whom I met at V. Goldsteins thinks you are likely to stay in America - but I should like you here not perhaps as a journalist but at the head of the Infant Protection or of the probation officers - When I see that the weakness of the departments both in Vic and in N S W is that they have not secured the best officials - anyone who could train them would be invaluable - I was interviewed at V. G.'s rooms by a Mr. Moore<sup>1435</sup> of the Herald who some years ago interviewed me for Fitch's [sic] New Idea<sup>1436</sup>. The Bulletin made fun of my perpetual devotion to Proportional Representation - Sir William and Lady McMillan<sup>1437</sup> called on me here the Sunday before last and the first question he asked was about The Cause It is feared that the failure of the great old house of McArthur & Co<sup>1438</sup> will bring Sir William to poverty - they were both most cordial and she as elegant as ever -

I know and feel that Australia has a great pull on you - but you are doing great and good work where you are.

Miss Goldstein is going to have a meeting of Women Workers under the auspices of her Suffrage Ass. to hear my Bundle of Sticks<sup>1439</sup> - She says it is of the utmost importance that women should write - She had wanted a personal autobiography from me but has resolved that this is better. Eleanor unites with me in love - She has been appointed on the School board for the borough and much to my joy is going into the work con amore - I hear far too little of what goes on in ~~England~~

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<sup>1432</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1433</sup> *The Globe* was Toronto's daily newspaper, established in 1844 as a weekly. It advertised itself as 'Canada's National Newspaper'. It still exists as *The Globe and Mail*. Presumably Spence received the weekend edition.

<sup>1434</sup> *The Lone Hand* an illustrated monthly dealing with literature, art, politics and health was printed for the *Bulletin* in Sydney 1907-1921. Frank Ignatius Fox, later Sir, (1874-1960), journalist and Imperialist joined the *Bulletin* in 1901 and became first editor and manager of *The Lone Hand*.

<sup>1435</sup> William Moore (1868-1937), art and dramatic critic, on the staff of the Melbourne Herald.

<sup>1436</sup> *The New Idea: A Woman's Home Journal for Australasia* was published in Melbourne in 1902 by Thomas Shaw Fitchett. It had some political content. In 1911 it became *Everylady's Journal*, but reverted to the earlier title in 1928.

<sup>1437</sup> Sir William McMillan (1850-1926), merchant, free trader, NSW parliamentarian and member of first Federal Parliament.

<sup>1438</sup> Sir William McMillan came to Australia as representative of his uncle's firm W. & A. McArthur Ltd. The McArthur firm was reconstructed in 1907 but conditions remained difficult for such importing firms.

<sup>1439</sup> This was a lecture given originally in Adelaide on 26 February 1906. It was a plea for women to organise trade unions and to work together. A single stick will snap, but a bundle of sticks will hold.



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Adelaide. Martina Kramer of *Jus Suffragii*<sup>1440</sup> wrote for a copy of my book for the W S library<sup>1441</sup> and it has been sent -

I only write to you once a month but I put a good deal in my letters.  
Remember me to my Chicago friends.

Ever yours in love  
Catherine H Spence

Someone sent me a splendid life of R Robins<sup>1442</sup> cut out from the *Public*<sup>1443</sup>.

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<sup>1440</sup> *Jus Suffragii*, begun 1906, was the monthly periodical published by the International Alliance of Women established in 1902. It was originally named the International Woman Suffrage Committee with Susan B. Anthony USA as President and Vida Goldstein Australia as Secretary.

<sup>1441</sup> Presumably the Woman Suffrage Library.

<sup>1442</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), American Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat.

<sup>1443</sup> *The Public*: A journey [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919. Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacher Post 1914-1919.

**PRG 88/7/96**

Yarragon Gippsland  
5<sup>th</sup> June 1908

My dear Miss Henry

Here I am for a short week which is all I can spare to my nephews and neice [sic] here - and it is cold and wet. I only hope it may be raining in Melbourne and all over Victoria where it is much needed but that does not follow -

I thoroughly approve of what you have done with my book - I shall try to get copies to send where you recommend but they are becoming few - What you say about abridging it for America made me think that I might do it - The parts about the Council and its difficulties and perhaps the introductory chapter might be compressed greatly - but we should leave the underlying principles and the anecdotes in - And besides further developments have taken place in other States and these might be brought down to date - Perhaps Miss Hill<sup>1444</sup> in England might be glad of an abridgement -

Vida Goldstein got me up an excellent welcome from the probation officers. There are 123 of them all unpaid but Mr Clarke, Chief Probation officer. He has brought out an excellent little pamphlet of instructions and suggestions - and they all appear pretty full of zeal. But the magistrates in 200 courts of petty Sessions do not understand probation and what it means - and one magistrate gave one of the volunteers 15 cases - far more than could be dealt with by one individual. Mrs Webster sent me a copy - I spoke to the roomfull at the Strand Tea rooms for about an hour - beginning with Alice Thachers<sup>1445</sup> parable and going through generally the importance and the delicacy of probation work and wound up by giving my sermon on Judge Lindsay [sic] leaving out the text and the first page - And I never had a better audience so appreciative - Miss McGowan [?] said I spoke better than ever - I feel that there should be more probation officers paid - but Melbourne has always depended too much on volunteer inspection - From all I can gather I think the Mr Smith<sup>1446</sup> who is now Sec of the Ind & Ref. Schools.<sup>1447</sup> &c is incompetent and not interested in the work - I wrote to Madeline Murray to come to hear me and get the book but she could not or rather did not get my note in time but she came to see me on Friday at Miss Madge Murrays Armadale and she was most indignant at a paragraph or half column in the Age in which it was said that their inspectresses should be trained nurses - and not taken out of the Lands or other offices - I think Miss M M is admirable in her work - She has to fight with dragons - I wonder if she wrote her experiences to you - they are too long for me to give in detail. Vida Goldstein tells me she thought you should be at the head and that you had been communicated with on the subject but you replied that you preferred to stay in Chicago.

She had only a £10 rise from a comfortable billet in the Lands office; there is more than that in the difference in the tear and wear of clothes - At first she was single-handed, but since, there have been two appointed for her districts - one of them a trained nurse but she had to go round with her two days and give her

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<sup>1444</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1792-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>1445</sup> Alice Thacher, an editor on two Swedenborgian papers, married Louis F. Post in 1893.

<sup>1446</sup> Thomas Smith, Secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools in Melbourne.

<sup>1447</sup> Industrial and Reformatory Schools.

instructions and suggestions - She had at the very beginning two terrible cases - the first with two dying babies - and then Mrs Clayton of Preston who had 12 babies and six of them died - Of course the policeman who had visited the place wanted to exonerate himself - then the Police dept. which had given all their children to one home and that a bad one - and the medical men - all wanted to clear themselves.

But now things are vastly improved and she loves the work and feels its immense importance but she never has had a word of instruction or of encouragement from Mr Smith who is her official head -

I hoped to see your brother and his wife<sup>1448</sup> on the same day when I was at home but they could not come - I am to appoint a day to meet them in town and also Dr Fishbourne<sup>1449</sup> who wants much to talk about your report on defectives.

When I go to Melbourne on Monday the 8th I am to be met at Clayton by Mrs George Duerdin who will take me over the Epileptic Farm Colony as it is quite near her home - I am supposed to be an expert in this direction because you crammed me for the Salon address - I must try not to betray ignorance. There are 17 men and 17 women there - It was a very dry year or the returns from produce would have been better - indeed they hope to make it self supporting soon -

I am to go to Daisy Stephens when I go to Melbourne but I stay all night at Mrs George Duerdin's - The Rev. Mr F Sinclair<sup>1450</sup> has come out with letters to the Argus about the low salaries of bank clerks backing up Mr Trenwith<sup>1451</sup> who says the delinquent who embezzled £33 was somehow justified because at £110 a year after ten years service - the Bank shareholders had been robbing him - Mr & Mrs Turner were much vexed about this but Vida Goldstein says he is a fine fighting man.

I went to church on Sunday mg to hear Mr Sinclair give an address to children - and lo! I got let in to giving the address myself. I went in the evening to hear him give a very good lecture on Mohammedanism the fourth of the great ancient religions in the world and lo! after it was ended I was asked to say a few words - and I did so and he and his wife together persuaded me to consent to taking the service on Sunday Evening the 14th.

I had sent in most of my sermons with my heavy luggage to Adelaide and I have only one that I can give them - The Good Brown Earth and unluckily I had poached on it in the children's address.

The funny thing is that there are scarcely any children - The Turners say he is an admirable preacher but he is a socialist and they are finding it out - He was a Rhodes scholar from New Zealand -

I hear that Mr Harris<sup>1452</sup> is doing well and much pleased with Adelaide - I hope it will continue - the two little girls have gone to the school of my friends Mrs Hübbe and Miss Cook - Moxon Cooks sisters.<sup>1453</sup>

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<sup>1448</sup> Alfred and Jean Henry.

<sup>1449</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1450</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1451</sup> William Arthur Trenwith (1846-1925), pioneer Trade Union official and labour politician in Victoria, a campaigner against sweated labour.

<sup>1452</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA, the new minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1453</sup> Edith Agnes Hübbe née Cook (1860-1942) was the first woman matriculant of the University of Adelaide, headmistress of the Advanced School for Girls 1879-1885, proprietor and headmistress of a private school at Knightsbridge in Adelaide 1885-1921. Her sister Harriet Cook (1855-1943), taught in her sister's school. The Cooks were Unitarians and had been friends of Spence for many years. Their brother Moxon was a journalist in Melbourne and knew Alice Henry.

Vida Goldstein cannot get the Hall for a Bundle of Sticks<sup>1454</sup> till the 16th. I gave part of it at the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon we went to with Miss Locke - I cannot hear anything about Mrs Burns [?] but that she is in Queensland -

Miss Rose Scott is a rather unreasonable advocate of peace - She thinks Australia should not prepare to defend itself - She is also indignant and disgusted with the militant suffragettes in England - I was disposed to be the same at first, but I think it was you who opened my eyes -

I could not sleep last night for thinking about all the people I must go to see and get information out of - My letter would be more interesting to you if I had seen your brother & his wife and Dr Fishbourne first.

I had an account for a years Charities<sup>1455</sup> with Received Payment at the foot of it but evidently a request to continue subscribing - Probably if I were at home I should do so - It is valuable - I always read it from cover to cover - but I have so much to read and for the first time for 40 years my eyes are troubling me - Perhaps I have got a chill - but they have been a little inflamed and full of humus all the time I was in Sydney and still are - My cousin Mrs Maule<sup>1456</sup> thought of going to her son in India in the Transport Dept of the Army but he will be entitled to retire on a pension of £90 or £100 in two years and at the age of 43 will be able to earn something so she is going to stay here. Mrs McCreerie<sup>1457</sup> [sic] is very kind to her and so are a good many of the Kew people -

I never heard Vida speak better than she did at the suffrage debate on Friday a week ago and I think I never spoke less to my own satisfaction. Mrs Lowe who has recovered from a terrible operation in which part of her liver was removed besides other things spoke admirably. The young man who represents the Antis had a most unsympathetic audience, and I dont think he was fully persuaded in his own mind - All that women can do to keep out Mr Bent<sup>1458</sup> will be done at next election - My people here are conservative - free trade - individualistic - In fact Lucy Morice is the only one of my relatives who is a Socialist - Did I tell you that Eleanor is on the School Board of her Borough Woollahra - and she will make an excellent member - I found the new [?] school much improved from what it was on a former visit four or more years ago - The teachers say they are not tied down so fast by regulations - and have more initiative. Eleanor is deeply interested - I expect a visit from her towards the end of the year after her four friends the Misses Kay return from two years in Europe - Old Mr Stephen of Geelong died at the age of 93. Daisy and her husband were with him, but Reginald and his wife and child are in England at the Anglican Congress. The single daughter Alice comes to live near her brothers and the Geelong property will be sold. Lucy Morice is on the qui vive for Mrs Besant<sup>1459</sup> who speaks first in Adelaide on the 9th. I fancy I am bound to hear her both there and here -

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<sup>1454</sup> This was a lecture given originally in Adelaide on 26 February 1906. It was a plea for women to organise trade unions and to work together. A single stick will snap, but a bundle of sticks will hold.

<sup>1455</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1456</sup> Janet Maule, the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>1457</sup> The wife of James Vernon McCreery, medical practioner, chairman of the Police Medical Board and inspector of lunatic asylums in Victoria.

<sup>1458</sup> Sir Thomas Bent (1838-1909), politician, land speculator, premier and treasurer of Victoria from 1904 to 1909.

<sup>1459</sup> Annie Besant (1847-1933), Theosophist, women's rights activist, educational reformer, advocate of birth control, writer and orator.

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Everything you tell me of the Demarest Lloyds is interesting. I received William Bross Lloyds letter all right. North Norwood Australia was sufficient - I read aloud to Eleanor in Sydney and to Nina Murray here the splendid account of Raymond Robins<sup>1460</sup> chequered career and both admired him much - But I think that the appreciation of all my audiences for Judge Lindsays [sic] life and work was the most satisfactory thing on Wednesday the 27th. He is an inspiration – My next letter will be from Adelaide.

Always your affectionate friend  
C H Spence

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<sup>1460</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. He and his wife Margaret Dreier Robins worked together, committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

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**PRG 88/7/97**

North Norwood  
4<sup>th</sup> July 1908

My dear Miss Henry

I feel as if I had so much to say to you about my last twelve days in Victoria that I must allow no margin to my paper - I wrote from Gippsland that Mrs George Duerdin was to meet me at Clayton and take me over the Epileptic Farm Colony. This she did and I was very much pleased with it. The building is most excellently planned. I never saw a place where every room large or small was so finely lighted - Australians have been too much afraid of light, as implying heat - but the architect here has been liberal of glass. I liked the dining halls with small tables - and in the passage outside was a low bed to which a colonist could be taken if a fit came on. The others are always kind and helpful - I liked the matron and attendants. There are 17 men and 17 women at present in the Home but there is room for 50 in all and they hope to have a department for children. If the season had not been so dry they might have reaped crops for expenses - but they were a failure - not utter - The Duerdins are most interested in the place. She is there once a week and shows much kindness to the colonists and the staff - I stayed at the Duerdins all night and went to Daisy Stephen's on Tuesday - On Wednesday Prof Nanson rang me up - and came in aft to talk with me for an hour and a half. He thinks Deakin<sup>1461</sup> will be able to carry his electoral bill - but he is weak, and rests on the support of the Labour party, who find the present system on the whole serves their turn - Proportional Representation was quite asleep in Sydney and not much better in Victoria - but in West Australia some excellent and forcible letters and articles are appearing in two daily papers - and the contingent vote to secure a real majority is the law and has been acted upon in a recent Upper House election most satisfactorily.

Mrs Young's neice [sic] Mrs Jessie Pethick has done some excellent work on the press - and in distributing literature - But to go back to Prof Nanson. He invited me to lunch with him on the Saturday to meet Mr Bowditch<sup>1462</sup> and I went and we discussed P.R. Both gentlemen were more sanguine than I.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> Your brother<sup>1463</sup> rang me up and appointed me to lunch with him and his wife and Dr. Fishbourne<sup>1464</sup> at the Vic. Cof. Pal<sup>1465</sup> where we talked over the prospects of your report on Defectives being accepted by the Commonwealth. Dr. F. thought that if I went with him, it would strengthen his hands as representing another state - He undertook to fix a date for interview - Mrs Henry went with me to Brewster who wanted to take my likeness - I thought he would have sent me some copies but as yet I have had none - Then we went to the Public Library where Mrs Henry wanted to show me the new Corot which cost so much money as well as other things. I had an appointment with Dr. Norris<sup>1466</sup> at 4 - which I kept - I told him more than I had previously written in the 23<sup>rd</sup> April from Sydney about the need of a Lock

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<sup>1461</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1462</sup> William Lamprey Bowditch (c.1850-1917), Victorian clergyman and teacher of mathematics, an earnest worker for proportional representation whom Spence had met in Melbourne in May 1900.

<sup>1463</sup> Alfred Henry and his wife Jean.

<sup>1464</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1465</sup> Victoria Coffee Palace, Collins St., Melbourne.

<sup>1466</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

Hospital and still more of a Magdalene Ward. He was deeply interested and suggested nay insisted on my writing a letter signed by my name and official titles to both papers - It needed a good deal of courage but I did it and left it as a Parthian shot posting it on the Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June when I took the train - I heard nothing of it till last Wednesday when I got a copy of Sydney Truth<sup>1467</sup> with my name Catherine Helen Spence - Her last Labour of Love - Pleads for Hospitals for Unfortunates - the Lamentable Lack of Lock Hospitals - Sydney Melbourne and Adelaide's need "Stamp out the Disease," says Miss Spence - "Not to do so is Stupidity not Virtue" Frightful prevalence of disease in Sydney - Each paragraph in a separate line with the largest capitals - All this at the head of about three columns of small print on the subject beginning with most of my letter taken from the Argus of 20<sup>th</sup> June - So it did appear though Dr. Norris did not tell me so or send me a copy - I showed the three columns to our Dr Morris<sup>1468</sup> who gave me the information and who had been so much impressed by the Chicago pamphlet. He said that though Truth is the most disreputable paper in Australia it was an advertisement that might call attention to the need - Dr Norris has sent me the Argus of 27 in which is a short letter probably by himself as it is signed A Health Officer - concluding with these words "I am pleased to see a womanly lady taking the initiative, and I hope her grasping the nettle will lead to others to come along and uproot this cancer". If the letter to Argus had been on any other subject it would have been mentioned in our local papers - I wrote to both papers at Dr. Norris' suggestion but I only know of the Argus. I wrote to Rev. Kirby<sup>1469</sup> who had the pamphlet to send it on to Dr Norris and hope he did so - So you see some result from it - Can the pamphlet be bought - Evelyn Vaughan<sup>1470</sup> said she was writing for it after she returned it to me - but I never see her to make enquiry -

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> I preached in the Unitarian Church in the evening - on the Good Brown Earth - and I had the biggest audience there has been in the church since Mr Sinclair<sup>1471</sup> went there - I liked his sermon on Mohammedanism very much -

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Vida Goldstein telephoned for me to go to the Childrens Court and I met her and we went together - Court held at Gordon Institute<sup>1472</sup> - two JPs and only two cases one a State boy who ought not to have been brought up there but sent to the Dept and one a girl of 14 sleeping out in Fitzroy Gardens for three nights - case remanded for a week that her father might appear. The unlucky thing about unpaid probation officers is that every head of every benevolent association for Children in Victoria volunteers and each wishes the child committed to his or her institution - Thus the endeavours of the Chief Probation Officer Alfred Clarke to let the child remain in the home are thwarted - Our Miss Cocks has no axe to grind she is prouder of the 32 children she has kept out of institutions than of all the rest - Victoria as you know has always leaned too much on unpaid supervision - I suppose some one has sent you Mr Clarke's little pamphlet - which is excellent - but there is antagonism to him on the part of the heads of institutions. Vida says she hopes things will right themselves in time and that they may have a proper metropolitan Court with a competent judge or magistrate permanently appointed - and also that there may be a staff of paid probation officers - But the bill was forced through a

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<sup>1467</sup> This article appeared in the Sydney *Truth* no.916 June 28 1908.

<sup>1468</sup> Bedlington Howell Morris, medical officer to the State Children's Department.

<sup>1469</sup> Joseph Coles Kirby (1837-1924), minister of Port Adelaide Congregational Church. He formed the Temperance Alliance of South Australia in 1881, and in 1901 was the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Retail Liquor League.

<sup>1470</sup> Evelyn Vaughan, née Goode, (1877-1927), writer, public speaker and political progressive, wife of Crawford Vaughan, South Australian member of Parliament,

<sup>1471</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911..

<sup>1472</sup> Gordon Institute for Boys, Bowen St., Melbourne.

parliament which was jealous as to the powers conferred and stingy as to cost so they had to take what they could get – Mr Sinclair came for me at the Gordon Institute and took me to his home 3 rooms in 123 Gipps St E. Melbourne where his wife gave me afternoon tea and I gave him a little advice. His Socialistic tendencies are very strong but he must not write such startling letters as he did to the Argus. He said the Argus twisted what Trenwith<sup>1473</sup> said and twisted what he wrote - He has been 9 months of the 12 he engaged for - and he will stay on if they wish to keep him on £200 a year - Vida admires him much.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> I gave my Lecture A Bundle of Sticks<sup>1474</sup> to a large audience mostly of real working women at the Baptist lecture hall and it was really appreciated the collection for Suffrage funds was £2.11.3. The hall costs 12/6. I had two neices [sic] in the audience Daisy Stephen and Madge Murray.

Wednesday 17 Champion<sup>1475</sup> by telephone arranged that I should speak at the Socialist Hall Elizabeth St - I chose My Life and my Ideals for I had no time to write a lecture and this I could improvise - My life ends with my death, but my Ideals I give for other people to carry out - I said a great deal about Effective Voting telling them that the Socialist vote in Germany is one third of the whole while owing to the bad methods in use their share of the representation in the Reichstag is only one ninth - What could be the effect on the militarism of Germany if there was one third of resolute men in their parliament to withstand it? I spoke for an hour and wound up with Mrs Stetson's<sup>1476</sup> Similar Cases - the lesson of Evolution. ~~Wednesday~~ But that Wednesday was the day that Dr Fishbourne had arranged for me to go with him to see Deakin about your report - We did not see Deakin at all only Mr Atlee Hunt<sup>1477</sup> - No doubt your brother and Dr Fishbourne are writing to you about his most unfavourable reply - that it is quite out of the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth - Well, it must be tried for by the State Govt - not through Bent<sup>1478</sup> but through Swinburne<sup>1479</sup> or Peacock<sup>1480</sup> - and the Age might take it up - This was Miss Madelines advice to me when she saw me on Friday - and I wrote to your brother and I think also to Dr Fishbourne that they should get some influential politician to push the matter.

[in margin] Still Wednesday

I asked Atlee Hunt about proportional Representation in which he seemed to be interested when I met him at Miss Scotts eight years ago - and he said there was little or no chance of getting the Electoral bill passed - so on both points I was disappointed - After leaving the Commonwealth Offices Dr Fishbourne took me to see Macleay [sic] of the C .O .S.<sup>1481</sup> who had been rather prejudiced agst Alfred Clarke and against Madeline Murray - I tried to put him right - Then Dr F. and I had lunch. Then I went to the E & S Bank to draw money and then to the Goldsteins where Vida made me rest for two hours - I had tea with the family Col G. at home,

<sup>1473</sup> William Arthur Trenwith (1846-1925), pioneer Trade Union official and labour politician in Victoria, a campaigner against sweated labour.

<sup>1474</sup> This was a lecture given originally in Adelaide on 26 February 1906. It was a plea for women to organise trade unions and to work together. A single stick will snap, but a bundle of sticks will hold.

<sup>1475</sup> Henry Hyde Champion (1859-1928), socialist propagandist and journalist. He married Vida Goldstein's sister Elsie Belle, and founded the Melbourne monthly *Book Lover*.

<sup>1476</sup> Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American poet, writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights. She divorced Stetson in 1894 and in 1902 married her cousin George Gilman. She is now known as Charlotte Perkins Gilman.

<sup>1477</sup> Atlee Arthur Hunt (1864-1935), Secretary of Commonwealth Department of External Affairs.

<sup>1478</sup> The Hon. Sir Thomas Bent, Premier of Victoria, Treasurer and Minister for Railways.

<sup>1479</sup> The Hon. George Swinburne, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

<sup>1480</sup> The Hon. Sir Alexander J. Peacock, Member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

<sup>1481</sup> T. C. Mackley, of the Charity Organization Society.



Mrs G. in the West visiting son or sons. After tea Mrs Watson Lister and Mrs Chaplin organiser of the two Collingwood Kindergartens came and talked for an hour before they went - not to hear me but to a Christian Science gathering. I was glad to see Mrs W. L. appears deeply interested in Kindergarten work and has invited 123 Collingwood children to her garden for an afternoon and they did no mischief and left no litter. Two children of her own station did a lot more - Mrs Chaplin is an enthusiast from Chicago - She is working with Volunteers - She has no trainees as yet - (There is a movement in W A for kindergartens and Lucy Morice says that at the end of the year there will be ~~eleven~~ nine at least who have completed the two years course and would be available for the West). The Volunteers often come for only one day in the week so that a class goes from hand to hand - But still they learn - Some clergyman objected that they did not teach religion - Mrs Chaplin says she is teaching religion all the time - but then it was not theology which the Rev gentleman wanted to be taught.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> I stayed at home for visitors and wrote out the letter which Dr Norris had sent back with full approval for the Age as well as for the Argus - I interviewed Miss Madeline Murray who would have come before but that she had been at Ballarat her first appearance there and the doctor in Ballarat had gone with her during a whole day when she inspected 17 homes and was apparently quite satisfied - The other 13 were in Ballarat East and occupied another day - This is what she has desired and one Melbourne doctor promised to go with her but backed out - I told her what Dr Norris had said to me when I protested agst the Age suggestion that the inspectresses ought to be trained nurses - He said he knew her - she was a good well meaning girl but she had had no experience she did not know enough. He did not say necessarily a trained nurse but the inspectress should have had some training - and she had had none. Miss Murray told me what experience she had had in nursing in her own home - also that when she was appointed she consulted Dr. Grant her own doctor who lent her the best book on the subject of baby health and disease which she was diligently reading and making copious notes of it - and I wrote this to Dr Norris omitting the name of Dr Grant as that was private and saying that in education and intelligence Miss Murray was superior to our Miss Moule - and was willing and able to learn - so I hope I have put her right with Dr Norris - To call it a political appointment when she loses by it in money through tear and wear of clothes is absurd. I don't know about the other two and she does not know. They have equal salary and are quite independent of her except ~~from~~ for a little instruction for a day or two. One was a trained nurse from Pentridge<sup>1482</sup> the other an Attendant at Royal Park<sup>1483</sup> - But both Dr Fishbourne and Miss Murray deepen my distrust of this Mr Smith<sup>1484</sup> from Yarra Bend as the Head of the Neglected Children's Dept - Miss Murray has not had a single word of instruction or of encouragement from him - That is a bad appointment -

Mr Macleay<sup>1485</sup> [sic] came to see me and to get a spare copy of the English Children's Bill that I offered him. Miss Murray returned the Blue Book the Commission on Infant Protection - the question being whether our baby homes should be inspected or not - I think the evidence was overwhelming that every infant should be safeguarded - I have sent the report to Miss Moule for her opinion. I also had a long visit from my cousin Mrs Maule<sup>1486</sup> - who feels the cold of Melbourne

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<sup>1482</sup> Pentridge prison.

<sup>1483</sup> Government receiving depot for neglected children.

<sup>1484</sup> Thomas Smith, Secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory Schools in Melbourne.

<sup>1485</sup> T. C. Mackley secretary of the Charity Organization Society.

<sup>1486</sup> Janet Maule was the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence. Dr Gamble was her son in law.

winter as bad as Scotland. By the bye your account of the terrible snow storm in Chicago was appalling - and how hot Chicago can be in summer -

I wonder what was the condition of Chicago when the great thaw came on - I recollect New York and Boston under snow but this Chicago storm appears far beyond them. Dr Gamble is now appointed superintendent of Ararat Asylum at £600 a year and allowances and he is allowing his mother in law<sup>1487</sup> two guineas a month instead of 12/ a fortnight - Mrs Spence and I send her 25/ in winter and 22/6 in summer and she can manage to live on that paying 4/ or 5/ a week for a room. She has been wearing my old clothes for the last eighteen months at least my dresses - She has four sons in various parts of the world but I dont think she gets £5 a year from them all put together - She has made some friends in Kew Mrs McCreerie<sup>1488</sup> [sic] the most helpful. She reads to an old blind lady once or twice a week but she herself has very poor sight - I went myself to post the two letters to Argus & Age - in aftn

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> I went to the train with Daisy Stephen - V Goldstein saw me off - She asked me if the Socialist might publish my portrait and also where she could find Similar Cases<sup>1489</sup>. I told her it was in her copy of the poems which I had seen on her book shelf - I had a comfortable trip over. At Ballarat we took in a Miss Clennell<sup>1490</sup> a commercial traveller for the house of Lucas & Co ladies and Childrens underclothing &c employing 200 girls and turning out beautiful work. She hopes to get orders for £5000 of goods in Adelaide and Broken Hill which she canvassed twice a year - I went later to see her goods which are very superior - blouses up to 50/- and dresses far more - no shirts no boys' clothes - Mrs Lucas began with one machine and four young children one 9 months old. The last is now a man of 28 partner and manager of a big concern.

I got home comfortably on Saturday and after that it began to rain and rained on and off for 4 or 5 days. Never has South Australia had a better season -

I have been twice at the State Children and twice at the Destitute - I have been to see Mrs Young and Mrs F Martin who are the two people who have missed me most - Fred Martin is no worse he fancies he is a little better but his sister has gone away, and Katie will be terribly tied to the house - I think Mrs Whitfield<sup>1491</sup> got tired - perhaps she may come back as she has not gone to Victoria - K Martin recommended me to read in Public Library Ostrogorski's Democracy and Political Parties<sup>1492</sup> on account of what it says about Proportional Representation and I have done so - It is a wonderful book for a foreigner to write about American and English political history - It is translated from the French with a preface by Bryce - I have read about Raymond Robins<sup>1493</sup> to many - last to the Martins - The rapidity with which young men can get through university and professional training is a great contrast from the lengthening that this training undergoes in all the Australian States - I have

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<sup>1487</sup> Mrs Maule.

<sup>1488</sup> The wife of James Vernon McCreery, medical practioner, chairman of the Police Medical Board and inspector of lunatic asylums in Victoria.

<sup>1489</sup> A poem by Charlotte Anna Perkins Stetson (1860-1935), American poet, writer, economist and lecturer on women's rights.

<sup>1490</sup> Matilda Louise Clennell, later Thompson, (1871-1959), business woman and philanthropist, first woman travelling saleswoman She worked for E. Lucas & Co, women's clothing manufacturer in Ballarat.

<sup>1491</sup> Mary Jane Martin had married James Arthur Whitfield in 1871 when she was 25.

<sup>1492</sup> *Democracy and the Organisation of Political Parties* by Moisei Ostrogorsky (1854-1919), published London, Macmillan 1902. Translated from the French by Frederick Clarke.

<sup>1493</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), American Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat.

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written two letters to the press since I returned<sup>1494</sup> - One took advantage of an opening at the Teachers Conference to bring forward your brother Alfreds idea of half time for apprentices - the other was another protest against the enormous classes the great weakness of our schools - The cost in S A is £3.15.6 for each child in average attendance as agst N S W £4.16.2 and Victoria £4.13.5 and Queensland £4.2.2 - Nowhere in the Commonwealth perhaps nowhere in the world are these classes of 70 - 80 sometimes 90 under one assistant teacher.

They say they cannot obtain teachers enough - but this is not justice either to the teachers or pupils - I also protested agst the length of the course of training and the small salaries offered after the many years training were over.

I think I have written enough but I must tell you that Lucy Morice is writing a weekly ~~letter~~ contribution Womans View to the Herald the labour paper and is going on with her lectures to the trainees for Kindergarten - I think her Herald work is excellent. Her style is so good -

I am quite well though my eyes are rather weak - All you do and write is interesting to me - I heard in Sydney that the Public<sup>1495</sup> was guaranteed for three years - that is good news - Henry William Bross Lloyd writes that I am too sanguine about reforms in Chicago - Well there are fine workers there - I see Mrs Raymond Robins<sup>1496</sup> has subscribed for another year of Charities<sup>1497</sup>. Thank her and say I value the paper much read every word of it - Believe me always

Your friend and comrade  
C H Spence

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<sup>1494</sup> Letters from C. H. Spence appeared in the Register on 1 July 1908 p. 7f, and 2 July 1908 p.6c, and in the Advertiser on 2 July 1908. p. 10c.

<sup>1495</sup> *The Public*: A journey [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919. Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacker Post 1914-1919.

<sup>1496</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1497</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

**PRG 88/7/98**

North Norwood  
8<sup>th</sup> July 1908

My dear Miss Henry

Though I sent you an exceptionally long letter last Saturday the 4th I write again via England.

What you said about your wish if you had time to abridge my little book for American publication set me thinking about trying to abridge it myself - and yesterday I made a beginning but find it difficult.

I think I might cut out all details about the Council but keep in the principles and all the anecdotes that illustrate these principles - I dare say a stranger would do the work better than myself.

The regulations at the end were put in by Miss Clark - I did not think them necessary as each organisation can make its own - As it is likely I may have the work done before I can hear from you, I will give you leave to cut out what you think is redundant - I spoke to Mr Gray about it, and he thinks it an excellent idea - Of course I shall bring the work down to date - One may call it 2nd Edition or American edition - I don't mind if I don't get a penny for it - but I should like it to be widely circulated - I am sending via England a copy for the University of Wisconsin - where I am glad to know I have two admirers Professor Commons<sup>1498</sup> and Professor Ross<sup>1499</sup>. I am writing to Dr. Norris<sup>1500</sup> asking for my Chicago pamphlet back - Can copies be had for I think I could dispose of a few - I don't mean sell them, but circulate them - I enclose two cuttings on the land question from today's Advertiser - Did anyone send you the excellent pamphlet by Alfred Clarke Chief Probation Officer<sup>1501</sup>? The Book Lover<sup>1502</sup> has my portrait and three paragraphs about my life and work - which probably has been sent you - I wish it had mentioned State Children in Australia - Poor Miss Clark has sadly failed in the three months - I went to see her on Monday - She says everybody thinks I started the Boarding out and that is not fair to her. She is full of apprehensions many of them absolute delusions

Ever yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>1498</sup> John Rogers Commons (1862-1945), economist, sociologist and labor historian. He helped to draft the Wisconsin Civil Service Law (1905) and the Public Utilities Law (1907)

<sup>1499</sup> Edward Allsworth Ross (1866-1951), reforming sociologist and author, frequently involved in controversy.

<sup>1500</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1501</sup> In Victoria.

<sup>1502</sup> *The Book lover: a literary review*, published in Melbourne 1899-1921 by J. W. Cutting.

**PRG 88/7/99**

North Norwood  
2nd August [1908]

My dear Miss Henry

Over three weeks ago I wrote via England that I thought I would try to abridge my book for America and said I would give you leave to cut it down still further if you thought it advisable - After that I had your letter saying you had given away your own copy so nine days ago I sent you another copy via England - I have written both to Miss F Hill<sup>1503</sup> and to Mr Whiting on the subject. Miss Hill had asked if I would object to the republication of parts of it in pamphlet form in England and I had consented - but I think she is not equal to doing much herself now - An American edition might sell in England - but your absurd protection would prevent an English edition having free circulation in America - I wrote to Mr Whiting the names of those people who you say ought to have the book saying I thought probably they had had them or bought them from him - but if he thought they had not, to send copies if he had them in stock - I tell Mr Gray it is not necessary to hide 50 copies for 20 years, when we have only 14 available - 20 would be enough for the succeeding generation - The Agent General the American Jenkins<sup>1504</sup> has resigned, or had to resign on acct of disregard of instructions with regard to a loan, and our friend J. B. Whiting is Acting Agent General till a successor is appointed -

I have written to West Australia for the latest news, and Harriet Stirling has been in Queensland which is most backward about Boarding Out - and she can give me some information - I want to make the book up to date in its American edition - I suppose I should keep the copyright, though I don't expect to make anything out of it -

I do not find the work easy and indeed I am holding it over till I hear from you and from England - I have only condensed the first three chapters into one - and made some notes and some excisions further on -

I see in today's "Advertiser" that "Days that Speak"<sup>1505</sup> will be issued by Ward Lock with a prospectus which states "Not since Ethel Turner<sup>1506</sup> attained such remarkable popularity with "Seven Little Australians" has so clever and appealing a story been written by an Australian author. The telling of the story is certainly worthy of Miss L. M. Alcott<sup>1507</sup> at her best." The Vaughans have just returned from Sydney in time for the opening of Parliament - I have not seen either of them.

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<sup>1503</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>1504</sup> John Greeley Jenkins (1851-1923), American born South Australian business man and politician. He was Premier and Chief Secretary from 1901 to 1905 when he resigned to become Agent-General for South Australia in London. He gave up the position in 1908 after a disagreement with the Price Government about a loan.

<sup>1505</sup> *Days that Speak: A Story of Australian Child Life* by Evelyn Goode, London, Ward, Lock, 1908. Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist, children's writer, pianist and public speaker was the wife of Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia.

<sup>1506</sup> Ethel Curlewis, née Turner, (1872-1958), author of one of Australia's most famous children's books, *Seven Little Australians*, published in 1894. It is the only Australian children's book to have been continuously in print.

<sup>1507</sup> Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888), American novelist and writer for children. Her most famous book, *Little Women*, was published in 1862.

I took to Mrs Young the day before yesterday a little pamphlet. "The Years progress for Proportional Representation" which is making great strides on the continent of Europe and is really a live question in England and we both felt ashamed of South Australia where the gospel of Electoral Justice has been better preached than anywhere else. She said it was because our champions Crawford Vaughan, Clarence Goode<sup>1508</sup>, E H Coombe<sup>1509</sup>, and just lately E. A. Anstey<sup>1510</sup>, had got into parliament - All but Coombe under the Labour banner - And the Labour party think they do very well with their portional representation, and fancy they might do worse with ~~their~~ proportional or absolutely equitable representation - Coombe will bring forward his bill again, and these men will of course ~~wish~~ vote for it - but they will not work, strive fight for it as if they were independent members - All four thoroughly understand it, and have each lectured a great many times on the subject with illustrative balloting - Does Tyson<sup>1511</sup> send you the Equity Series for which he writes? Alfred Cridge's<sup>1512</sup> son A. D. Cridge is in the fight in Oregon. The Referendum failed to carry Taxation on Land Values but succeeded in some good things among others, in Proportional Representation - Last month I wrote a long letter to Cridge, and none to Mr Tyson - and I fear I shall not manage a letter to Tyson today.

Lucy Morice thanks you very much for your good advice - She asks for questions from her readers this week, with a hope of opening a correspondence column, and she quotes you with regard to eight hours for nurses - She gave one of the copies of the Labour Advocate<sup>1513</sup> - with the fine portrait of Raymond Robins<sup>1514</sup> in it and his grand address to the Editor of the Herald - (but does it not exchange) also lent him the sketch of the life and work of Raymond Robins from the Public<sup>1515</sup> hoping he might make some use of it - I believe a third free Kindergarten is to be opened in Adelaide very soon and one of our own students is qualified to take charge of it - They are moving in the West for a Kindergarten, and might take a teacher from Adelaide. I was surprised to find Mrs Chaplin had only volunteers to help her in the two Kindergartens in Collingwood, and no trainees.

I went to see Miss Clark on Wednesday and she was more cheerful - though I was not, for her 8 years companion leaves her today, and Miss Hawkins<sup>1516</sup> will not stay more than two months - From a letter she showed me from Julian Hill, I gathered that Miss F D Hill marched in the procession of suffragettes - I suppose the first less

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<sup>1508</sup> Clarence Goode (1875-1969), farmer, grazier and politician. He was a member of the Gladstone Town Council, and of the House of Assembly 1905-1917. He was Evelyn Vaughan's brother.

<sup>1509</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician. He was member of the House of Assembly for Barossa and a staunch supporter of proportional representation .

<sup>1510</sup> Edward Albert Anstey (1858-1952), builder and politician. He was elected member for Adelaide in a by-election in 1908.

<sup>1511</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1512</sup> Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco. Cridge had married Annie Denton, a spiritualist, and Spence now corresponded with their son, Alfred Denton Cridge.

<sup>1513</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1514</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), American Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat.

<sup>1515</sup> *The Public*: A journey [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919. Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacker Post 1914-1919.

<sup>1516</sup> Fanny Susanna Hawkins (1851-1942) arrived in Australia in 1865. She became one of the best known social and political worker in South Australia.

militant set - It appears to me that Canada is not so eager for women's suffrage as the U. S. or the U K for I see no hint of it in the Weekly Globe<sup>1517</sup> & Canada Farmer which Mr Tyson sends me regularly - The Temperance movement is nevertheless very strong -

It was the Temperance movement that roused women like Susan Anthony to desire the suffrage. It was the Social purity movement that made Lady Colton<sup>1518</sup> and Mrs Birks<sup>1519</sup> to agitate for the vote - and we got it very easily. You Melbourne people had worked longer and harder by the time we won it, and they are at it for the State still -

My cousin Laura Stow Symon writes that in a strong spasm of economy, the Illinois Central fixed the principal station at Mattoon instead of Indianapolis and many were dismissed, and many deserted of the Indianapolis staff. The only one who lost neither in salary or power [?] was Stow Symon who is chief clerk at Mattoon – barely 23 years old - They were first in a house which was not flooded but so leaky that they could not live in it without repairs which the landlord would not make - so after six weeks, they moved to a ten roomed house with a lot of ground at the same rent - and quite weatherproof – I hope she will go to Chicago some day, and deliver her letter of introduction from me. Her father, an old journalist, but latterly a stipendiary magistrate at Pt Pirie and superannuated five years ago died when I was in Melbourne -

Dr Norris<sup>1520</sup> is rather cool - He has never written a line to me nor even told me if he received the Chicago pamphlet - I notice that Miss Rose Scott in her appendix to the Annual Report of the Sydney Prisoners Aid Society, complained that there is no power to detain women in the Inebriate Home - who need medical treatment - It is very delicately put, and some readers would not understand - but I spoke to Miss Scott on the subject when I was in Sydney, and she understood -

Another person is also cool. I went with your sister-in-law to have my photo taken by Brewster six weeks ago - I wrote about three weeks ago saying that if I was not to have any copies, I had been doing him a favour instead of as I fancied his doing me a favour. He replied that the weather had been so dull and dark, his work was all behind, but that I should have some copies in a week. None have come.

The weather all over Australia has been cold, but here with exceptionally cold nights and early mornings we have had over a fortnight of sunny days. We want a little more rain - Ellen Gregory is going to Murray Bridge today to work for a cousin for three weeks, and then on to the next station Tailem Bend, to work for my old Maggie who used to be at Murray Bridge, but now her husband with her good help has an excellent business at Tailem. The new country opened by rail from that station to Pinnaroo has been so successful, that on the other side of the border similar country is being taken up, and artesian bores are put down - It was crown land in both cases.

When you come back to Australia you will find Adelaide equipped with electric cars - At present the laying down the new lines causes some inconvenience - It is not so easy to get to the Fred Martins -

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<sup>1517</sup> *The Toronto Globe.*

<sup>1518</sup> Mary Colton, née Cutting, (1822-1898), philanthropist and campaigner for the rights of women, children and the disadvantaged. She was president of the Women's Suffrage League, member of the Boarding-Out Society and of the first State Children's Council.

<sup>1519</sup> Rosetta Birks (1856-1911), wife of prosperous draper Charles Birks, a committed Baptist, became a member of the Social Purity Society and later of the Women's Suffrage League. In 1906 she represented Australasia in London on the YWCA's world committee.

<sup>1520</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

Mrs Martin says that Longmans mismanaged her book, the *Old Roof Tree*<sup>1521</sup> and did not secure any rights in America - I got an odd copy from Eleanor, which she bought cheap at Angus & Robertsons, and I should like to send it to America to a real good judge of literature and of the Am. book market and I can think of no one but you - so you may receive it some day. I cannot send it by the letter mail. I hope you are not so rushed with work that you cannot do justice to a book which depends greatly on the distinction of the style. It is so like her talk and her letters, that it is very precious to me - But owing to her husbands illness and her alarm and her incessant preoccupation - she did not stir for a second edition, and now like you, and even more than you, she has stacks of notes of travel, and memoranda on literature and philosophy which she cannot find a spare half hour to touch - The *Old Roof Tree* was only a small instalment intended to be followed up.

And Mrs Young everyday and all day busied with her house work her sewing and her baby, snatches an hour on Sunday evening to write paragraphs for the *Critic*<sup>1522</sup>, a conservative weekly, for which she gets 7/6 a column, not a very long one - and has earned £3.3 since I left for Sydney fourteen weeks ago, which buys a few clothes for herself.

She has actually no money for herself - The buying of the little farm on time payment, mops up about a third of her husbands earnings - and after all the boy was too young to carry it on - and is now trying to make his living in town, partly as a clerk in an office at 10/ a week and about 4/ out of pars for the *Critic* - His father made it so miserable at home that he has gone on his own - He is 18 and wants to be a journalist - but that needs short hand to begin with.

I have just sent Courtney Spence Young a go-cart which his mother preferred to a pram - I also keep him in knitted woollen singlets and petticoats - He is a very fine little chap of 10 months old -

Daisy Stephen and her husband go to England next Feby. He has nine months leave. Mary is to be with Miss Chambers all the time. I think Mrs Spence will go for two or three months in that period to stay in Daisy's new house in Westbury St as it is not to be let - I think I wrote to you of Mr. Whithams death at Glenelg where he had gone thinking the change would benefit him - If he had lived to 65 his widow would have got a larger income from the Teachers Superannuation fund - I hear she has £50 from one fund and £60 from another - The £700 Insurance will not pay the mortgage on her house and land - It is let furnished for a year to a good tenant. She was very ill before his death and after it - but appears recovering.

I manage to cover a good deal of paper with close writing on one subject or another - and yet I never send away a letter without recollecting afterwards there was something I had omitted - I think my last letter about my Melbourne visit would interest you - You say you wished you could have been with me - How often I wished I had had you beside me. I hope Madeline Murray writes to you sometimes. Your letters are always most interesting to me -

Believe me  
Always yours most affectionately  
C.H. Spence

I had your Municipal Journal and I have also the valuable Blue book with the detailed evidence.

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<sup>1521</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1522</sup> *The Critic: The Federal Weekly*, published in Adelaide 1897-1924.



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**PRG 88/7/100**

North Norwood  
12<sup>th</sup> August 1908

My dear Miss Henry

I am sending this via England to accompany *The Old Roof Tree*<sup>1523</sup> which I hope you will like - Mrs Martin is afraid it is too late to do anything with it in America - but Harper<sup>1524</sup> thought so very highly of her *Silent Sea*<sup>1525</sup> that if Longmans had gone the right way to work he surely could have had an American edition - This of course is not a novel and appeals to a different public.

I have just this week been reading the *Letters of Fraulein Schmitt to Mr Anstruther*<sup>1526</sup> - and though very different in scope I have been often reminded of passages in *The Old Roof-Tree* - the same incisive and yet picturesque treatment of things and people - I think it is the best work that Elizabeth of the *German Garden*<sup>1527</sup> has written -

When you have read it and any of your Chicago friends who would appreciate it will you send it to Mrs W L Garrison with a request to pass it on to Mrs Charles Gordon Ames for these ladies so greatly admired *An Australian Girl*<sup>1528</sup> and *The Silent Sea* - You will see that Eleanor paid 3/6 for the 6/ book at Angus and Robertsons and it is in excellent order - I read over and over again my copy but Katie forbade me to lend it as she thought her friends might buy - I bought four copies three I gave away.

She tells me she has just had another payment from Longmans more than she expected - but no word of a second edition - Her husband's long illness is not only expensive - it prevents her from earning a penny - and the Broken Hill Proprietary has missed two quarterly dividends - They have a good many shares and it is a serious loss from a slender income.

And Fred seems likely to live for some time - as there seems no change for the last five or six months -

With regard to my own American edition I am waiting till I hear from you and from England - Your suggestions as to what should be cut out will be valuable - I have news from WA not very satisfactory. Very few children are boarded out in family homes - The[y] are boarded in Institutions - The Children's Protection Society is doing what it can - but under difficulties -

I enclose you letter I wrote on P. R. to both papers. I hope it may do good -

You were surprised at Mr Goode<sup>1529</sup> preferring the Canadian system - He has always been very desirous of saving the public purse and when people petitioned for their children's release was disposed to give them back - Why should the State keep children when their parents were willing and able to keep them - And like other

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<sup>1523</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1524</sup> The American publisher.

<sup>1525</sup> *The Silent Sea* by Mrs Alick Macleod (Martin's pseudonym) was published in London by Bentley in 1892.

<sup>1526</sup> *Fräulein Schmidt and Mr Anstruther: being the letters of an independent woman by the author of 'Elizabeth and her German Garden'*. London, 1907.

<sup>1527</sup> Pseudonym of Mary Annette, Countess von Arnim, later Countess Russell (1866-1941).

<sup>1528</sup> *An Australian Girl* was published anonymously by Bentley in London in 1890.

<sup>1529</sup> Charles Henry Goode, later Sir, (1827-1922), merchant and philanthropist with a special interest in young people, president of the Royal Institute for the Blind 1884-1922, a founder of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission and of the Adelaide Children's Hospital, and a member of the State Children's Council.

philanthropists he has the idea that a free home is intrinsicly better than a subsidy home -

Mr Whiting sent me the copy of the Albany (formerly the Independent Review<sup>1530</sup>) which Edith Sellars<sup>1531</sup> [sic] has sent to him called "State Children in South Australia - He thinks it is rather too flattering and so do I - I have sent it on to Miss Clark as he desires me to do -

I must be up betimes to-morrow morning for I am going with Mr Gray and Miss Stirling to the Girls Reformatory at the Burra 100 miles off - to return in the afternoon. Did not we go there together once? Harriet Stirling is anxious to see everything and has a most enquiring mind -

I have at last had a letter from Dr Norris<sup>1532</sup> but not my Chicago pamphlet. He says the Age did not publish my letter and that he did not write the letter suggesting notification signed A Health Officer in the Argus of 27th June.

He thinks my letter aroused interest among thoughtful people, and the subject will be brought up and discussed at the Medical Conference in October -

Do you think you could get another copy of the Chicago pamphlet? Not having it by me, I cannot see who to write to for it - Evelyn Vaughan<sup>1533</sup> said she was going to write for it. There is a magnificent speech of Raymond Robins<sup>1534</sup> in the Sydney Standard for June - that is the Single Tax monthly.

Mrs Youngs boy Lindsay 18½ has been taken on by the Critic at 20/- a week and can live on it - They liked his paragraphs and consider him a very promising journalist - I gave Courtney a go cart openly - and sub rosa am paying for a coat and skirt for herself - She has not had a new dress for years - This is a dead secret -

Well, dear, this is all I can find here to write today - Try to keep well - try to keep hopeful - and believe me always your faithful friend

C H Spence

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<sup>1530</sup> *The Independent Review*, a monthly published by T. F. Unwin, ran from 1903-1907. It was continued for a further year as *The Albany*.

<sup>1531</sup> Edith Sellars had written several articles for the *Contemporary Review* which Spence had approved of.

<sup>1532</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1533</sup> Evelyn Vaughan, née Goode, (1877-1927), writer, public speaker and political progressive, wife of Crawford Vaughan, South Australian member of Parliament,

<sup>1534</sup> Raymond Robins (1873-1954), American Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat.

**PRG 88/7/101**

North Norwood  
28<sup>th</sup> August [1908]

My dear Miss Henry

I have not had a letter from you for a month and more. Mrs Henry<sup>1535</sup> writing to me about the photo which has at last come to hand - I had 6 sent me - and she had one - tells me your last letter was very short that you felt the heat of Chicago in July most oppressive - So did I in July and August in 1893 - and I heard enough of the excessive cold of the previous winter to thank my stars that my life's work was to be done in Australia - The Martins say that for a winter climate the South of Spain is much to be preferred to South Australia. They had no experience of it in winter - but it was so equable - It was far better than Italy - I wrote to you on the 1st August as usual and an extra letter to accompany *The Old Roof Tree*<sup>1536</sup> - I am not doing anything to the abstract of my book till I hear from you what length you think it should run to and what chapters you think should be left out or greatly abbreviated - I should like it to be less closely printed - Do you think that it should be sold at 25c or 1/- of our money - or that a cheaper pamphlet would be preferable.

Miss Clark is greatly delighted with Miss Edith Sellars<sup>1537</sup> [sic] article in the Albany (formerly the Independent) Review. Perhaps it is because she makes so much of the beginnings - which E C C<sup>1538</sup> thinks the most interesting part - but which I think is not so valuable as the account of our present range of activities - I am always intending to write to Miss Madeline Murray to ask how she gets on - now that I have mentioned it to you I am likely to do it - I wrote to Dr Norris<sup>1539</sup> asking him to return the Chicago pamphlet - perhaps in the course of two months he may condescend to restore me my property - I am glad however that the Magdalene Ward question is liked to be discussed at the Medical Congress to be held in Melbourne in October - That is the most satisfactory part of Dr Norris's letter of the 5th Augt. I am writing to Mrs Goldrick<sup>1540</sup> of Sydney asking if she knows anything about something in our telegraphic news from that city about some regulation or legislation which the F Martins saw but which I missed which they thought was in the right direction.

The condition of F Martin keeps the same, which is surprising as we have had a cold winter and he feels the cold.

I am looking out very hard for a lady to act as Hon Sec of the Effective Voting League. Anstey<sup>1541</sup> was no good as a Sec. though he understands the matter thoroughly and is a good lecturer and demonstrator - I was in the gallery<sup>1542</sup>

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<sup>1535</sup> Alice Henry's sister-in-law, Jean Henry.

<sup>1536</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1537</sup> Edith Sellars, English journalist who wrote about social problems. She had written several articles for the *Contemporary Review* which Spence had approved of. *The Independent Review*, a monthly published by T. F. Unwin, ran from 1903-1907. It was continued for a further year as *The Albany*.

<sup>1538</sup> Emily Caroline Clark.

<sup>1539</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria

<sup>1540</sup> Possibly the wife of Robert Goldrick, Chief Inspector and Chief Clerk of Asylums for the Infirm and Destitute in New South Wales.

<sup>1541</sup> Edward Albert Anstey (1858-1952), builder and politician. He was elected member for Adelaide in a by- election in 1908.

<sup>1542</sup> The visitor's gallery of the lower house of the South Australian Parliament.

expecting to hear Mr Coombe<sup>1543</sup> reintroduce his Bill but he could not get home and Anstey came to speak to me and apologise for not answering a letter he had had 8 days and I asked him if he did not want to resign - He said he did but could not find any one to take his place - I said I should try to find one - I have two in my eye who ~~that~~ might divide the work. We ought to have a meeting but if we called one and it was a frost - it would do more harm than good. I told you I lunched with Nanson and met Bowditch<sup>1544</sup> who were both sanguine that Deakin<sup>1545</sup> would carry his Electoral Bill - but that Atlee Hunt<sup>1546</sup> said it was not for P. R. only the contingent vote - But Nanson says there is some provision for the Senate like what his Bill proposed years ago - However Nanson was writing an ~~letter~~ article to the Age that he thought would perfectly please me. It came out last Saturday and it says nothing about the quota and is a sort of plan for the representation of three parties - I have read it three times over and am not able to formulate to you what it means. I tried to get some extra copies but the agent had none - and was doubtful if they could be had in Melbourne - He is possessed with the idea of three parties and would give three votes - The first the real vote the second the alternate and the third the adverse - would subtract the adverse from the real votes - and would give more weight in Parliamentary divisions to those who have the greatest strength - for every 100 votes give a grain -

Now this is departing from the Hare simple transferable vote which does not count against anyone - Perhaps he means it only for the single member electorate but he does not make that clear - His idea of a stamped ingot<sup>1547</sup> to differentiate between members who have 3000 votes and members who have 2000 or 1,000 - would give great preponderance to the metropolitan representatives - I dont know what to write to him - I feel that it is an enormous blunder - to say the least of it. He used to entreat me to adopt the Droop quota so that we might present a united front for the reform - and I did so reluctantly for I really prefer the Hare quota with some approximate quotas to wasting so many votes - and making more surplusage to be dealt with -

Lord Courtney<sup>1548</sup> at the Annual meeting proposed that a beginning should be made in the cities - by restoring them to the position they had before 1888 taking them as one constituency but instead of the block vote electing quotas by the single transferable vote - Thus instead of nine districts electing by majority in Liverpool we would have nine quotas of the electors of that great city, and hear its clear voice - The same with Glasgow Birmingham

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<sup>1543</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician, member of the House of Assembly for Barossa.

<sup>1544</sup> William Lamprey Bowditch (c.1850-1917), Victorian clergyman and teacher of mathematics, an earnest worker for proportional representation whom Spence had met in Melbourne in May 1900.

<sup>1545</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1546</sup> Atlee Arthur Hunt (1864-1935), Secretary of Commonwealth Department of External Affairs.

<sup>1547</sup> Professor Nanson's article appeared in the Age on 22 August 1908. 'Furnish each member with an ingot stamped with his name, and weighing one grain for each 100 votes represented. On a "division" let each member place his ingot on either the "aye" or the "no" balance. The tellers . . can then immediately announce the number of electors on each side.'

<sup>1548</sup> Leonard Henry Courtney, Lord Courtney of Penwith (1832-1918), British politician, sometime president of the Royal Statistical Society, and strong advocate of proportional representation. In 1884 he was a founding member of the British Proportional Representation Society.

Leeds Edinburgh Dublin Belfast &c - Now if the P R Society worked strongly for this and carried it the whole country would see its equity and simplic<sup>1549</sup>ity and the rural districts might be grouped later on - Do you see any one who is interested in this reform.

The grouping of the single electorates for Representatives would be hard to obtain but I think municipal politics would be marvellously moralised in America if the ward system were abolished and the whole city or a combination of many wards elected their aldermen and Committees by the Hare system. Here municipal matters are not corrupt and are not so important as in the U. S.

In Nansons long letter he does not mention the great progress P R is making in Europe though he gets all the literature that I receive.

I stopped in the course of this letter to write to Miss Madeline Murray - and also to Mrs Goldrick - I told Miss Murray that I should like the latest news for the abridgement of my book - I have just had a nice long letter of thanks from Mrs Sinclair for the photo I sent her. She says that "the finances of the U Church are so low that the Committee had to tell Fred that when his year is up they will not be able to pay him the salary (£200 it is) and we were feeling rather depressed about things in general. There seemed to be no advantage in staying here to us or to anybody else. However there is to be a general meeting in Sept - and something might come out of it. If we can possibly manage we will try and fight on for another year - There will be so much difficulty in Melbourne getting another minister that Fred does not like to leave without a longer trial. Fred is very interested in a Fabian Society which he and a few others have started in Melbourne. He is reading a paper to the Womans Political League at St Kilda tonight and next month he will read one on the Emancipation of the Theatre to the Melbourne Literature Society". Our Mr Harris<sup>1550</sup> keeps right out of politics but I want him to try to understand P. R. He seems never to have heard of it - I am more tired trying to hear him than I would be if I took the service myself - but I am going to change my seat - I like him because he is a good earnest man but he has but a limited view of the worlds needs - If I could have had a few copies of last Saturdays Age I would have sent you the cutting also to Tyson<sup>1551</sup> and to Humphreys<sup>1552</sup> the Eng. Sec. of the P. R. Society - though I dare say he may send a copy to England - I don't think Humphreys will be perfectly pleased with it.

We are having a good season in Australia and especially so in South Australia - and so far every promise of good crops good grass good vintage and fine fruit crops - I went as I told you to the Reformatory<sup>1553</sup> the day after I wrote to you with the old Roof tree 100 miles by train four hours - four hours there and four hours by train besides cabs to and from Adelaide and to and from the Reformatory. Harriet Stirling is delightful to travel with - Some of Mrs Holden's<sup>1554</sup> girls had been playing up - not escaping - but one had attempted to poison Miss Kentish a wards woman by putting Condy into her tea but she smelt it and would not drink it. Another the youngest in the school (one of three little ones who cant be sent out to homes or

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<sup>1549</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1550</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA, the new minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1551</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1552</sup> John H. Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England from 1904 to 1946, was for many years a writer on Proportional Representation, elections and constitutional reform.

<sup>1553</sup> The Girls Reformatory at Redruth.

<sup>1554</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden was the matron in charge of the Redruth reformatory. The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls in the former gaol at Burra.

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kept at Edwardstown depot on acct. of bad sexual practices) had stolen a ring belonging to one of the other girls and it was weeks before she could be made to confess - But I think our visit did good all round to Matron staff and girls - It was a long day but I was not too tired.

I have given Miss Moule 28 knitted singlets since the new year and made up 14 petticoats knitted by Louie Galloway Mrs Spences neice - and we still go on - I wrote about this to Miss Murray because the 350 garments Miss Moule and her friends give to the babies in the year helps largely to keep the mothers true to their baby - I spent two hours yesterday at the Rescue Home managed by two of my Literary Girls Miss Price and Miss Carter - and I heard enough there about gonorrhoea and syphilis to make me feel the importance of a crusade against them. Oh! what a lot needs to be done - I hope before I write again I shall have a letter of yours to answer -

Ever yours,  
C H Spence

**PRG 88/7/102**

North Norwood  
20<sup>th</sup> Oct [1908]

My dear Miss Henry

On the same day I received three letters from you. A long and a short one [Note in margin: The short letter about Miss Franklin<sup>1555</sup> I sent onto Miss Scott with a request to send it to Vida Goldstein. I hope that Stella is better – By the by Evelyn Vaughan's book is out<sup>1556</sup> – I bought it and like it much] from Lincoln Neb. dated June, and a long one from Denver, also a good deal of literature sent off in Sept - I had three Canadian newspapers of June, and some of Sept by the same mail so I suppose something went wrong with that mail - You wanted a copy of my book for the man at Lincoln, but as I have sent you several as well as one for yourself probably he has got one. Mr Whiting writes that he has still 30 in stock - after sending to all the English names you mention - He quite approves of my abridging the book for the U. S. but thinks the English people are so pleased with the Childrens Bill that they will rest and be thankful - He went to one or two meetings of the S. C. A. [?] and saw how difficult it will be to graft Australian methods on to English ones. The vested interests - the chaos of institutions and departments and authorities make Reform very difficult. He was glad to hear that the Dept here was going on well and that Miss Stirling was so interested in the work. Her idea of an Interstate Conference is excellent - When I took the letter in to read in Committee yesterday, Miss Stirling had the good news that the Chief Sec. had agreed to a conference - but not to an annual one. She and the Pres. and the Sec. had just interviewed Mr Kirkpatrick<sup>1557</sup> - It cannot be held till next year - I had lunch with Miss Cocks and Miss Moule - Both are doing splendid work - Mr Gray was struck by your saying that on the whole it is better for the Juvenile Court and the probation work to be under the Council and not under the Atty. General's Department.

I send you some cuttings one which delighted Miss Cocks much about young offenders. The children and the homes she has improved almost out of knowledge in her 2½ years work!!! She was delighted to hear about Judge Lindsays [sic] Court, and you there.

A fortnight ago, I went with Miss Moule Lucy Morice Miss de Lissa<sup>1558</sup> of the Kindergarten - and the Swede, to see seven homes 2 in the city - one at Ridleyton blocks - 2 at Cheltenham and 2 at Hindmarsh - one was the poorest and one the best-to-do<sup>1559</sup> - of all her 120 but representative homes - None that you had seen or any other visitor - Mr Hansson<sup>1560</sup> was detained an extra four weeks here - and in

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<sup>1555</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

<sup>1556</sup> *Days that Speak: A Story of Australian Child Life* by Evelyn Goode, London, Ward, Lock, 1908. Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist, children's writer, pianist and public speaker was the wife of Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia.

<sup>1557</sup> Andrew Alexander Kirkpatrick (1848-1928), was a member of the Legislative Council, and Chief Secretary and Minister for Industry from 1905 to 1909.

<sup>1558</sup> Lillian Daphne De Lissa (1885-1967), early childhood educator. She became director of the first Adelaide free kindergarten, first principal of the Adelaide Kindergarten Training College, and first director of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia in 1907.

<sup>1559</sup> compare 'well-to-do'.

<sup>1560</sup> Johan Hansson was visiting from Sweden.

that time he learned all about our work - also the Kindergarten - we have now three free K Gs - also the public schools -

He went on the deputation to the premier about Effective Voting - I enclose that slip - We did not succeed in getting Mr Price<sup>1561</sup> to make it a Govt measure - And when it was brought fwd by Mr Coombe<sup>1562</sup> he had a shower of interruptions, especially from Archibald<sup>1563</sup> of Pt Adelaide. But we are going to have a lot of meetings before the 4th Novr and after that - Mrs Young's girl Freda has left school, and can manage the house and the baby - so Mrs Young goes to Hamley Bridge 45 miles N and on Friday 23rd, and to Mount Gambier 305 miles S E. on Monday 26th. I have engaged to go to Petersburg<sup>1564</sup> 155 N. on Monday 26 and to Port Adelaide (a previous engagement) the next day Tuesday - In the first case Dr Goode<sup>1565</sup> Evelyn's brother will count the votes, and in the second Howard Vaughan who drew up the Bill will do that - We are to have our Annual meeting on the 31st my birthday - Miss Hawkins<sup>1566</sup> does a great deal, but Mrs Young is the leading organising spirit and her husband is so much interested in the cause, and so much pleased with the new house they have gone into next door - that he allows her. We have raised about £25 - Oct 21<sup>st</sup> We have 7 meetings arranged for before the 4th one small Miss Hawkins to the Theosophical Literary Society but the others will be large - If we take up collections that may pay railway fares - and there is also the Annual meeting. [inserted later] PS 23<sup>rd</sup> there are two more arranged for -

I have never heard from you about the abridgement of my book and I have not gone on with it after the first compression of the earlier chapters - but if you are afraid of trouble or risk, say so - I thought that a shilling pamphlet might sell well - and I don't care if it does not pay me a cent -

I have a most grateful letter from Madeline Murray; I sent her our Annual Report - I am sending you mine - I marked the passages she would especially care about and wrote some explanation - I see I must send her our printed instructions as to feeding &c for she says the fostermothers feed at their own sweet will - She sees what an advantage it is to us to have the Maternity Homes licensed and open to our inspection - I hope she may get a holiday and come and see for herself. But I am sure she is doing good work -

I had the most delightful talk with Miss Cocks our Probation officer - as to her work - The way she gets hold and keeps hold of these children and their homes is wonderful - Miss Moule and she share a room in the office, and they admire each other's work immensely. I am sending a bundle of probation literature to R Tobin of Northcote one of the volunteer P. Os<sup>1567</sup> whom I addressed in Melbourne who wrote for a copy of my book after he had borrowed (and read) it from Mr Clarke<sup>1568</sup>.

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<sup>1561</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier.

<sup>1562</sup> Ephraim Henry Coombe (1858-1917), journalist and politician. He was member of the House of Assembly for Barossa and a staunch supporter of proportional representation.

<sup>1563</sup> William Oliver Archibald (1850-1926), piano and locomotive carriage maker, Member of the House of Assembly for Port Adelaide 1893-1910.

<sup>1564</sup> Now Peterborough.

<sup>1565</sup> There is some confusion here. Evelyn Vaughan's brother was Clarence Goode (1875-1969), Member of Parliament 1905-1918. Dr Arthur Goode was Evelyn's cousin. Presumably Spence meant Clarence Goode.

<sup>1566</sup> Fanny Susanna Hawkins (1851-1942) arrived in Australia in 1865. She became one of the best known social and political worker in South Australia.

<sup>1567</sup> Probation Officers.

<sup>1568</sup> Alfred Clarke, Chief Probation Officer in Melbourne



The probation work there is under another department and seeing what Mr Smith<sup>1569</sup> is, one cannot lament it much - But I am sure we do better here with it under the S.C.C - I am most grateful to you for the literature especially The Problem of the Children and Judge Lindsays [sic] pamphlet on Plutocracy in Colorado - I can see great danger ahead of him from the machine and the trusts - As my old friend Cridge<sup>1570</sup> used to say Proportional Representation is the desideratum to purify politics - I said over and over again in the U. S. that Woman's suffrage would not purify politics - These Colorado women have had it since /93<sup>1571</sup> and what a den of thieves it is. Yesterday I read Mrs Humphrey Wards<sup>1572</sup> letter to the Times - and she certainly scores a strong point in Colorado -

I suppose boys stay their whole term at Golden - It seems a lot to have 300 boys there - In my book you will see that NSW has 634 boys & girls in three institutions and Victoria 174 in twelve - We in South Australia with population of 400,000 have only 24 now at Magill - boys. The Almanac estimated Colorado in 1906 at 700,000 - and when we think of the hundreds Judge Lindsay [sic] has kept out of Golden, 300 odd is a lot - Of course they have time to learn trades well - At Magill they turn out only good farm hands - and a little rough carpentering -

Miss Cocks finds the Magill boys on probation much easier to handle than the R C. boys from Father Healey's<sup>1573</sup> [sic]. The latter are generally liars and it take months some times for her to win their confidence. I know the boys look duller - Father Healey [sic] himself is all right but the lay brothers who teach the boys look very inferior - Miss Cocks says the boys seem as if their motive had been fear -

Miss Madeline Murray will be sorry Sir A. Peacock<sup>1574</sup> has had to resign before he could amend the Childrens Protection Act but his health has been wretched - She thinks the C P Act of more immediate importance than the suffrage -

I have written you a good long screed - Answer me clearly about the abridgement of the book - In a recent .Inquirer<sup>1575</sup> I read an excellent sermon by C G Ames to the 20th Century Club. He must be near 80.

Ever yours  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>1569</sup> Thomas Smith, secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory School in Melbourne.

<sup>1570</sup> Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco.

<sup>1571</sup> The suffrage was granted to women in Colorado in 1893.

<sup>1572</sup> Mary August Ward, née Arnold (1851-1920), popular British author of novels with strong religious subject matter, first president of Britain's Anti-Suffrage League.

<sup>1573</sup> Rev. J Healy, Superintendent of the Catholic Boys Reformatory at Brooklyn Park.

<sup>1574</sup> Sir Alexander James Peacock (1861-1933), member of Victorian Parliament for 44 years, including the office of Premier, supporter of woman suffrage and anti-sweating. He resigned in October 1908 over land legislation.

<sup>1575</sup> *The Inquirer: The Unitarian and Free Christian Weekly*. London, 1842-1929.

**PRG 88/7/103**

North Norwood  
20th Nov 1908

My dear Miss Henry

I had only a short letter from you by Vancouver mail saying you had been rather done up by work on a congress - and that you were greatly enjoying Mrs Martins 'Old Roof Tree'<sup>1576</sup>. I got some interesting literature including a second copy of the Chicago pamphlet, which Mrs Martin is now reading - I wrote to Dr Norris<sup>1577</sup> that he could keep the other if it would be useful in Victoria and I also asked him somewhat peremptorily to let me know what was done (if anything) at the Medical Congress - but there is no reply yet.

I read your Labour Advocate<sup>1578</sup> with much interest - It appears that if the Labour vote went for Bryan<sup>1579</sup> it was quite unavailing. I wonder how much it cost to elect Taft<sup>1580</sup> - probably as much as the five millions it cost to elect McKinley<sup>1581</sup> and derived from the same sources. The railroads the monopolies and the protected industries. Mr Morice says that the Socialists are glad the Rep. man is elected for the strengthening of the Trusts leads straight to the nationalising of all industries.

But what I want to know is how many votes were given to Eugene Debs<sup>1582</sup> and how many to the Prohibitionist candidate who is generally set up and absolutely wasted - I agree with our Swedish friend Hansson<sup>1583</sup> that if a President is to be elected, it should be by the single transferable vote of the whole people of the U S A. and not by States - and these States by the block vote majority - which generally allows New York State to elect the President for 39 votes one way or another gives the majority in a House College of 400 odd - All the safeguards devised by the framers of the Am. Constitution are overridden or misapplied so as to make money and craft successful. It is quite clear that the framers feared mob rule - and popular excitement even though the French Revolution had not then startled the world. They did not trust the people - The Senate was to be elected by the State Legislatures and this has weakened and corrupted these local bodies. The President was to be chosen by electors - grave experienced men to deliberate on the merits of each candidate - and they are mere message boys who deliver a mandate - and as for excitement for six months there is far more than could possibly be with direct elections and infinitely more bribery -

As a country increases in wealth and population especially under a protective tariff Gigantic interests spring up which are fostered or imperilled by legislation - a

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<sup>1576</sup> Alice Henry's sister-in-law, Jean Henry.

<sup>1576</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1577</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1578</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1579</sup> William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), progressive lawyer, pacifist, member of the U S Congress, Secretary of State, Democrat candidate for the Presidency in 1896, 1900 and 1908.

<sup>1580</sup> William Howard Taft (1857-1930), lawyer, judge, unwilling politician, Secretary of War, President of U S 1908-1912, later Chief Justice of the United States.

<sup>1581</sup> William McKinley (1843-1901), lawyer and Republican, 25<sup>th</sup> President of United States, assassinated 1901. It is reported that McKinley's campaign cost 25 million U S dollars.

<sup>1582</sup> Eugene Victor Debs (1855-1926), American labour and political leader, five times socialist candidate for the U S Presidency.

<sup>1583</sup> Johan Hansson.

line in a tariff - a line in taxation - a line in regulation of industries - involves millions of loss or gain to individual or corporate interests -

I note in the last New Zealand election that there is still no Labour party. Labour continues to vote for the Liberal minority - but there are to be second ballots in 22 electorates where there is no absolute majority - that is nearly one third - It surprises me that Labour is in the U S A so invertebrate - I think Bryan was the better man of the two for labour but I know how the Rep.s<sup>1584</sup> shut down mills and workshops when Cleveland<sup>1585</sup> was elected, just to show the hands [?] they had better not vote Dem.<sup>1586</sup> again.

Of course long ere this you have had our great news the advent of a new Federal Labour ministry and the passage of State Suffrage in Victoria - I think that one great reason why the Council was nearly unanimous is that experience here has shown that the woman's vote has greatly strengthened the Upper House, for faggot votes<sup>1587</sup> for property tell largely for conservative candidates - With an enormous majority in the Assembly the Labour Liberal ministry has only four supporters in the Council - and measures are negatived which the people as a whole really demand -

Apparently the ites<sup>1588</sup> are disposed to support the<sup>1589</sup> ministry rather than ally with the Reid<sup>1590</sup> Forrest<sup>1591</sup> Quick<sup>1592</sup> lot -

We are engaged in the hottest campaign for Effective Voting that I have experienced. I forget where we were when I wrote last - but since the Deputation to the Premier on 26th Sept we have had meetings with ballots -

Oct 28	23	<u>Hamley Bridge</u>	Mrs Young	<u>Terowie</u>	Crawford Vaughan <sup>1593</sup>
30	24	<u>Petersburg</u> <sup>1594</sup>	Miss Spence	<u>Mount Gambier</u>	Mrs Young
	25	<u>Port Adelaide</u>	Miss Spence &	Howard Vaughan <sup>1595</sup>	counting
	31	Public Meeting	St Andrews Hall	<u>Adelaide</u>	
Nov	2	<u>Port Adelaide</u>	<u>Wakefield</u>	Mrs Young	
	3	<u>Saddleworth</u>	K Duncan &	Mrs Young	counting votes
	7	<u>Riverton</u>	Mrs Young		
	8	<u>Adelaide</u>	Democratic Club	Miss Spence &	C. Vaughan
	10	<u>Semaphore</u>	Pt Adelaide	Miss Spence &	Mrs Young
	16	<u>Magill</u>	Democratic Club	Miss Spence &	Miss Hawkins

<sup>1584</sup> Republicans

<sup>1585</sup> Stephen Grover Cleveland (1837-1908), President of United States 1885-1889 and 1893-1897, the only Democrat elected to the Presidency between 1860 and 1912. He was praised for his honesty, independence and integrity.

<sup>1586</sup> Democrat.

<sup>1587</sup> A faggot vote is a vote manufactured for party purposes by the transfer of property to otherwise unqualified people to enable them to vote. The property qualification for voting for the Legislative Council in South Australia was not finally abolished until 1973.

<sup>1588</sup> Supporters of Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1589</sup> Andrew Fisher (1862-1928), prominent Labor leader, became Prime Minister when Deakin's Protectionist Government resigned in 1908.

<sup>1590</sup> George Houston Reid, later Sir, (1845-1918), Prime Minister 1904-1905 when he lost to Deakin. He remained Leader of the Opposition until he resigned in 1908.

<sup>1591</sup> Sir John Forrest (1847-1932), Australian explorer, first Premier of Western Australia. He held many portfolios in the Federal Government including Acting Prime Minister.

<sup>1592</sup> Sir John Quick (1852-1932), lawyer, politician and author. He was critical of Deakin's close association with Labor.

<sup>1593</sup> Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party, Member of Parliament and later Premier of South Australia. He was a Unitarian and a member of the Effective Voting League Committee.

<sup>1594</sup> Now Peterborough.

<sup>1595</sup> John Howard Vaughan (1879-1955), lawyer and politician, brother of Crawford Vaughan.

Our Annual meeting of the League is to be held on the 30th - with a special Demonstration.

I went to Parliament House on the 4th Nov and heard Mr Archibald<sup>1596</sup> and Mr Mitchell<sup>1597</sup> member for Northern Territory speak against the Bill out of their ignorance and fatuity - all to talk it out and I fear it may be talked out after all our efforts but we are arousing a great deal of interest and the recent utterances of Mr Asquith<sup>1598</sup> are the finest and the most hopeful we ever had from England. Humphreys<sup>1599</sup> Hon Sec P R Assn has an article in Oct Contemporary<sup>1600</sup> his experience watching the Belgian elections in May last - which I read at Public Library yesterday - When the Melbourne Age wrote in August that P R was never heard of except from doctrinaires in debating society. Asquith<sup>1601</sup> in May had said the new Electoral Bill must contain provisions to remove from our electoral system those grave anomalies and abuses that render it now so inadequate and untrustworthy an exponent of the real will of the people - and there and then Nanson abandons the Hare system for a greatly inferior and less practical proposition instead of denying the Age statement - for P. R. never was so alive all over the world as it is now.

I am preparing a report of the progress of P. R. to be read at the Annual meeting and this will probably be embodied in the new edition of Mrs Youngs pamphlet which is needed. Some of it must go out but more must be added and some new diagrams which Mrs Young shows in large must be given in smaller form in the pamphlet - We have not much money but enough to go on with for a couple of months if we dont pay too much for the printing this pamphlet -

Freda Young has left school and she runs the house and minds the baby when her mother is absent and Mr Young is so much impressed with the importance of this crisis that he does not murmur - I'll send you the report of our Annual meeting and of course the pamphlet when published. No country in the world needs the reform so much as the U S A and I believe it will be the last to adopt it.

Lucy Morice has gone to Sydney for a few weeks rest - nerve - and just as she was arranging to go Dr Helen Mayo<sup>1602</sup> says that Miss de Lissa<sup>1603</sup> Director of the Kindergarten and trainer of the students need months of complete rest - Lucy will try to get a locum tenens and the wonderful Barr Smiths<sup>1604</sup> will pay for Miss de Lissa at a Rest Home till she is fit to resume work.

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<sup>1596</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1597</sup> Samuel James Mitchell (1852-1926), lawyer and politician, Member of House of Assembly for Northern Territory 1901-1910. He was Attorney-General for 6 months in 1909.

<sup>1598</sup> Herbert Henry Asquith, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Oxford and Asquith, (1852-1928), Liberal Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1908-1916.

<sup>1599</sup> John H. Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England from 1904 to 1946, was for many years a writer on Proportional Representation, elections and constitutional reform.

<sup>1600</sup> Humphreys' article, 'Proportional Representation in Belgium', appeared in the *Contemporary Review* October 1908 pp. 437-451.

<sup>1601</sup> Herbert Henry Asquith, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Oxford and Asquith (1852-1928), Liberal Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1908 to 1916.

<sup>1602</sup> Helen Mary Mayo (1878-1967), distinguished medical practitioner, specialising in midwifery and the health of women and children. She was University of Adelaide's second woman medical graduate.

<sup>1603</sup> Lillian Daphne De Lissa (1885-1967), early childhood educator. She became director of the first Adelaide free kindergarten, first principal of the Adelaide Kindergarten Training College, and first director of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia in 1907.

<sup>1604</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), businessman and philanthropist, and his wife Joanna née Elder, were friends of Spence and helped her and the causes in which she was interested in many ways.

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You may think I am well when I went by early train to Petersburg 150 miles north to lecture got up next day at 4 a m to catch the Broken Hill express arriving at 11 going home for a rest and going to Pt Adelaide to lecture and getting back at 12 midnight. On the same day Mrs Young travelled 305 miles - 13 hours to lecture at Mount Gambier to a more sympathetic audience than mine - had to stay over Tuesday and got home Wednesday night. The Mt. Gambier people invited her and paid her fare – but - where we offer lectures we may get something but are always much out of pocket - The public meeting of which I send report was held on my 83rd birthday -

Mrs Martin is showing signs of the three and a half years of constant anxiety about her husbands health - She looks about as ill as he is, but he is drawing near death and I hope she has years of useful work before her - You have never said a word about my suggestion to prepare an abridgement of State Children in Australia for publication in America - It is partly done but awaits your approbation. Among other things I have a sermon to write as I am asked to preach on Sunday week in the mg as the pastor has to go to a little church in the hills in the woods - Mr F. Sinclair<sup>1605</sup> has consented to stay for an indefinite time for £150 a year -

Ever yours  
C H Spence

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<sup>1605</sup> Frederick Sinclair, the minister of the Unitarian Church in Melbourne.

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**PRG 88/7/104**

North Norwood  
18<sup>th</sup> Decr. [1908]

My dear Miss Henry

I have only had one short letter from you since I wrote last four weeks ago saying you were reading and enjoying Mrs F Martin's book *The Old Roof Tree*<sup>1606</sup> - In fact I am not quite sure that I did not answer it then - and repeat that you had never said a word about the proposed American edition of *State Children in Australia* which unless you send me some encouragement I will relinquish - We are arranging for a conference on matters concerning *State Children* to be held in Adelaide in April or May - This was Miss Stirling's suggestion the fruit of her travels and enquiries in Queensland N S W & Victoria last year - She and I are on a sub-committee and are sending invitations and suggestions as to who might write papers to be read -

It may do a great deal of good - I hope it will do more than our conference with our visitors in 1907 - which was rather disappointing.

When I wrote to you last Mrs Young and I assisted by Miss Fanny Hawkins<sup>1607</sup> were in the thick of an Effective Voting campaign - and our Annual meeting held on the 30th Novr was specially interesting - But we are bringing out the Report as a campaign document with a schedule of the 797 votes collected which were finally allotted at the meeting and allotted and also an explanation of every step of the process - It is not out of the printer's hands yet as I had hoped but anyhow they do not send packets by the same mail as the letters - I am will sending to you and to Mr Tyson<sup>1608</sup> and to Denton Cridge<sup>1609</sup> a few copies for distribution.

As the summer has come on and pretty early there is a lull in Effective Voting meetings until the holidays are over.

I think I told you that Lucy Morice had gone to Sydney for a rest and change. She is not expected back till the day before Xmas and she rushed through Melbourne and will rush through it again - only saying that she must see the Watson Listers and Vida Goldstein -

She has been staying all the time at Froebel House Roslyn Gardens Darlinghurst which is the head quarters of the Free Kindergarten Union and there meets kindred spirits - and she has benefited very greatly and says she will return fit for work. While she has been absent her husband has been doing the 'Woman's View' for the Herald and doing it well - It was very good of him - My sister in law with her daughter and neice [sic] are going to Mount Lofty for 10 weeks at Xmas to Edward Hawker's house. They have let their own for the time to a good tenant. Edward Hawker<sup>1610</sup> married a daughter<sup>1611</sup> of Judge Stawell<sup>1612</sup> - who came here with a great reputation for genius & culture but has not shown much of it.

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<sup>1606</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1607</sup> Fanny Susanna Hawkins (1851-1942) arrived in Adelaide in 1865. She became one of South Australia's best known social and political workers.

<sup>1608</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1609</sup> Alfred Denton Cridge was the son of Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation, with whom Spence had corresponded. She now corresponded with his son.

<sup>1610</sup> Edward William Hawker (1850-1940), barrister, grazier, politician, metallurgist lived at Bungaree, near Clare.

<sup>1611</sup> Mary Laetitia Stawell married Edward Hawker in England in 1890.

<sup>1612</sup> Sir William Foster Stawell (1815-1889), Chief Justice of Victoria.

Both husband and and [sic] wife are very conservative and somewhat mean - but they and the children prefer living at the station 100 miles north to the really fine cool mansion on the hills - The Gov Gen Lord Dudley<sup>1613</sup> and Lady Dudley<sup>1614</sup> are coming to live for two summer months at Marble Hill where you recollect you drove me to lunch with the Tennysons<sup>1615</sup>. Our Governor<sup>1616</sup> who has travelled more than any ever we had and in all directions and as far as the Northern Territory is appointed to the Crown colony of Trinidad an island 35 miles by 29 or so with a lesser island of Tobago - Except West Australia S A is the most extensive state under British rule in the world - He takes a great interest in schools and in children, and is quite enthusiastic about our S. A. State Childrens Department and Lady le Hunte<sup>1617</sup> is interested in philanthropic work also -

Our Proportional Representation Bill has been again talked out - but we hope for better luck next time - We do not mean to let the ball cease rolling - I had a letter from Mr Geo Fowlds<sup>1618</sup> Min of Ed in N. Z. about the second ballots in 23 electorates. He thinks that not even their advocates can say they did any good - and that the discussion has helped the cause of Prop. Repres.

I suppose your Melbourne correspondents are writing about Bents<sup>1619</sup> astuteness or his bluff getting the Governor to grant a dissolution - It does not appear to me as if Labour was so strong in Victoria as it is in S A or N. S. W. There is a sort of conspiracy between Lib & Cons. against labour - In single electorates where there are two parties one extinguishes the other. Where there are three parties one extinguishes the two others. Deakin<sup>1620</sup> said there were really four parties but in single electorates with or without the second ballot one extinguishes three -

Humphreys<sup>1621</sup> article in Oct. Contemporary gives an excellent description of the Belgian elections of May 1908 -

Mrs Young is reading with great interest the *Convert*<sup>1622</sup> which she got from Miss Williams sec of Single Tax League. Miss W. says it gave her new light on the suffragettes -

There is always a lot of meetings of various kinds in Decr - Lucy was lucky to keep out of them - I think her Kindergarten staff must be reorganised for the older<sup>1623</sup> is in a rest home and the second in command has got a better appointment in Sydney.

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<sup>1613</sup> William Humble Ward Dudley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl (1867-1932), Governor-General 1908-1911, according to Alfred Deakin 'a very ineffective and not very popular figurehead'.

<sup>1614</sup> Rachel née Gurney (1867-1920).

<sup>1615</sup> Lord Tennyson, (1852-1928), Governor of South Australia 1899-1903, later 2<sup>nd</sup> Governor-General of Australia and his wife Audrey Georgina Florence Tennyson née Boyle (1854-1916).

<sup>1616</sup> Sir George Ruthven Le Hunte (1852-1925), formerly Lt-Governor of British New Guinea, and President of Domenica, Governor of South Australia 1903-1909.

<sup>1617</sup> Caroline Rachel Le Hunte, née Clowes.

<sup>1618</sup> George Fowlds (1860-1934), New Zealand clothier, politician, university administrator, progressive community leader, Liberal Member of Parliament 1899-1911.

<sup>1619</sup> Sir Thomas Bent, (1838-1909), politician and land speculator, Speaker of Legislative Assembly 1892-1894, Minister of Railways 1902-1903 and Premier and Treasurer of Victoria 1904-1909.

<sup>1620</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1621</sup> John H. Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England from 1904 to 1946, was for many years a writer on Proportional Representation, elections and constitutional reform. Humphreys' article, 'Proportional Representation in Belgium', appeared in the *Contemporary Review* October 1908 pp. 437-451.

<sup>1622</sup> *The Convert*, a novel about woman suffrage, by Elizabeth Robins (1862-1952), published London, Methuen 1907.

<sup>1623</sup> Miss de Lissa

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Fred Martin gets no better but he gets worse so slowly that he himself does not seem to think he is dying - It is awful tear and wear for his wife who is a very bad sleeper - and she looks worn and haggard - She still reads a good deal and takes notes but she can write nothing and I fear they are poor - they had a good many Broken Hill Proprietary shares and the dividends have been stopped for nine months - Nor are any of her relatives able to help - and her brothers are all dead - She got some small legacy from them but their estates are tied up for the children - I met Miss Moule on a tramcar yesterday and said I was writing to you - she sends you her best regards

Ever yours  
C H Spence



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**PRG 88/7/105**

North Norwood  
16<sup>th</sup> Feby [1909]

My dear Miss Henry

I Proportional Representation. Herewith I send you six copies of our Annual Report on Proportional Representation or Effective Voting which only reached me yesterday. I sent 6 to Mr Tyson<sup>1624</sup> and 6 to Alfred Denton Cridge<sup>1625</sup> of Portland Oregon. We mean to print 5000 copies for campaign literature – I am sorry it is in such small print – the Annual Report which I read to the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November was printed in Register<sup>1626</sup> and utilised – but it was contrary to instructions to put Mrs Young's explanations of the scrutiny in the same small type. I think I have gathered the most complete account of the movement up to date in my report. Since then what I hoped for for South Africa – the embodiment of the single transferable Vote in the new Federal constitution was telegraphed two days ago, and yesterday the ratification necessary for adult suffrage and proportional representation in Sweden by a newly elected Parliament was cabled to Australia – I must write a line to Mrs Parkes on the matter along with the 6 copies of the little pamphlet – Perhaps the packet goes via England but as it is small perhaps it will go by Vancouver. The test election<sup>1627</sup> of 21,500 votes in Caxton Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. was a wonderful advertisement of the cause and the appointment of a Royal Commission of enquiry will I think result in an experiment being made in the great cities of the U. K. What a difference it would make in the municipal and political representation of the great American cities if they were taken as a whole under proportional representation,

II State Children in Australia - I have got information more or less complete from some of the States but none from New South Wales and none sufficiently recent from W A.

I have written again urging my correspondents to reply at once. You are right about a preface. I shall mention that the little book was acknowledged as most helpful by Mr Herbert Samuel<sup>1628</sup> in the preparation of his comprehensive Children's Bill for the U. K. That should give it some prestige.

Miss Stirling's Queensland friend Miss Bedford<sup>1629</sup> was in New York two years ago and watched the Juvenile Courts with interest – She was here for a fortnight and I saw her twice – She is sure the book will do good in the U S as it has done good in Queensland and thinks it should command a ready sale at 25c. I got over £5 for

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<sup>1624</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1625</sup> Alfred Denton Cridge was the son of Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation, with whom Spence had corresponded. She now corresponded with his son.

<sup>1626</sup> *Register* 1 December 1908, p. 9ab.

<sup>1627</sup> *The Times* for 4 December 1908 carried an article 'Proportional Representation. An Experimental Election' which reported on a meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster (a Hall in which many political meetings were held), in which votes from newspaper readers were counted.

<sup>1628</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.

<sup>1629</sup> Josephine Bedford emigrated from UK to Queensland in 1891. She worked for family welfare and impoverished children. She was a founding member of the Queensland Creche and Kindergarten Association and the Playground Association.

copies sent to England 125 and a great many were given away – Herbert Samuels included.

I gave a thank offering of £1:5<sup>1630</sup> – to the fund for the benefit of State children that we are collecting as I have really got more than £20 for it – I see that I collected amongst my own personal friends half the cost of printing – and we had to see nearly £6 worth to pay postages – but it cost nothing for advertising – Still I think I should either get a price or a Royalty for an American edition.

All over Australia the book has been serviceable and it has done much to bring about the legislation for Children's Courts and for Infant Life Protection which has been carried in all the six states of the Commonwealth. Miss Bedford is enthusiastic about it and about "our Conference"

III Conference to be held in Adelaide.

On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> the State Children's Council was informed that the Govt had consented to the expenditure of £130 which we reckoned it could cost to hold a weeks conference on matters concerning State Children. Private hospitality will be offered to our visitors and free railway travelling within the State. The reason why the Govt consented is that one subject which will be discussed is the necessity for legislation so as to enforce maintenance payments from one State from another State without having to bring the defaulter home. This would save South Australia about £1,200 Or £1,500 a year and the more populous States even more. And the recommendations of a body of experts discussing Mr Grey's<sup>1631</sup> [sic] proposed Bill would carry weight –

But of course that is only one of our subjects – The date is fixed for the week beginning the 17<sup>th</sup> May. How I wish that a few Americans could drop in upon us. Could you make it public? In sending my years subscription to *Charities and the Commons*<sup>1632</sup> I wrote of this conference and its importance. I also mentioned my American edition of the little book, which I really long to get at, but I want everything before me first. Of course I must send that to you via England – as it will be bulky.

We are inviting Vida Goldstein to the Conference on my strong recommendation – The difficulty is about speakers for though we have in sub committee agreed who to ask to give papers – two to one or three to one they will refuse – I am to open the ball with a paper on Homes rather than Institutions.

I should like if I could include the advantages of a Council such as ours and that of N S W over a centralised department with a single head – but some one else might take up that – The illegitimate baby - Duties to half castes - Probation work - Duties to defectives are some of the subjects – sketched out –

I have written to Madeline Murray suggesting that she might arrange to have her holiday during that week – for though not a delegate proceedings are open to the public.

There is to be a conference of probation officers in Victoria in March and we are sending Miss Katherine Cocks [sic] as our delegate – and she is writing a paper which Mr Gray will look through – Her work is most satisfactory – But this is only one branch of the work and it is a branch which is not under the Neglected Children's Department but under the Atty. Gen. – In Queensland the Infant Protection Bill Act is administered by the Police Dept but they employ a woman or women to inspect – Miss Bedford says that they had the greatest difficulty in getting the Bill through at all and only because there was no "appropriation" in it. The Govt does not want the administration to cost anything –

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<sup>1630</sup> This figure is difficult to read; it may be £15, but that is very unlikely.

<sup>1631</sup> Mr Gray.

<sup>1632</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

IV Private & Domestic - I spent a week or rather eight days at Mount Lofty with my sister in law and took a rest – My heel was the better for it and indeed it is now quite well –

Miss Stirling who lives just opposite came to see me 'on her own' first and afterwards brought Miss Bedford – Mrs McTaggart an old visitor for State children in another district came to see me. She is in her 80<sup>th</sup> year. Mrs Spence has this beautiful house at a high rent for twelve weeks. She has let her own for half as much for ten weeks to good tenants – The change does her good and also her daughter and neice [sic].

George and Daisy Stephen go to Europe for nine months leaving Melbourne by P & O next week. Little Mary is in their house with her aunt Alice Stephen and the faithful Lily. Mr Morice has just had three weeks holiday mostly in Sydney but he saw Vida Goldstein when passing through. – Pat Morice failed in the Senior but has gone to business and gets 10/a week in a good office, but his real bent is towards journalism. He has been writing a weekly letter for the Herald (the Labour paper) for three months and I think some of them are very good – considering that he is not seventeen yet. Mrs Youngs eldest boy has the same bent, and has kept himself by his pen for the last year earning 20/ a week –

You wrote to me some time ago that you were much enjoying the Old Roof-Tree. What did you do with it after that? Did you send it on to Mrs Ames and to Mrs Garrison as I instructed you to do? For they were her great American admirers.

Her husband<sup>1633</sup> still lives in spite of the triple drain on his system – the cough and expectoration the chronic diarrhoea and the sloughing of the throat – This strike at Broken Hill seems to be a long job for our friend Judge Higgins<sup>1634</sup> and when Mr Delprat<sup>1635</sup> says there is only five years ore visible at the proprietary there is not much prospect of dividends – and the little the Martins have is partly in Proprietary shares. But an old Aunt of Fred's died in Nov and when her estate is realised there should be over £100 for each of her nephews and neices [sic] – and that should see him out – After his death she can work and she can live on a third of what it takes to keep the two –

I sometimes fear that she will be worn out before he dies – Alone with such an invalid night and day and with such a tendency to insomnia as she always has.

Her sister would like her to go to the old home at Mt Gambier – there she could relieve her a good deal – but the question is could he stand the journey?

Mrs Young is in better health and spirits than when I wrote last – We must begin the campaign again before Parliament meets– Our summer has been exceptionally cool.

Now for yourself – I begin to fear that America is holding you like magnet – Yet why should I grudge you to America. You have the opportunity of doing better work there than you were allowed to do in Melbourne. You are making friends and American friends are good friends – The Rev C. G. Ames wrote me in acknowledgement of my letter on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday that I was neither forgotten nor forgettable which was a very nice thing to say – Yes so long as you are doing such good work I must submit to intercourse through pen and ink only.

Always yours in love and comradeship  
C H Spence

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<sup>1633</sup> Fred Martin, the husband of Catherine Martin, author of *The Old Roof-Tree*.

<sup>1634</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), federal politician and judge, was President of the Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Court.

<sup>1635</sup> Guillaume Daniel Delprat (1856-1937) was general manager of BHP 1899-1921.

**PRG 88/7/106**

North Norwood  
3<sup>rd</sup> March 1909

My dear Miss Henry

By the boat which goes to San Francisco tomorrow I send this letter and also registered parcel containing the book and instructions. As you may guess, it was not so difficult to write the new matter which I think you will like – the third chapter showing where all six states agree and where they differ I think was necessary; - but the trouble was in the cutting down – Ten days ago I felt as if I would leave a good deal to you, for you would know what was not likely to interest Americans, but when I got your letter of Jan 24 showing that you were working to the full extent of your powers and that your worst work was doing for others what they ought to have done properly themselves, I braced myself up to my own task, and scored out another dozen or more pages. If you do see anything left in that you think redundant I give you leave to do it – but I think it may pass as it is.

However, you have to interview a publisher or perhaps more than one - I think the preface containing Herbert Samuels<sup>1636</sup> letter should be a good advertisement – but it is surprising how self-contained the U. S. A. has become – only taking lessons from itself -

I should prefer a royalty of say 2d or 4c on every copy sold to £40 or £50 paid down – but I don't know how books are disposed of in America – I do feel for you from the bottom of my heart in your difficulties with your patent – The fees are small but that must lead hundreds and thousands of people to take out patents that they could work for themselves, or persuade other people to work for them – But let me hope better things for yours.

Mr Whiting sent me the Times newspapers about the Test election as they appeared, and I used them for letters to the press – Others sent later – Yours I took with me to a meeting of the Effective voting League and I think it stirred them up to agitate for a similar test election through the press.

You sent me the pamphlet about Scholarships for working children – It is interesting – Laura Symon says that in spite of the longer holidays, she thinks American children learn more in the year than ours do because the classes are not so large and they are more individualised –

I read that Philadelphias schools are starved, and the classes are as large as here – There is no American system in the same sense as there is an Australian system –

But the tone of literature in America – all the accounts of self made men – tell us of hard work & long hours early years of them – As if these were good things in themselves.

Miss Bedford<sup>1637</sup> Miss Stirlings Queensland friend, says that State boys as well as the farmer's own sons and daughters are sweated in the dairy farms – Evidence of provisional teachers in Victoria slams the sordid drudgery life led. In one case, they milked 100 cows and got up at 4.30 and worked till 11 – all the family rather than pay for help – It was a comfortless place to board in – Well – I always

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<sup>1636</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.

<sup>1637</sup> Josephine Bedford emigrated from UK to Queensland in 1891. She worked for family welfare and impoverished children. She was a founding member of the Queensland Creche and Kindergarten Association and the Playground Association.

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write to you at great length. I sent you three weeks ago 6 copies of our Campaign pamphlet for distribution – I do hope my book will not be as much bother to you as your patent – You ought to get a commission for doing the work –

Ever yours  
Catherine Helen Spence

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[This list of Chapter headings accompanied the letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1909.]

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**PRG 88/7/107**

[North Norwood  
mid March 1909]

[The first page of this letter is missing]

I am also concerned about your health – The climate tries you I can see – You mention Stella Franklin<sup>1638</sup> so she is still with you.

When I read all through the December Labour Advocate<sup>1639</sup> I thought of you. The Womans Department was so very large a part of the No. It was most interesting – I liked the story – but it appears to me from the literature of the U S A that people educated at our Australian Schools speak far better English than theirs. My nephew John Murray holds stoutly to the opinion that Australian young people – working people – speak better English than other people of the same class in the world – the Americans do not misplace their Hs but almost every other vice in language they use – and a good ways and some wheres and anywheres you hear from the lips of quite educated people –

You will be interested in the fact that Mrs Morice sent to the Committee a letter from a State girl Myra Loveday whom she is interested in, and suggested her removal to a country situation, begging that she may be allowed to get music lessons to be paid for by her own money in Savings Bank and the Committee agreed unless her mistress objects. Unless her mistress gives her time to practise she cannot learn much – We agreed to let her try it for six months for she may tire of it – She has £11 or £12 compulsory savings.

I think I told you in my last letter that we were to have a conference here in the week beginning May 17<sup>th</sup>. We need another paid probation officer and there is one very well qualified at the Girls Reformatory – We propose her to begin at £80. Miss Cocks is to get £100. She has only had £80 - She is to be sent to the Melbourne Conference of Probation Officers March 27<sup>th</sup>. More and more do we appreciate the value of probation work. Miss F. D. Hill<sup>1640</sup> sent me report of a years work in Birmingham Children's Court – good work for no child has been sent to jail for two years but the probation work is too short– 9 weeks in one case cited - three months most frequent six months sometimes one case mentioned longer. Miss Cocks says that most cases need twelve months

We are again in the thick of the Effective Voting campaign. We have an office for this Show Week (cost 12/ and eight times as much for advertising) – Mrs Young is there from 10 to 5 each day with literature and explanations. The Aust Nat. League<sup>1641</sup> have Effective Voting as a subject for discussion and it is believed that it will go on their platform. If so, we may carry it this session, But we have got to raise

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<sup>1638</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

<sup>1639</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1640</sup> Florence Davenport Hill (1829-1919) was a daughter of Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham (1742-1872). She and her sister Rosamond, both workers for women and children, were cousins of Caroline Emily Clark. They visited Adelaide in 1873 and remained in contact with Miss Clark and Spence.

<sup>1641</sup> The Australasian National League was formed in 1891 to counteract the progress of socialism and later the formation of trade unions and undue Government interference in private enterprise.

£50 for propaganda for we must not slacken – A friend sent me a *Spectator*<sup>1642</sup> of 12 Dec to which I replied or rejoined to the paper itself and I took the opportunity of writing the enclosed with the book which includes Professor Jethro Browns<sup>1643</sup> information about Tasmania. I am invited to a meeting of the Womans Branch of Aust. Nat. League tomorrow afternoon and hope to have an opportunity for a ten minutes speech – I never saw Mrs Young in such high spirits about E. V.

Go ahead as the U S. A. is – it is behind the U K in such legislation as the Children's Bill and in the agitation for P R. Excessive localism and the division of parties – not on the broad grounds of Liberal and Conservative as in England or of Capital and Labour in Australia, but on what is called Republican and Democratic which each could be each of the others – is holding the U S A back. If I did not read *Charities and the Commons*<sup>1644</sup> I should feel despair about America. And yet it lays bare many sores in the body politic. The Pittsburg Survey<sup>1645</sup> is an awful revelation. People will not believe me when I speak of the slavery and the long hours of work. I passed that No to Mrs Morice – I enclose in the packet a letter the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> by Pat Morice – not his best but his last – His best I bought two extra copies of but I believe they have been cleared away – and I don't wonder – I live rather in a chaos of newspaper.

I also sent two reprints of Miss C H Thomson's<sup>1646</sup> article in *Cassells* which was reproduced in *Register*. She is coming back to Melbourne and writes to me to ask letters at the Cape and Albany but I have lost her letter, and I wrote to Mrs Gough last week to tell me the name and dates of the ship, and also to give me some idea of what she is coming back to – She left Melbourne because she could not make a living – I cannot offer her hospitality but I would meet her and try to show her round.

I have been exceptionally busy this last fortnight but am going to Mt Lofty next week from Monday to Saturday – Of course if we carry P. R. that branch of work will not need strenuous exertions but till it is passed we must not relax.

I shall not get to Melbourne or Sydney this year –

Reading the Womans side of the *Labour Advocate*<sup>1647</sup> it appears that skilled women think they should earn \$15 a week – set down dress at \$2 and laundry at about \$1 – In Australia women think they are well paid at £100 a year and certainly would not earn more than 25/ a week at factory work – Perhaps the output is more where machinery is most elaborate – but we are steadily losing a little every year on our clothing factory where the minimum wage for a worker of six years standing is 16/ a week – Justice Higgins<sup>1648</sup> will give his decision this week on the Broken Hill strike.

[Last page missing as Spence explains in her next letter.]

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<sup>1642</sup> *The Spectator*: a weekly paper of news and commentary, started in London in 1828 by Robert Stephen Rintoul and continuing till the present day.

<sup>1643</sup> William Jethro Brown (1868-1930), political thinker, academic and jurist. From 1906 to 1916 he was Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide. He had earlier taught in Tasmania.

<sup>1644</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1645</sup> The new name of *Charities and the Commons*.

<sup>1646</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She was co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist. She had published an article on 'Women Writers of Australia' in *Cassell's Magazine* in January 1909, and one on 'New Zealand Women Writers' in February.

<sup>1647</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1648</sup> Henry Bournes Higgins (1851-1929), federal politician and judge, was President of the Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Court.



**PRG 88/7/108**

North Norwood  
24<sup>th</sup> March /09

My dear Miss Henry

Elsie Spence posted my letter without the last page. It was not of much consequence but I kept it till now and now I cannot find it - it was not of any consequence really – but looking for it, I find Miss C Hay Thomsons<sup>1649</sup> letter which says she sails per Suevic in March and not in the Africk in Feby, which Mrs Gough<sup>1650</sup> assured me was the boat. She tried for the Afric but could not get a berth –

A fortnight after I had sent the book to you, I got some figures from the Chief Secretary<sup>1651</sup>, for which I had written ages ago – I copy them out on much lighter paper and keep his stiff document for reference here –

304 children were in registered homes on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1908  
ages – 5 under one month – 108 between one and twelve months

77 between 1 & 2 years; 44 in 3 & 4; - 16 between 4 & 5

Thus there are only 190 between birth and two years to compare with Miss Moules 142 – (for 114 are over her age)

19 children were removed from unsuitable homes

1 Prosecution foster mother fined. £1 on each of two charges and

£3.3 costs

54 Deaths occurred during the year including the case of 6 children removed who died at Royal Park within a few days

87 cases of Adoption

10 were thrown on the State because the mothers could not pay 10/ a week.

I am surprised there are not more, but the extraordinary number of adoptions is most suspicious. –

I at once wrote to Miss Murray asking questions

1<sup>st</sup>

Are foundling hospitals and maternity homes considered certificated and inspected by the department for it is evident Melbourne and suburbs and Ballarat and Bendigo must have a far greater number of such boarded out babies under two than 190?

2 Where children are adopted, does supervision and regular reporting cease?

For I

think she told me the adoption cases are the most difficult but are they outside the

registered homes -

-I think I asked some more questions, but I forget and as I only wrote on Saturday and this is Wednesday I cannot have a reply – I send this, and the conclusion of my last letter (if I can find it) by England 16 days before the mail goes by Vancouver – I think it will reach you earlier – I feel so much that I am giving you trouble by the book – and I cannot help it – Perhaps you think me too sanguine in saying it might be worth £40 or £50 – I really do not mind whether I get money for it or not – There is an article in Sept 19<sup>th</sup> Century<sup>1652</sup> which I only saw yesterday by

<sup>1649</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She was co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist. She had been overseas.

<sup>1650</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues.

<sup>1651</sup> Andrew Alexander Kirkpatrick (1848-1928), a member of the Legislative Council was Chief Secretary and Minister for Industry from 1905 to 1909.

<sup>1652</sup> *Nineteenth Century* was a British literary magazine founded in London in 1877. In 1901 the title was changed to *Nineteenth Century and After*. In 1950 it became *Twentieth Century*.

Frances Low on Orphanages most excellent – I want her to see my book – if I can get Mr Gray to part with one. What she says about the Foundling which is so much cracked up is very sad and very touching – and orphanages for girls with 20 servants to wait on them, and they to do nothing – and with only men on the committees which are under the thumb of the Matron – so stupid so wasteful and so cruel – I send you a leaflet of which we have printed 400.

Ever yours C H Spence

[These instructions accompanied the letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> March 1909.]

Instructions with regard to State Children in Australia for Miss Henry  
In original book there was no index to chapters.

I have altered the order of some of them – I compressed Chapters I and III into one Introductory – Chap I

I retained Miss Clark's Chap II as she wrote it. I wrote Chap III ~~but~~ anew only taking 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> pages of original Chap I as a beginning. This is I think necessary for American readers – to show how the six States stand -

I have cut down considerably more than I have added throughout the rest of the work. According to your advice, I have abridged the chapters about England Scotland Ireland and Canada – but it was necessary to speak about the English Children's Bill.

As you advised, I wrote a preface to American edition and Mr Gray agreed with me that to quote verbatim Mr Herbert Samuel's<sup>1653</sup> holograph letter to me would be a good advertisement – In fact I feel sure the book will sell – the original preface should follow.

I have added to the short account of work in the other States what I have been able to learn through repeated enquiries. Dr McKellar's<sup>1654</sup> [sic] was the fullest and the most satisfactory – but all six States now have Children's Courts and legislation for Infant Life Protection.

And I have cut out the Regulations which Miss Clark insisted on inserting. Every country can make its own regulations – but yet I do not think

[new page headed] Instructions 2  
the book is much shorter than the original –

I should like it to be sold at 25c equal to 1/ - in paper covers – a little more if bound – ours sold for 1/3 and 2/.

I should prefer a royalty to a sum down but I am quite sure it is worth money - Mr Gray would like some copies for the office and I should like some for myself.

I think the printing would look better if spaced more than the Adelaide edition.

Only the portraits of Miss Clark, and myself should be reproduced. The three Councils are only interesting to our own people and the Magill Reformatory has only local interest.

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<sup>1653</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.

<sup>1654</sup> Charles Kinnaird Mackellar, later Sir, (1844-1926), physician, politician and businessman. He was president of the State Children Relief Board (1902-1914) and worked for the establishment of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act (1905) which created Children's Courts and the probationary system.

**PRG 88/7/109**

North Norwood  
South Australia  
16<sup>th</sup> April 1909

My dear Miss Henry

First I want to ask you again what you have done with Mrs F Martins Old Roof Tree<sup>1655</sup>.

Second in answer to my questions Miss Madeline Murray sent the following reply dated 28th March

(1) Are Founding Hospitals regarded as registered homes

Answer No they are not so considered the 304 children up to five years old are in cottage homes only.

(2) Do we continue to visit Adoptions

Answer No - we visit once to get particulars as to home - adopting mother &c and report fully. Occasionally we may go again, if not quite satisfied - but under the I L P<sup>1656</sup> Act we have no power to visit adoptions, which I think is a calamity.

Adoptions to my mind want more attention at least for a time than any other class.

87 is the number of adoptions given but there are many more we never hear of. I am sure.

I wrote to you that I thought 194 under two very much too few compared with 142 under Miss Moule for Greater Adelaide. Of course we dont know how many are in foundling hospitals.

In spite of Dr Norris's<sup>1657</sup> conduct in not writing in answer to two letters I have put my pride in my pocket and have today written to him asking if the Board of Health supervises the Lying in Homes - and Foundling hospitals and also sounding him for a paper for our Conference on the subject of the Natural child.

The last letter of yours I have received is dated 14th Feby. I am glad you had a friendly rebellion and hope the new arrangement will hold rightly. I thought all your work and all your pay was from the Advocate<sup>1658</sup> but you say it takes half your time - We have had Mr Sinclair<sup>1659</sup> here for two Sundays exchange a very great treat. I asked him about Miss Von Petzwold<sup>1660</sup> [sic] whose likeness is in the book of the proceedings of the Boston Conference of 1907 which I have just borrowed and which I am reading with much interest - He would not call her beautiful - but she is eloquent.

He is going to stay a little longer in Melbourne as he has some hopes of improving the congregation - I wish he could get on to the press - He wrote an excellent letter on the problem of Prostitution to the Socialist which was sent me by

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<sup>1655</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously.

<sup>1656</sup> Infant Life Protection.

<sup>1657</sup> W. Perrin Norris, Chairman and Medical Inspector for the Board of Public Health in Victoria.

<sup>1658</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1659</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1660</sup> Gertrude von Petzold (1876-1952), German born minister of the Unitarian Church at Leicester in the UK. She spent 1908-1909 with a group of radical Unitarian women in America, before returning to England. She was deported to Germany in 1940 where she worked till her death.

Mrs Webster which I would send you - but I have promised it to our Dr Morris<sup>1661</sup> who ~~da~~ takes a deep interest in the matter. If we had got him instead of Mr Harris<sup>1662</sup>, he might have built up a strong Church but Mr Harris cannot - He is as much surprised as I am at Mr Harris's aloofness from all political and social questions -

My eldest great neice [sic] Jessie Handyside is engaged to a Mr Herbert Trude a mining engineer in W.A. and will be married in three months or less. He was over for nine days and I made his acquaintance. He is a fine fellow of suitable age and much interested in Effective Voting. I gave him some literature and he will distribute and advocate the cause. Mrs Young and Miss Hawkins<sup>1663</sup> are hopeful but I have had so many disappointments I cannot feel sanguine.

Yes I confess I was disappointed in *Days that Speak*<sup>1664</sup> though like you - I liked the children and the style - Both Crawford & Evelyn have withdrawn from the E.V. Committee.

I think it is since I wrote last that I met Miss Grace Watson and spent over an hour over her and gave her literature - I have converted to E. V. Mr Hogarth the organising sec of the A. N. L.<sup>1665</sup> here, very thoroughly, and also Muriel Farr<sup>1666</sup>, who organises the women. We see a good many meetings ahead - but we are short of funds for propaganda work -

I took Mr Sinclair<sup>1667</sup> who has been quartered on some of the most conservative people of the congregation, to the Morices one evening - when they all talked Socialism & Bernard Shaw to their heart's content. The Reids<sup>1668</sup> had given the young man such a bad account of the Adelaide congregation that he was agreeably surprised - his wife is in Auckland visiting her people. Lucy Morice has given up Quaeros<sup>1669</sup> letters but she wrote an odd one about the Pittsburg Survey<sup>1670</sup> &c which I sent her. I greatly value *Charity & the Commons*<sup>1671</sup> - which I now pay for - I suppose Vida Goldstein will send you the papers about the Conference of Probation officers but the reports in *Age* which are sent me are woefully meagre. When Miss Cocks returns this week - (she took her holiday in Melbourne) I shall hear more particulars - She has now an assistant - as she has more than 100 children under observation - besides many visits of enquiry for other cases for the Department -

<sup>1661</sup> Bedlington Howell Morris, medical officer to the State Children's Department.

<sup>1662</sup> Rev. Wilfred Harris MA, minister of the Unitarian Church in Adelaide.

<sup>1663</sup> Fanny Susanna Hawkins (1851-1942) arrived in Australia in 1865. She became one of the best known social and political worker in South Australia.

<sup>1664</sup> *Days that Speak: A Story of Australian Child Life* by Evelyn Goode, London, Ward, Lock, 1908. Evelyn Maria Goode (1877-1927), novelist, children's writer, pianist and public speaker was the wife of Crawford Vaughan (1874-1947), journalist, secretary of Single Tax League, member of United Labor party and later Premier of South Australia.

<sup>1665</sup> The Australasian National League was formed in 1891 to counteract the progress of socialism and later the formation of trade unions and undue Government interference in private enterprise.

<sup>1666</sup> Muriel Farr, teacher, reviewer, public speaker and campaigner for the organization of women voters, was the granddaughter of Archdeacon Farr, for 25 years head of St Peter's College, Adelaide,

<sup>1667</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1668</sup> Rev. John Reid, formerly minister of the Adelaide Unitarian Church, and his wife.

<sup>1669</sup> 'Quaero' was the name under which Lucy Morice wrote her 'Woman's View' column for the *Herald*.

<sup>1670</sup> The Pittsburg Survey was an investigation of living conditions in the Pennsylvania steel district conducted by the Charities Publication Committee, and reported in the January edition of *Charities and the Commons*.

<sup>1671</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

If the Advocate<sup>1672</sup> takes half your time only - are you working up your notes for your book on Defectives or are you acting as Mrs Raymond Robins<sup>1673</sup> secretary?

I shall try to take Miss C. H. Thomson<sup>1674</sup> about a little when she arrives here about the 20<sup>th</sup>. I hope Mrs Gough<sup>1675</sup> may be still in Melbourne and not off on her travels towards Toronto with Mrs Dobson - Neither Mrs Gough nor I have any idea how she can get press work in Melbourne -

My mind misgives me when I think that I have added to your work in giving you the trouble about the book. I don't suppose what I have sent today from Miss M M is available for the book, but I think you will be interested in the limitations to inspection -

We passed a resolution at the Council to ask the Govt for a Dentist to attend to the teeth of our 1300 children.

The only idea the foster mothers have is to have the teeth pulled - which is done for nothing - It will cost us £350 or £400 a year and something for outfit to have a dentist - and the Govt may jib at it, but Harriet Stirling suggested it a year ago and has persevered at it bravely - I like her tenacity much.

Mrs Young is well and little Courtney thriving. R. R. Garran<sup>1676</sup> in acknowledging 6 Annual Reports asked for 12 more to distribute which I sent as also news of my Century<sup>1677</sup> article. He says Nanson has not abandoned the Hare scheme for political elections - but he lectured on his new fad to the R C young men in the Cathedral Hall -

Mrs Molineux Parkes<sup>1678</sup> president of the Women's Liberal League in Sydney a Swede by birth died suddenly from hemorrhage in the brain recently. She was the one woman in N.S.W. who understood Effective Voting and could lecture on it - I wrote to the husband and he replied that they had had 21 years of happy life together - with similar tastes and opinions. No children so she had some time for public work - She was an ardent Free trader but did not go all the lengths of the Single Taxers -

I was at Miss Clark's last Sunday - It is sad to see a mind once so fine and clear so dishevelled and apprehensive. I think she is even more incapable than Mrs Spence and she is bad enough -

I dont know that I write as many pages as you do but I put more in the page - I send you Fisher's<sup>1679</sup> Policy Speech though probably you have it from other sources - Katie Martin is glad a Labour party is in power to protest against the Dreadnought<sup>1680</sup> craze and to stand upon the sound policy of providing for our own

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<sup>1672</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1673</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader. In 1905 she married Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1674</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She was co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist. She was returning from overseas.

<sup>1675</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues.

<sup>1676</sup> Robert Randolph Garran, later Sir (1867-1957), lawyer and public servant, son of Spence's friends, Andrew and Mary Garran.

<sup>1677</sup> *The Century* was an Adelaide paper which has not survived. Spence's article 'Effective voting. A national right' was reprinted as short pamphlet.

<sup>1678</sup> Spence's Sydney friend Hilma Parkes had married Charles Molyneux Parkes in 1888.

<sup>1679</sup> Andrew Fisher (1862-1928), miner and prominent Labor leader, was Prime Minister of Australia from November 1908 to June 1909..

<sup>1680</sup> *The Dreadnought* of the British Royal Navy was the first large warship to be powered by steam turbines. She was commissioned in 1906 and this sparked off a major naval arms race around the world.

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defence - I think the whole speech is bold and comprehensive. The Broken Hill lock out continues. John Darling<sup>1681</sup> has gone to England! He is the most unpopular man in Australia among the unions and those who sympathise with them.

Ever yours C.H. Spence

PS. I didnt look at the paper till I had finished my letter - My nephew<sup>1682</sup> is to be General Manager of the E & S Bank beginning 1<sup>st</sup> July - I think I shall go to Melbourne this year after all -

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<sup>1681</sup> John Darling, Chairman of BHP, had announced a wage cut of 12.5%. The consequent unrest amongst the workers resulted in a lock out.

<sup>1682</sup> Charles Wren.

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**PRG 88/7/110**

North Norwood  
6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May 1909

My dear Miss Henry

If I had known what you wrote me last I should have had the book typed and carefully corrected here before I sent it to you - It is so much cheaper here. Mrs Martin employed me, as she could not leave her husband to pay 35/- for typing a longer book, and it was excellently well done - Probably it would cost £5 in Chicago, but if you think it advisable, you should have it done and I will send you the money. As for a second edition - you will see that about a third is new or so compressed as to make it different, and quite as much is struck out - If you see too great difficulties send it back to me and I will have it typed here - I have long known that any copyright in America can only be obtained by having it printed in the U.S.A. but of course I could not have been expected to know that 50c was charged for an error -

The Conference to be opened on the 17<sup>th</sup> will be very important - Dr McKellar<sup>1683</sup> [sic] president of S C Board and also M L C (and with Mr Green the chief official) is coming to read a paper - The Heads of Dept in Victoria Queensland & W. A. are also coming but the Hobart man excuses himself. There will be also others none official interested in State children from all the States - proper reporters - and publication of proceedings. We have now our dentist installed at the Head office to care for the teeth of our 1,300 State children. This is mainly Miss Stirling's doing seconded by Dr Rogers- another member of Council - It is to Miss Stirling also that the Conference owes its initiation, for her enquiries in Queensland in N. S. W and in Vic. showed her that other states had much to learn - My paper on Homes rather than Institutions is to be given on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - I shall devote all the time I can spare next week to making it as comprehensive and as good as I can.

When I wrote that I thought the book was worth £40 Or £50 but that I should prefer a royalty of 2d or 3d I did not mean that you were to drive a hard bargain, because the money is not of half the importance that the circulation of the ideas and suggestions is, and I thought Herbert Samuel's<sup>1684</sup> letter quoted in my American preface would advertise the book, not only for experts, but for the general buying public. Perhaps too it is too big a book to sell for 25c or 1/- I am sorry to give you such a troublesome commission but you know that it was your own suggestion to bring the book out in the U. S. A.

The two ladies to whom I requested you send the Old Roof tree<sup>1685</sup> were Mrs Garrison of Lexington Mass. And Mrs C. G. Ames 12 Chestnut St Boston. Both these ladies admired both An Australian Girl and the Silent Sea very much - Fred Martin died on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April and was cremated two days after. He was worn to a skeleton and had the ghost of a whisper for a voice. I enclose a notice that was cut

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<sup>1683</sup> Charles Kinnaird Mackellar, later Sir, (1844-1926), physician, politician and businessman. He was president of the State Children Relief Board (1902-1914) and worked for the establishment of the Neglected Children and Juvenile Offenders Act (1905) which created Children's Courts and the probationary system.

<sup>1684</sup> Herbert Louis Samuel, later 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Samuel, (1870-1963), British Liberal politician and diplomat. As Under-Secretary of State from 1905 he pursued a social reform programme, putting through legislation on working hours, probation service and child welfare. He later became PostMaster General, Home Secretary and finally Leader of the Liberal Party.

<sup>1685</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. This novel by Catherine Martin was published anonymously. *An Australian Girl* and *The Silent Sea* were earlier novels by Catherine Martin.

down by the editor<sup>1686</sup>. I also enclose a slip that was inspired by a letter from Laura Symon from Mattoon on the comparative cost of living<sup>1687</sup> – which is the first thing I have had accepted for more than a year except a short paragraph a month ago – A very conservative sister –in-law of Mrs Martin's says the high cost of living in America is all due to the high wages demanded by all workers. – The Pittsburg Survey<sup>1688</sup> makes my blood boil – Mrs Martin is going to Mount Gambier, to stay with her two sisters for a time – I am half in hopes that Mr Quilty who is going to build a new house, more centrally situated in Norwood, may put up one extra bedroom and she might share my sittingroom (with Ellen Gregory when she is at home) – I think his plan might be modified, but it is only yesterday that she made up her mind to ask for it. She said she might have to go to Europe for data to finish up her various works – stopped for years by the supreme duty of caring for her husband – and that would be hard on the Quilrys – but yesterday she told me she thought she wanted to live with me very much – and it is what Fred would have liked for her future.

I had Miss Thomson<sup>1689</sup> for 2½ hours - all she had on shore - and I took her along North Terrace to see Govt House - Institute - Museum - Conservatorium - Picture Gallery - University - Exhibition - School of Mines - from the outside only. Then we had lunch together and talk and I took her in the new electric cars to North Adelaide terminus, and then back through town to the Kensington terminus a pause of two minutes - and back again - then we walked to the Railway station with a bag of Adelaide grapes - well within the time. The electric cars had not been extended to other routes, but we are coming in this week. She seemed in good spirits, and glad to be back. She has some British newspapers to write for, and hopes to get some journalistic work to do in Melbourne but needs something else to do - organizing - or selling on commission. She was sorry that Mrs Gough<sup>1690</sup> was either gone or going by the time she could arrive. She, Mrs Gough, has a commission to write for the Age from Toronto at 50/- the column - Vida Goldstein wants me to add my protest to hers to the proposition to strike out the word Suffrage from the title of the Standing Committee on Suffrage & the Rights of Citizenship which I have done, and the letter goes by this mail. Vida comes to our Conference which she takes on the way to West Australia -

The Election on the Hare system in Tasmania took place a week ago - and the result has been most satisfactory; - the E. V. League telegraphed our congratulations to Mr Douglas, Chief Returning Officer - and he replied to me by telegram - "The scrutiny for Denison (the only district with completed count) has proved the Hare system is simple effective and easily worked. The success of the system is complete and thoroughly justifies ~~the~~ your self denying labour in advocating it against strenuous opposition for so many years". Now that the results of all five electorates are completed the premier Evans<sup>1691</sup> though his treasurer was defeated

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<sup>1686</sup> Spence's obituary for Frederick Martin appeared in the *Register* 30 April 1909, p. 5c, and in the *Observer* 8 May 1909, p. 38a.

<sup>1687</sup> Spence's article 'Cost of Living. Australia compared with other countries' appeared in the *Register* 26 April 1909, p. 7a.

<sup>1688</sup> The Pittsburg Survey was an investigation of living conditions in the Pennsylvania steel district conducted by the Charities Publication Committee, and reported in the January edition of *Charities and the Commons*.

<sup>1689</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She was co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist. She was returning from overseas.

<sup>1690</sup> Evelyn Anna Walker Gough, née Rigg (1854-1931), born Canada, educated New Zealand, lived Melbourne. Widowed in 1892 she turned her attention to feminist issues.

<sup>1691</sup> John William Evans (1855-1943), politician and Premier of Tasmania from 1904 to 1909. He became the longest serving member in Tasmania, 1897-1937.



said at the declaration of the poll that he was perfectly satisfied with the Hare system of voting. Even those who had been the strongest opponents must admit that it was almost perfect in its operation. Never before in Tasmania had there been such opportunities given for the will of the people as a whole to be represented - This testimony is the more valuable because his colleague the Treasurer was defeated and the position of the ministry doubtful.

As for Labour instead of 7 members in a House of 35 it now has 12 out of the 30 who comprise the Chamber - Evidently the Nanson allotment of surplus worked smoothly. Prof Jethro Brown<sup>1692</sup> had some fears. This is an immense triumph - and we will work it for all it is worth - I only hope our Conservative friends will not shy off, but our Labour adversaries have got a bad slap in the face - Vida Goldstein suggested that I should write to Mr Watt<sup>1693</sup>, the Vic. Treasurer who supports the preferential vote in single electorates - showing him a more excellent way, but he replied politely enough that the P. V. will be sufficient for him. Mr Oldham R. O<sup>1694</sup> for the Commonwealth and Steinberg R. O. for W. A. conferred for days in Melbourne on the possibility of making the voting districts and methods the same for in W A for both federal and state elections, as they are in Tasmania, before they went together to Tasmania to watch proceedings. Mr Humphreys<sup>1695</sup> writes to me that the English Commission is sitting, that a Commission to enquire into electoral methods in the Dominion of Canada has been appointed, and suggests that Mr. Senator Vardon<sup>1696</sup> should be stirred up for a similar enquiry in the Commonwealth and that Mr Fowlds<sup>1697</sup> should be approached for New Zealand - South Africa has the Hare system in its constitution. Mrs Young undertook Senator Vardon and I wrote to Fowlds Min. of Ed. in N.Z. A simultaneous enquiry from all English speaking conservatives [?] except U.S.A. might wake up the Great Republic, which needs the reform more than they all - Alfred Denton Cridge<sup>1698</sup> writes to me that the Oregon legislature has turned down P R but U'Ren<sup>1699</sup> is going to work for it afresh through the Initiative.

Mrs Young and Miss Hawkins<sup>1700</sup> are in the highest spirits and even I feel more hopeful than I have felt for many years.

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<sup>1692</sup> William Jethro Brown (1868-1930), political thinker, academic and jurist. From 1906 to 1916 he was Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide. He had earlier taught in Tasmania.

<sup>1693</sup> William Alexander Watt (1871-1946), grain merchant and politician, treasurer in the Victorian Legislative Assembly 1909-1912, later Premier, later still Federal politician.

<sup>1694</sup> Returning Officer.

<sup>1695</sup> John H. Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England from 1904 to 1946, was for many years a writer on Proportional Representation, elections and constitutional reform.

<sup>1696</sup> Joseph Vardon (1843-1913), printer and politician, sometime president of the Effective voting League

<sup>1697</sup> George Fowlds, later Sir (1860-1934), New Zealand clothier, university administrator, community leader and politician. He was Minister of Education and Minister of Public Health in the New Zealand Parliament 1906-1909 and Minister for Immigration and Customs 1909-1911.

<sup>1698</sup> Alfred Denton Cridge was the son of Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco. Cridge had married Annie Denton, a spiritualist, and Spence now corresponded with their son, Alfred Denton Cridge.

<sup>1699</sup> William S. U'Ren, from 1908 until 1914, led the Oregon proportionalists who secured by means of an 'Initiative' an amendment to the Oregon constitution.

<sup>1700</sup> Fanny Susanna Hawkins (1851-1942) arrived in Australia in 1865. She became one of the best known social and political worker in South Australia.

Finally do the best you can about my book. If necessary get it typed in Chicago but if you think it would be improved by the results of the Conference send it back to me. If not too late put in about the dentist - It is more than 9 weeks since I sent the book to you so I may hope to hear soon that you have got it - I think you are wise to stay in America  
Goodbye.

Yours ever  
C H Spence

**PRG 88/7/111**

North Norwood  
5<sup>th</sup> June 1909

My dear Miss Henry

I had hoped to be able to send you at least the leaflet of the Resolutions passed by the Congress which were all that could be wished but they are not to hand and only half of the verbatim report of the whole proceedings are in type - The Register is printing 1000 copies for £30 - It cost £30 for the shorthand reports of discussions & debates for the written papers did not need to be reported - I fancy there will be as much in the report as in my little book - We paid £45 for 1500 copies the money being subscribed - but 400 of them were in cloth - You did not enclose me a copy of your circular which cost \$3 a thousand but I think it would cost much less here.

If I had known of the necessity for typing I should have had the whole typed and carefully corrected because I think the interpolations in the printed book are worse written than the M S sheets - However the matter is in your hands - And I will repay you what it costs for typing if you send me a note of the amount.

The Congress was so important in the matter of seeking uniformity of methods in all six States that I feel convinced that a supplementary chapter would be most valuable - This might contain an abstract with the pith of the papers & discussions and the resolutions - I shall set about it as soon as I have the report - I am to get three one in cloth and two in paper and so will each of the delegates, ~~which~~ including all the members of the S A State Children's Council - Many will be given to M P.s and people known to be interested at home and abroad - but the rest will be sold at 6d. I may buy 30 or 40 to send to friends -

I think that the proposal at the Washington Conference<sup>1701</sup> for a Childrens Bureau gives the first idea of some uniformity in the U S A - and in my paper I mentioned that in the report of that Conference there was the first suggestion for Boarding Out with public funds if private funds could not do it all - the Minority report of the Poor Law Commission first showed me that only the 1800 children B O outside the Unions had the protection of Ladies Committees and competent Inspectresses and that the 6000 B O within the Unions were placed out for cheapness, and only supervised by Relieving Officers whose standard of comfort was that of the poorest labourers children. The minority report also showed the great difficulties in obtaining good foster homes for so great a number of children as need them.

Australia however and U. S. A. also & I may add Canada can embrace the whole numbers and not the mere fringe of them as England does now - I attribute the lack of English foster homes to the landlessness of the people mainly -

When Dean Latham<sup>1702</sup> of Perth spoke of the admirable management of the girls orphanage there under a good and religious matron (Anglican) I asked how many were there - He said 100 and he thought that was as many as should be in an institution - Mr Green<sup>1703</sup> of N S W asked how many such institutions should they need for 8000 children - 80 would be rather expensive. After hearing what Mr Green and others said about subsidising children with their own mothers I voted for it - all the more because the Destitute Boards recommendation to give fuel to the poor in addition to rations had been protested agst by the paid officers. Chairman - as it was

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<sup>1701</sup> The White House Conference on Children and Youth was first held in Washington in 1909, and thereafter every ten years.

<sup>1702</sup> Very Rev. H. G. D. Latham, Anglican Dean of Perth.

<sup>1703</sup> Mr Alfred W. Green was the Boarding Out Officer of the New South Wales State Children's Relief Department.

unnecessary it had not been asked for!! and charitable people and organisations gave the poor wood -

If we subsidised widows and deserted wives we could keep them up to the mark just as strictly as the foster mothers - The Queensland Sec. a new man only 5 months in office said the 600 children with their mothers were not so well cared for as the 600 with strangers - and I have heard the same with regard to the 2000 odd in N S W and the 1000 in Victoria - but the probation officers work in improving homes where delinquent children are may be paralleled where the children are not delinquent - Two days ago I saw the boy whom Miss Cocks found in bed at nearly 10 o'clock who had asked his mother for the newspaper and to keep his breakfast hot for him - He is now 16 and came for a recommendation for a place. Miss Cocks has kept touch with him - all these years and recommends him as truthful honest and a capital worker - the new officer, Miss Kentish<sup>1704</sup>, who helps Miss Cocks, says the probation work grows more interesting every day - Several of the delegates went round with Miss Moule to see the foster mothers & babies - Vida Goldstein and Mrs Gover W A went one rather wet afternoon with her. Vida prolonged her visit for a week which she spent with Lucy Morice. Mrs Crompton<sup>1705</sup> took her one day to see her sister Miss Clark and fortunately it was one of Miss C's good days and both of them enjoyed the interview. Vida is to leave for Melbourne by this afternoon's express.

The letter Stella Franklin<sup>1706</sup> wrote for the Herald I sent on with a note of my own but my Herald will not come in time to see if it appears. The death of Tom Price<sup>1707</sup> this week has brought on a political crisis here. It was a Lab Lib ministry and the Lab party having the larger following demands the premiership - which Mr Peake<sup>1708</sup> who has done the Premiers work as well as his own for the six months during which Price was in England as well as for the longer time he has been incapacitated by illness refuses to serve under an untried man - so he is trying to form a ministry of his own - the smallest party of the three - the Democratic Liberal - and the names are announced today - He has not attempted to pull with the Conservatives - as Deakin<sup>1709</sup> has done. Of course when he meets Parliament five weeks hence there will be a no confidence motion - and we shall see what results. We Effective Voters think that our cause will be strengthened - whatever comes of it.

The Tasmanian elections went off splendidly - Not a hitch the fractions were dealt with by a mechanical device - the informal votes were few and all parties are satisfied - I spent an evening at Mrs Youngs with Mr Stenberg<sup>1710</sup> R O for W A who watched the proceedings and thoroughly approved of them but a still more important testimony was that of Mr McMaster a defeated candidate who was a delegate from Tasmania. He had taken the unpopular side in an education muddle and failed to get a quota but there was nothing against the Hare system - The people got the candidates they wanted - 39 per cent of the votes were for Labour and it got 40 per

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<sup>1704</sup> Alice Martha Kentish was appointed as a second probation officer in April 1909.

<sup>1705</sup> Susan Mary Crompton née Clark (1845-1940), wife of Joseph Crompton, was 20 years younger than her sister Caroline Emily Clark, whom she replaced on the State Children's Council.

<sup>1706</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

<sup>1707</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier.

<sup>1708</sup> Archibald Henry Peake (1859-1920), clerk, auctioneer, conservative politician. He became Premier of South Australia after the death of Tom Price.

<sup>1709</sup> Alfred Deakin (1859-1919), Victorian and Federal Parliamentarian, second Prime Minister of Australia.

<sup>1710</sup> E. G. Stenberg, Chief Electoral Officer in Perth, Western Australia.

cent of the representation 12 in a House of 30 – Formerly, it had only 7 in a House of 35. Even the Melbourne Argus in a leader said the present representation was fair - But none of the Labour press or leaders will acknowledge that the Hare system had anything to do with their victory - We have had some good meetings all round the suburbs lately and great interest aroused. We took 105 votes at St Peters Town Hall near here on Tuesday - All the old questions about complexity and time taken in counting votes can be answered now by the experience of Tasmania. At Hobart 19,000 votes were counted surplusages fractions and everything complete in 14 hours - It took much longer to count 20,000 votes for this district of Torrens three years ago - Of course 100 votes counted before an audience explaining every step of the process takes a much longer time than when counting is the only business - And the votes were divided into No. 1 votes at the district polling places - There were however 120 separate counts - which Nanson thinks too many. His rigid [?] scheme would only need 30 but R M Johnston<sup>1711</sup> of Tasmania gives a crushing criticism of the Professors Substitute in the Mercury<sup>1712</sup> - I must confess I was annoyed at Nanson's article on the Tasmanian elections being one half occupied with the other project as better - and why because it needed more votes to return a man in the metropolitan district than in the rural - I think that is quite right because it needs less effort for people to go to the poll and also that the producing interests are of more import than the manufacturing and distributing.

Tom Price was a grand man - who raised himself by ability industry and integrity. He had a state funeral and from political friends and opponents from the highest and the lowest in the land there poured out to his widow and family expressions of sincere regret and sympathy - His wife was a brave and patient helpmate, and their seven children are said to be the best brought up family in S. A. I think three sons are at work and will now be the stay of the family - but the girls are also capable though I think they are younger.

I am going on the 12<sup>th</sup> to the marriage of a young cousin of the third generation. Gertrude Stow whose grandfather was a journalist for many years and afterwards a Stipendiary magistrate married to my cousin. On the 29 I am going to the marriage of my eldest grand neice [sic] Jessie Handyside aged 38 who is to be married to a mining engineer of W A aged 48 - a very fine fellow - and I think she will be very happy - but she must live in W A - in a suburb of Perth -

Charles Wren goes to Melbourne on 1<sup>st</sup> July to take office as General Manager. The family will follow soon after and Eleanor will come to Adelaide straight for her long promised visit. Next week I am to sit as the oldest of four generations in collateral line - There is myself - Madge Murray who is over from Melbourne - Jean Handyside Bradshaw and the baby boy - Madge has the post office at Armadale - Your Madge or Madeline Murray came to see me there - We had Mr Smith<sup>1713</sup> at the conference - Whether he [learned?] much or not is doubtful. I was much pleased with Mr Alfred Clarke's<sup>1714</sup> account of the work of his volunteer probation officers - He has put his whole soul into it. I never spent so happy a week all through in my life and Mrs Crompton says the same. Mr Gray stood the fatigue better than I expected - Things went all so well that his spirits rose and sustained him - Our dentist is fully engaged on our children's teeth. He will be able to save a great many that would have been sacrificed -

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<sup>1711</sup> Robert M Johnston, Government Statistician and Registrar General, Hobart.

<sup>1712</sup> *The Mercury*, published in Hobart, founded in 1854, is Tasmania's daily newspaper.

<sup>1713</sup> Thomas Smith, secretary of the Neglected Children and Reformatory School in Melbourne.

<sup>1714</sup> Alfred Clarke, Chief Probation Officer in Melbourne.

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Charities and the Commons<sup>1715</sup> under the new name of the Survey wants more subscribers, but I cannot tout for them - I think it a most valuable production and read it dutifully - and quote it often.

Well I must close - Tell Miss Franklin that I very nearly protested agst the par myself and wrote to the Editor so - I hope she is in better health - I am sorry the Chicago climate is trying to both of you - Believe me

Always yours affectionately  
C.H.Spence

Mrs F Martin feels just as desolate at Mount Gambier as in the cottage at Hackney - I wish she could have made up her mind to live with me. Mr Quilty would have built a ~~new~~ room for her in the house he is putting up but Europe and especially Italy seems to call her - and she does not love Australia as you and I do.

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<sup>1715</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

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**PRG 88/7/112**

North Norwood  
23<sup>rd</sup> June 1909

My dear Miss Henry

I had two letters from you dated 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May delivered the same day by the Vancouver mail - I see you meant to send my book to Appletons<sup>1716</sup> the end of May. I hope you may get a favourable answer - I had hoped to have had the report to send you by this odd mail via San Francisco but I have only got the Resolutions which will show you what a strong desire there was for uniformity of legislation and administration for the six states of the Commonwealth - I also enclose a cutting from today's newspaper about the S Cs Advancement fund<sup>1717</sup> -

Mrs Young and I are over head and heel at work about Effective Voting. She is taking long journeys and arousing much interest in country centres - but at the town & suburban meetings I can help - Last week she went to Laura 150 miles returned by Clare 90. This week - on Monday she went to Payneham 3 miles while I took a smaller meeting at Glenelg preparatory to a big meeting in Town Hall. Last night we both went to Prospect at the back of North Adelaide and on Friday we both go to Hindmarsh on the Port Road - Next week we go to West Adelaide on Monday - On Tuesday Jessie Handysides wedding day I go with Mrs Young to a big meeting at Glenelg - On Wednesday she takes a country round Yongala 160 Mannanarie 169 Tarcowie 179 Red Hill 124!!! We are arousing a great deal of interest and even enthusiasm - Collections are taken up at the country places for expenses but the town & suburban districts give nothing and you may guess it costs a lot for advertising printing and postage stamps - Somehow we have as yet been able to meet expenses - I have myself given over £8 during the last twelve months - I feel afraid Mrs Young may break down as to voice and strength but she is so full of zeal -

What do you think I was charged for binding State Children in Australia for my great neice<sup>1718</sup> [sic]. I wanted it better done than what I had for her sister which cost 7/6 - and sent a pattern - It is 16/6 - !! but looks well. I have sent it with a point lace collar but no one will imagine how much the binding cost -

My friend Mr Petherick<sup>1719</sup> has at last got the Commonwealth to accept his collection of Australian books pamphlets &c and appoint him librarian at £500 a year. He will be a good librarian and the collection is in many ways unique -

C Wren goes to Melbourne on 1st July as General Manager of the E S & A Bank and his family follow soon after. The London Directors wish him to live in Collins St above the Bank so they can have no garden - I don't think they like the Melbourne winter climate but I hope Eleanor who feels it most will come to Adelaide in the cold weather - My landlord is building a new house and there will be a lot of sorting out and burning of papers when I flit - At present the Wrens are having a severe sorting out of things that are worth taking to Melbourne - I have a letter from

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<sup>1716</sup> New York Publishers.

<sup>1717</sup> The *Register*, 23 June 1909 p. 11e, explains that a fund administered by the State Children's Council was to be raised from private donations with the object of helping educate wards of the State more effectively.

<sup>1718</sup> A wedding present for Jessie Handyside.

<sup>1719</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917) worked in Melbourne for George Robertson's bookselling and publishing business and became their London representative. Spence stayed with him and his wife when she was in England in 1894 and was greatly concerned when he faced bankruptcy. His magnificent collection of Australiana eventually became part of the National Library of Australia.

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Miss Thomson<sup>1720</sup> that I must answer at once - She wants me as a referee as to her qualifications for such work as you did for Ward & Locke. I dare say she is competent - but a street behind you - I have tried hard to keep up miscellaneous correspondence but sometimes it falls behind as you have experienced when work presses - I have an enormous amount of family letters to write -

Let me know what you pay for the typing and I will refund. Mrs Martin is 300 miles away at Mt Gambier and trying to take up the threads of work again - which she finds very hard.

Never was any womans memory more tenacious or the love of family more strong - Three brothers died at long intervals and everything was black to her. And she had long bouts of insomnia. But this is the worst blow of all.

This is a short letter - but I shall write again by Vancouver when I hope to send you the full report. I shall send it also to other friends in the U. S. A.

Ever yours  
C H Spence

Elizabeth<sup>1721</sup> is the editor Geoffrey Burgoyne himself - Mrs Morice spoke to him about the suffragettes and found him very unsympathetic. He never noticed the letter from Chicago in the Herald but he told Lucy he had been much annoyed with it.

When Lucy said he should have acknowledged that the Hare system had brought Labour such triumphs in Tasmania he said that if it had not been for the Hare system the party would have returned several more members - and to tell the truth Mr Hogarth organising sec to the Aust Nat League<sup>1722</sup> said the same thing - He is a strong P R man but he fears his League is disposed towards single electorates - which is hopeless for P. R. - I may send you last issue of Representation with the evidence before the English Committee - I have pared my manifesto of which you wanted another copy to let it go with this.

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<sup>1720</sup> Catherine Hay Thomson had been principal of Queen's College, Ballarat and later opened a school in Melbourne. She was co-proprietor of the *Sun* and after that merged with *Arena* she became a literary agent, and investigative journalist.

<sup>1721</sup> 'Elizabeth' wrote a column in the *Herald*.

<sup>1722</sup> The Australasian National League was formed in 1891 to counteract the progress of socialism and later the formation of trade unions and undue Government interference in private enterprise.



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**PRG 88/7/113**

North Norwood  
3<sup>rd</sup> July [1909]

My dear Miss Henry

Still there is no printed report out to send you - though it cannot be long delayed now - I will have to send it and my digest via England as soon as it can be obtained -

Vida Goldstein when she was here started a branch of the Womens Political Association of Victoria and I am asked to preside at the Inaugural Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Miss Tomkinson brought me out the articles of Association and sat with me yesterday talking an hour and a half - She is much the better for her trip which extended to 16 months six of these she was studying in her beloved School of Economics - The neuritis in her right arm is much better but she writes with her left - She returned after our Congress was over which she regrets -

Mrs Young is on a hard campaign for Effective Voting and we have a by election for some one to take Price's<sup>1723</sup> seat in my district of Torrens - We have a political crisis which will end in a dissolution and we are keeping Effective Voting very much before the public -

On three consecutive evenings Mrs Young has addressed big meetings in Northern townships 100 - 125 - 160 miles from Adelaide. She comes home today.

Next week are some suburban meetings which I can go to and help but later she has another distant round.

I hope she will stand the hard work.

Mrs Morice is much interested in the W. P. A. Pat is doing very well in business and his boss says he is very efficient - I was afraid he was so strong with the spirit of journalism that he would not take to business at all - but he is watching the 'Rings' [?] and the 'honorable understandings' which exist even in Australia with journalistic keenness - If he wrote a better hand he would do better but his brain is good enough -

I was at the marriage of my eldest neice [sic] 38 to a very fine man from W A of 48 - on Tuesday - I think Jessie Handyside Trude will be very happy. Her husband is a better tempered man than her father - Mrs F Martin is taking up sadly some of her old work in the quiet of Mount Gambier

Always yours in love C H Spence

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<sup>1723</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier. He had recently died.

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**PRG 88/7/114**

North Norwood  
7<sup>th</sup> July [1909]

My dear Miss Henry

You will have to get ~~this~~ the MS sent separately typed, because I see that my address printed from my MS is full of errors - while the others which were typewritten are comparatively free from them - I would have it done here but cannot in the time - But I will pay all the cost - I think I would scarcely have gone at such length in my second chapter of MS sent previously if I had known what use I could make of this Congress report - But I feel that this abstract which I have worked at for two long days, will make an invaluable postscript or appendix to the American edition - I send you the book with some corrections - I have had only two days to read and work it up - I go tonight to an Effective Voting meeting - Mrs Young was most successful in a country trip - three townships - no end of travelling but so much appreciation. The political situation is very mixed - A by election to replace Mr Price<sup>1724</sup> ended in a majority of 114 instead of 3000 at the last contest for the Labour party - Perhaps the Labour people will see some savour in Proportional Representation now - I send this via England with the book.

If you can get a publisher at all dont mind about money. I can live without it - but Effective Voting at present needs more than I can well spare.

Yours in all love      C H Spence

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<sup>1724</sup> Thomas Price (1852-1909), stonemason, lay preacher and temperance reformer, member of Parliament 1893-1909. He was South Australia's first Labor Premier. He had recently died.

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**PRG 88/7/115**

North Norwood  
5<sup>th</sup> August [1909]

My dear Miss Henry

I write to tell you that after five days in bed, I got up yesterday and felt all right. I had to send you the P.O.O.<sup>1725</sup> and so had to make a shift to write something -

Mrs Young has been working hard and is in hopes for the Bill - We are to have a newspaper ballot this month both dailies have consented - and we hope to have them joined by the country papers - That did great good in England -

I think I will go to Melbourne for a short visit soon. Mr Petherick & his wife<sup>1726</sup> are making a deed of gift of the Australasian Library which has been the work of his lifetime and they want me to witness her signature - the sudden death of the Speaker Sir Frederick Holder<sup>1727</sup> causes some delay but I think things are sufficiently in train - Mr Petherick gets the Federal Librarianship at £500 a year which was the condition of the gift - I know the library and I know how Mrs Petherick saved it in 1894 by giving up her furniture and living in lodgings for years. This is why he makes it a joint gift.

It was a great subject of discussion when I was their guest in 1894 -

I think Mr Petherick has all my books in the library - and he says he has all I have written but when I see the volumes of press cuttings I have I know that a great deal of my very best work was given to the daily press - that ephemeral channel.

I agree with you that it is an infinite pity that the Women of the U. K. have to oppose a ministry so progressive as the present. In fact it makes me in a measure out of sympathy with them -

Lucy Morice has been to see me every other day. Barr Smith<sup>1728</sup> has given a block of land with £1000 for a Kindergarten school and training college. Peter Waite<sup>1729</sup> a rich pastoralist will give £1000 for building and if it is not enough Barr Smith will supplement it - Lucy is in high spirits about it - Barr Smith will give nothing now for Effective Voting. He says we have worked hard and have effected nothing - We think we have effected a good deal.

I was up yesterday and had a visit from my great neice [sic] Jessie Handyside and her husband Herbert Trude - They go home to Perth today after having their honey moon in Queensland - I think she will be happy and make him so - The move to the new house<sup>1730</sup> will take place in my absence - It will be a move for the better - Our tramways are a wonderful on the five lines that have been opened a great deal better than the promoters expected - and it is a Municipal trust which the City and Suburban municipalities will soon take over, for the increase of traffic wherever the electric system is installed is phenomenal - I am glad I was in the fight for public

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<sup>1725</sup> Post Office Order.

<sup>1726</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917), bookseller, publisher, bibliographer and book collector. He married Mary Agnes Skeats née Annead in 1892.

<sup>1727</sup> Sir Frederick William Holder KCMG (1850-1909), schoolmaster, Methodist preacher and editor, first speaker of the House of Representatives, formerly Treasurer and Premier of the South Australian Parliament.

<sup>1728</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), businessman, philanthropist and public benefactor. Most notably he gave £25,400 to the University of Adelaide including £9,000 for the Barr Smith Library, and £10,000 to the Anglican Church to complete the spires of St Peter's Cathedral.

<sup>1729</sup> Peter Waite (1834-1922), South Australian pastoralist and public benefactor. His most noteworthy gifts were the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, now the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, and Urrbrae House and estate.

<sup>1730</sup> Spence was moving from North Norwood to the new house Mr Quilty had built in Queen Street Norwood.

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ownership 7 or 8 years ago - Pat Morice is to have a rise and a bonus. He is giving his bosses satisfaction - I shall bring Eleanor Wren back with me - The family are all at the Bank and have secured three maids - Of course the washing will be put out. C Wren wants to improve the Melbourne Victorian business as he increased that in N S W. I am glad you are now near the Lloyds - also that Dr Holmes has built so fine a summer residence.

Always Yours C H Spence

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**PRG 88/7/116**

E & S Bank  
Collins Street [Melbourne]  
[c. 28 August 1909]

My dear Miss Henry

I have come to Melbourne earlier than I intended because Mr & Mrs Petherick<sup>1731</sup> who were so kind to me in London in 1894 want me to witness their signatures to a Deed of Gift to the Aust. Commonwealth of the Petherick Collection of books pamphlets &c on Australasia and Polynesia the work of a lifetime - It was delayed on account of the sudden death of the Speaker of the H O R<sup>1732</sup> Sir Frederick Holder<sup>1733</sup> who had made the agreement but now Sir Albert Gould<sup>1734</sup> President of the Senate will carry it out - and I hope the matter will be carried out on Wednesday next - Mr Petherick is to have a post as Librarian and Archivist - but the collection is a gift - The Age says it is worth £10,000. It is not to be taken to the new federal capital but located where it will be accessible to most of the people especially to Students - and as Sydney has the Mitchell Library - Melbourne is the location naturally preferred<sup>1735</sup> - Mrs Wren Eleanor and myself dined at the Pethericks in Princes St St Kilda on Thursday - and found Mrs Petherick well enough to be up and enjoying the evening - 15 years ago we said goodbye at Dover on my homeward through Italy. She came to Melbourne because her doctor said she could not live through an other London winter but this Melbourne winter has been exceptionally wet if not exceptionally cold. I had an experience coming over. There were seven or eight washaways between Murtoa where our train stuck<sup>1736</sup> and Stawell where the Adelaide bound train stuck from Friday at 3 a m till Sunday at 10.10 a m. and very very cautiously we went over the temporarily repaired lines - the worst one the Wimmera bridge at Glenorchy - I was rather sorry to lose nearly three days of a short visit, but we got our meals at the Railway Hotel and the 19 boudoir passengers had their beds provided though the others suffered more - We were a very good humoured lot of people were photographed and got up an entertainment for the benefit of the Local Band [?] which helped -

But I was very glad to arrive safely and to be met by Eleanor my neice [sic] Madge Murray and Mr Petherick. Vida Goldstein came in the evening and I gave her two missives from Lucy Morice - She has engaged me to explain to her Assn on Monday 6th Sept how to make the Preferential Vote an Effective Vote. She has since sent me a German Professor of Phil. and Jur. Alfred [Mauer?] who will be in Adelaide when I am here who wants information about Dependent Children and Labour conditions and who also is interested in P R. but approves of the Belgian conditions of 1 ballot for an adult man 2 for a married man older - 3 for education or property - Still he sees the advantages of P R.

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<sup>1731</sup> Edward Augustus Petherick (1847-1917), bookseller, publisher, bibliographer and book collector. He married Mary Agnes Skeats née Annead in 1892.

<sup>1732</sup> House of Representatives

<sup>1733</sup> Sir Frederick William Holder KCMG (1850-1909), schoolmaster, Methodist preacher and editor, first speaker of the House of Representatives, formerly Treasurer and Premier of the South Australian Parliament.

<sup>1734</sup> Sir Albert John Gould (1847-1930), lawyer and politician, New South Wales Senator 1901 to 1917.

<sup>1735</sup> In 1911 the Petherick Collection formed the basis of the Australiana collection in the National Library of Australia in Canberra.

<sup>1736</sup> The downpour which washed away the bridge over the Wimmera at Murtoa took place on Thursday 19 August 1909.

The ballot slip I enclose will show you the work Mrs Young is doing in my absence - We want if possible to push the Bill through this session as most of our pledged labour members are not bound beyond this parliament and are inclined to rat - because they think the party stronger under the block vote - I must be back in Adelaide for the demonstration on the 15th - I have told the German professor to go to Mrs Young for P. R. and to Mr Gray for Dependent Children. He is very intelligent but more conservative than Vida Goldstein likes - Prof Nanson came to see me, but our talk was interrupted by Mrs & Miss Duerdin<sup>1737</sup>, so I am going to lunch at the University today to meet Mr Bowditch<sup>1738</sup> and hope we shall not quarrel - It is deplorable that Nanson should have brought forward a different system ~~when~~ just before Tasmania had proved the simplicity & certainty of the Hare method -

I find this house above the Bank spacious, but dark and rather cold - Lots of room in landing places and corridors - 52 steps up to the dining & drawingroom floor and 33 up to the bedrooms - the lift does not always work and does not go all the way. But it is not noisy or dusty at all - and it is really very artistic - the Wrens brought three fourths of their furniture and all their books. There is a great deal of Bank furniture but they have room for all they brought -

Tom Watson<sup>1739</sup> Clerk of Parliament has been very ill for a month and though he is improving progress is very very slow - and for sometime Nelly was with her sister at Elsternwick most of the day - Never was there so wet a winter in Melbourne or Adelaide - I did not think I could get into the train as the Magill Road was flooded but I managed to do so and Lucy Morice congratulated me on all my troubles being over - not thinking of floods further on - Did I tell you last letter that Mr Barr Smith<sup>1740</sup> has given £1000 for land in Franklin St better situated than the present site to build a new Free Kindergarten & College on and Mr Peter Waite<sup>1741</sup> a wealthy sheep owner promising £1000 for the building and if that is not enough Barr Smith will supplement it - Lucy is so pleased - The original K G was in two old low lying insanitary cottages - There has been a strong K G movement for Brisbane at the Jubilee celebrations - and in Sydney & Melbourne continued progress is made - I have not yet seen your brother or his wife but shall do so soon I hope -

I must have told you that Mr Quilty is building a new house in Queen St Norwood - The moving will be over before I return - I had to clear out two clothes baskets full of letters papers pamphlets &c which I thought need not be taken over - in many cases with some regret - I have been five years with the Quilrys and shall probably die in their hands.

I arrived in time to see Miss Rose Scott who had been in Melbourne for a month on a visit to her nephew Helenus<sup>1742</sup>, otherwise Nene, Wallace who is with a company here. She looks very well indeed - Miss Annie L Miller from Lincoln

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<sup>1737</sup> Mrs George Duerdin was a Victorian woman interested in epilepsy, with whom Spence stayed in 1908.

<sup>1738</sup> William Lamprey Bowditch (c.1850-1917), Victorian clergyman and teacher of mathematics, an earnest worker for proportional representation whom Spence had met in Melbourne in May 1900.

<sup>1739</sup> Thomas Greenlees Watson (1859-1912) was the husband of Kathleen Florence Watson, née Hall, sister of Mrs Charles Wren (Nelly).

<sup>1740</sup> Robert Barr Smith (1824-1915), businessman, philanthropist and public benefactor. Most notably he gave £25,400 to the University of Adelaide including £9,000 for the Barr Smith Library, and £10,000 to the Anglican Church to complete the spires of St Peter's Cathedral.

<sup>1741</sup> Peter Waite (1834-1922), South Australian pastoralist and public benefactor. His most noteworthy gifts were the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, now the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, and Urrbrae House and estate.

<sup>1742</sup> Helenus Hope Scott Wallace, known as Nene, (1888-1925) was adopted into Rose Scott's family when his mother, Scott's sister Augusta, died when he was two.

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Nebraska will delivered a letter of introduction here and we had a talk about you and other interesting topics - but I shall see her in Adelaide.

Sunday afternoon - I was at the Unitarian Church with Eleanor. Next Sunday I am going to the 4 o'clock Bible class and see the 24 young people Mr Sinclair<sup>1743</sup> has won over - have tea with the class and stay over evening service - He has done a good deal in the face of great difficulties - I was glad to find that Mr. H. G. Turner appreciates his efforts.

I say nothing about my book - It is in your hands when you can find time to give to it - I hope you got my P. O. O. for \$8 -

How is Stella Franklin?<sup>1744</sup>

Ever yours affectionately  
C.H. Spence

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<sup>1743</sup> Frederick Sinclair MA. (1881-1954), Unitarian minister, pacifist, socialist and radical thinker. He was minister of the Eastern Hill Unitarian Church in Melbourne 1907-1911.

<sup>1744</sup> Stella Maria Sarah Miles Franklin (1879-1954), Australian journalist, feminist and author. She lived for a time with Alice Henry and undertook secretarial and editorial work for Henry for the National Women's Trade Union League.

**PRG 88/7/117**

New Address

Queen St  
Norwood  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 1909

My dear Miss Henry

I am glad that you feel the importance of the Adelaide Conference and that you at once sent it to be typed so that it might make a concluding chapter for the American edition of the little book.

I shall send your brother 5/ which he gave me for the Jennings Carmichael boys<sup>1745</sup> as part payment for the typing -

I sent the report to the 'Survey'<sup>1746</sup> with a letter from myself and Mr Kellog<sup>1747</sup> wrote back that he thought it important and had put it into the hands of an expert for review so I hope you and I will see it soon - I told Mr Kellog that I had written a summary of proceedings which I hoped would be included in the American book.

I hope that now you may be able to find a publisher - because this concluding chapter hits the nail on the head - for bringing into line the different States of a Commonwealth - of a Dominion or of a Republic with regard to dependent and delinquent and deficient children.

Mr Whiting writes to me from London that he is surprised that the S. A. people voted for subsidising widows and deserted wives - because we have always withstood the idea and because it is difficult to administer - I am going to reply that we have found the homes of children on probation have been so steadily improved that we may hope to supervise the subsidised homes where children are left with their own mothers in the same way.

I have heard that the visitors and inspectors say these are the poorest homes - but that they cannot be so strict with them as with strangers - partly because the subsidy is smaller and partly from sentimental reasons but I think we have learned that laxity is not real kindness and that the mother as well as the foster mother needs to be kept up to the mark. And I feel that rations that cost Govt 1/3 a week is a most inadequate way of providing for our young citizens who have no father to work for them -

We are still in the work of giving old age pensions. S. A. has far the fewest in comparison to population of all the states but W. A. which has fewest aged people. Most of the old folk in the town & suburbs have got the money but in the country districts there are a great many still in process of verification. Not one old age pensioner here has been taken up for being drunk - one old fellow spent his 40/ in three days and went back to the Destitute Asylum. The pension ceases when admitted to D. A, to Hospital or Lunatic Asylum - but may be revived when the old person goes back into the world - About 50 of our 250 old men have applied successfully but only 6 of our 120 old women - Most of them say they cannot do so well on 10/ a week outside - Unless they have a home to go to with friends - if they

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<sup>1745</sup> Grace Jennings Carmichael (Mrs Francis Mullis) (1867-1904), a well-known Australian poet, died impoverished in England. C. Hay Thomson found her three sons, aged 7, 10 and 13, in a workhouse in Northampton and pleaded for the establishment of a fund to bring them back to Australia.

<sup>1746</sup> *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1747</sup> Paul U. Kellogg, sometimes Kellogg, (1879-1958), journalist in the field of social work journalism, assistant editor of *Charities and the Commons*, and later editor of the *Survey*.



have to pay rent for a room and pay for all they need - food fuel clothes they would not be so comfortable - Some old people find it hard to get references as to character or indeed existence so far back - One old man told me he had been 30 years ago employed by Mr Hawker of Bungaree<sup>1748</sup> but he was dead - I said he has seven sons. Oh but Mr George was the only one who knew him and he was dead - But I said Mr W L Beare<sup>1749</sup> the manager was still alive - Oh he had left before I went to Bungaree and Mr Noble took his place and he is dead - These old knockabout hands have their difficulties too in proving their age and in certifying as to character -

Still on the whole it is a great boon - only it has tended to raise rents - especially rents of a single room or of two rooms -

I am reading a book by a Syracuse Professor James Roscoe Day<sup>1750</sup> *The Raid on Prosperity* - defending Rockefeller and the Standard Oil - asserting that without great wealth and strong associations of rich men the mighty works railways &c of America never could have been accomplished and saying that the attacks on them are spiteful and unfounded on facts - and most mischievous -

He has more to say in their favour than I thought could be said - And he asserts that that [sic] the American working man has had a rise in wages quite equivalent to the rise in accumulated wealth. But the foreign immigrant he does not mention - It is the foreigner who is sweated - As Laura Symon my cousin says she never sees the American day labourer and her son says all that work is done by Dagos - Lucy Morice was rather disappointed by the *Trail of the Immigrant*<sup>1751</sup> for it took the opposite view to Wells<sup>1752</sup> who thinks it is a peril to draw so much population from inferior South European races. Like the enthusiastic school teacher Wells speaks of the author of the *Trail of the Immigrant* thinks America is strong enough to tackle them all and Americanise the children if not the parents.

I am much afraid our Proportional Representation Bill will again be talked out - And thus the fight must be continued and Mrs Young is not able to go on. She must let her daughter Freda go on with her studies - after two years nearly of housework - the first year on account of the baby the second chiefly on account of the strenuous campaign - We very much want we three women to go into the back ground if we could only get men to take it up. But our three best men speakers are now attached to the Labour party and when they advocated it is with provision for the broadening of the L. C.<sup>1753</sup> franchise or the redistribution of districts so as to give Labour greater advantages -

I see in France that the Govt would not bring forward P R because administrative reform should come first but it is on the single electorate that administrative abuses have hung. The prefet & sous prefets are all election agents for the ministerial party. The need of France is to reduce the number and the cost of functionaries - but the interests of the ministry are in favour of their continuance.

We had an interesting discussion at the Women's non party Political Assn on Equal Pay for Equal Work - One of our speakers said that in New York State

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<sup>1748</sup> George Charles Hawker (1818-1895), grazier and later politician, settled at Bungaree, 140 km. north of Adelaide, which became a famous sheep station. In 1854 he brought John Noble from England to be his overseer. Noble served the family for nearly 60 years.

<sup>1749</sup> William Loose Beare (1826-1910) was one of the original band of colonists of the South Australian Company who reached Kangaroo Island on July 27 1836. He managed the station at Bungaree from 1856 until the early 1870s when John Noble took over.

<sup>1750</sup> James Roscoe Day (1848-1923) published *The Raid on Prosperity* in New York in 1907.

<sup>1751</sup> Alfred Edward Steiner (1866-1956) published *On the Trail of the Immigrant* in New York in 1906.

<sup>1752</sup>, Herbert George Wells (1866-1946) had published *The Future in America* in New York and London in 1906.

<sup>1753</sup> Legislative Council.

teachers were paid equally and it was hoped for in Chicago - Another said that in the English cotton mills pay was equal - in the woollen mills it was different - and during bad times the men were kept on and the women turned off in the cotton mills while in the woollen the cheaper women were kept on and the men dismissed.

Miss Tomkinson has come back to Adelaide but soon after she went to the eastern states with a young neice [sic] - Queensland N. S. W and Victoria by sea - She was much impressed with Queensland - it was her first visit there.

She found Miss Scott most violent agst the suffragettes and her visit there was an unpleasant experience as there was a Mrs Hamilton<sup>1754</sup> there and they were two against one. They said that the suffragettes had injured the cause of suffrage - now Miss Tomkinson was in touch with them and says that the cause has been immensely strengthened by the militant women not only in numbers but in funds and in organisation - The Pethick Lawrences<sup>1755</sup> seem to be somewhat like your Mr & Mrs Raymond Robins<sup>1756</sup> - in aim and united action - Of course like you and I Miss Tomkinson regrets that they have to oppose a Liberal Govt who have brought forward such a measure as the new Budget but they put womans suffrage before everything - as Mrs Young and I at this crisis put Effective Voting and have voted for conservatives who support it rather than Labour men who oppose it -

Miss Tomkinson is the organising Sec of the Womans Assn her sister May is Treasurer. I hope it is going to be a live movement, and not fizzle out -

We are having a Bill containing some of our resolutions going through Parliament.

Upper House has passed it with one modification which I think a mistake - that is to exempt religious and charitable institutions from inspection of infants. This is at the instigation of the R C Archbishop<sup>1757</sup> - He has taken umbrage at our suggestion that a weak minded priest should not live at the Girls Reformatory at ~~the~~ ~~Burra~~ St Johns<sup>1758</sup> near Kapunda and will close the Ref at St Johns on the last day of Oct - and we must take it on ourselves - We have got on so well with the R Cs up to now that we are very sorry about this -

Lucy Morice was rather run down but I think she is better for a week in the Hills -

I am writing against time. Eleanor is not with me but on a visit of a fortnight or more to some of her oldest friends - I am well but not so sure of myself as I have been -

Miss Clark is in a sad state mentally but her general health is good.

Yours in haste  
C H Spence

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<sup>1754</sup> Alice Hamilton, née Scott, was Rose Scott's youngest sister.

<sup>1755</sup> Frederick William Lawrence (1871-1961), later English Labour politician and worker for woman suffrage married Emmeline Pethick (1867-1954), socialist and campaigner for women's rights, in 1901. They adopted the surname Pethick-Lawrence and worked together for many years.

<sup>1756</sup> Margaret Robins née Dreier (1868-1945), US social reformer and labor leader and Raymond Robins (1873-1954), Congregational minister, social reformer, politician and diplomat. They married in 1905 and worked together committed to exposing corruption in Chicago.

<sup>1757</sup> Rev. John O'Reilly D. D.

<sup>1758</sup> An Industrial Home for Girls.

**PRG 88/7/118**

Queen St Norwood S Australia  
20<sup>th</sup> Novr 1909

My dear Miss Henry

I have written to Mrs Garrison to express my sympathy with her in the loss of her good husband - I heard of it from the "San Francisco Star" which said he died at Brookline - But I think that is a mistake for they moved to Lexington years ago - It is a great loss to the cause of Justice Peace and Progress - for he was a good fighter - and ready with voice and pen to champion the right.

I sent 5/ postal note to your brother and had a cordial acknowledgment - My niece [sic] Eleanor Wren is still here but she will go back before Christmas. She is now at Mrs Morices - I have been several times not so well - recently - arising I think, from the abdominal growth - which I suppose has formed attachments that occasionally if overtired - or from vibration in railway travelling are strained and cause sickness - and I cannot be quite so sure of myself as I used to be - My doctor says I should slack off a little - but thinks I may go on with State Children and Destitute Board and of course Effective Voting - but no evening meetings of Non-Party Womens Political Assn. - or School for Mothers or Kindergarten - Lucy Morices three things which are in the evenings - I am glad to think these can go on well without me and that there are so many younger women capable and public spirited.

I feel rather anxious to hear of something being done about the American edition of State Children in Australia - It is a long time since I hurried up to finish it - though certainly what I sent in July the abstract of the conference proceedings was a valuable chapter - which ought not to be omitted -

How the book will strike a business publisher of course I cannot tell - I have just mailed three dollars to the Survey<sup>1759</sup> and written that I have not yet seen any notice of the Report Conference on Neglected Children which Mr Kellog<sup>1760</sup> told me he had put in the hands of an expert for Review -

Yesterday I had from you The Convention<sup>1761</sup> and a sheet of La Follette<sup>1762</sup> with portrait and of Judge Lindsay and a sketch of the subject of his autobiographical work the Jungle and the Beast<sup>1763</sup> - that surely will create some sensation in Everybodys<sup>1764</sup> - Lucy Morice is I think to have that -

In the Convention the rate of wages all round seems to our Australian eyes very high - but I suppose the cost of living is much greater - I mean in the organised trades where the Unions are strong -

I read the other day that Great Britain imports three millions of umbrellas from the U S and - and, our protectionist paper the Advertiser in a leader today says

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<sup>1759</sup> *The Survey* was the new name for *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1760</sup> Paul U. Kellog, sometimes Kellogg, (1879-1958), journalist in the field of social work journalism, assistant editor of *Charities and the Commons*, and later editor of the *Survey*.

<sup>1761</sup> Proceedings of the second biennial Convention of the National Women's Trade Union League of America held in Chicago in 1909.

<sup>1762</sup> Robert Marion La Follette (1855-1925) United States political leader and Senator with his wife Belle La Follette (1851-1939) founded *La Follette's Weekly Magazine* in 1909. The paper campaigned for women's suffrage, racial equality and other progressive causes.

<sup>1763</sup> *The Beast* by Benjamin Barr Lindsey and Harvey Jerrold O'Higgins, published in New York by Doubleday, Page & Co in 1910, was an account of the struggle for judicial reform in Denver, Colorado.

<sup>1764</sup> *Everybody's Magazine*, 1899-1929, an American publication, was concerned with social justice and the exposure of corruption.

American exports now only 27 per cent in agricultural produce - corn & meat and about twice as much of manufactured goods - minerals including gold and other non agricultural things accounting for the rest - This being due to the inventiveness and the application of machinery of the very best kind to all manufacturing processes.

When a lady commercial traveller<sup>1765</sup> told me that at Lucas & Co s Ballarat they had tuckers that did three and five tucks at once I saw that they could undersell Adelaide houses who had only one but in the 'Convention' I read of ten tucks - and what watchfulness it needs to see that all ten needles go right -

We are not going to get the Proportional Representation Bill passed this session. The Labour party do not want it and it is being stonewalled and talked out - We could not get the Premier to take it up as a Govt measure in which case it would have been carried - He may take it up if at the general election in March he is again at the head of affairs -As a private Bill I feel that no Electoral reform can be carried - the debate in the French Chamber last May showed that and a debate in the N. Z. Parliament on a Bill for a modification of the preferential vote in single electorates proved the same thing. The party in power desires no change - We must try to reorganise the Effective Voting League, and get some men into it - I think the Labour Party will lose far more seats than under P. R. They might lose one - that is they would lose 4 in the metropolitan area - but would certainly gain three in the country under the Hare system - but now when the Liberals will put up candidates against them they cannot sweep the polls as they did with the help of the Liberals at the last two general elections - there was the ordinary election then next year a dissolution on the franchise question for the Upper House, and nearly four years ago the Liberals again voted with them - They could have glorified themselves as I wrote to every supporter of the party from Sydney by passing the P. R. Bill - but only one vouchsafed a reply, and he made the excuse that under P R fewer would come to the poll than now -

I have this week received the detailed report of the elections in Tasmania accounting for every vote given in the five electorates - In Denison there were 16 candidates for 6 seats - that necessitated a great many counts as each was eliminated - there were two small surpluses which required going over the votes of each to find the fractional value - and yet with 11,300 votes all the work was done in 11 hours and results made known - No other district took so long 9 hours was the most by the Application of Fullers Spiral Rule<sup>1766</sup>, the fractions were dealt with - ~~But~~ So you see that all the fuss about complexity and length of time for the scrutiny are just nonsense.

My cousin Mrs Laura Stow Symon lives in Mattoon Illinois where Stow her eldest son 23 is Chief Clerk on Ill Central station there. Her younger son Keith 20 arrived from West Australia in August and he has got a billet on the I.C. in Chicago - not as high a salary as he had in W A but excellent for a start in a new country - Stow Symon wants to be moved to Chicago or even New York - for Mattoon is a small place - and yet the houses they live in are 1060 - Or 980 - as if there were streets of some length. Harriman<sup>1767</sup> was Stow Symon's boss - I wonder if his death will change his prospects -

We are suffering from a strike of coal miners which threatens every industry in the Commonwealth but there are hopes of a settlement -

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<sup>1765</sup> Matilda Louise Clennell, later Thompson, (1871-1959), business woman and philanthropist, first woman travelling saleswoman She worked for E. Lucas & Co, women's clothing manufacturer in Ballarat.

<sup>1766</sup> The spiral slide rule was invented to increase the length of the scale, and hence the accuracy, of the conventional slide rule.

<sup>1767</sup> Edward Henry Harriman (1848-1909), American financier and railway magnate.

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The Financial agreement of 25/ a head to be paid to the States has passed both Houses - The transfer of the Northern Territory has passed Representatives and will pass the Senate - We are going to have a bumper harvest - and a grand vintage - Australia has had a great deal of rain - I never recollect such a November in S A for rain. We have had nearly two inches falling on six or seven days. If it were not for reading the Survey I should feel pretty hopeless about reform in the U. S. A. - but there are thousands of workers - Still the daily press in America avoids vital subjects and it is the daily press that leads public opinion.

I meant to write a short letter but here I go on -

I went to see Miss Clark last Wednesday - It is deplorable to see her so changed - so restless and unhappy dissatisfied - and apprehensive -

Mrs Holden<sup>1768</sup> retires because she is 70. We have appointed Miss Bessie Price<sup>1769</sup> who has been doing rescue work for five years and who knows all about the class of girls - Indeed she has seen so many of our failures that she knows more about Redruth than perhaps Mrs Holden herself - The Archbishop<sup>1770</sup> took umbrage at the suggestion that a weak minded priest shd not be a permanent resident at the R C Girls Reformatory at St Johns Kapunda that he has given up the girls altogether and they go to Redruth with a R C attendant - It was very hard to get a R C wardswoman - That kind of work is always done by nurses but I hope this young woman will do - Miss Price was the brightest girl of my Girls Literary Society brimming over with humour - I have known her for nearly 20 years - Mrs Holden has been more than 21 years with us and that she is an excellent woman but too easily got round by pious talk and too confiding - But she had love and hope for the girls and did a great deal of excellent work -

Believe me always yours in love  
C H Spence

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<sup>1768</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden was the matron in charge of the Redruth reformatory. The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls in the former gaol at Burra.

<sup>1769</sup> Elizabeth Annie Price was the new Matron of the Redruth Reformatory.

<sup>1770</sup> Rev. John O'Reilly D. D., Roman Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide.

**PRG 88/7/119**

Queen St Norwood  
18<sup>th</sup> Dec 1909

My dear Miss Henry

In your last letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> Octr you say you are sending a 'Public'<sup>1771</sup> about a P. R election held or about to be held in America the first on record - but I have not yet received the 'Public'. I presume it is a municipal election - and probably in Colorado - for it is not possible in Oregon till they have another referendum.

I enclose a letter<sup>1772</sup> written to both our dailies first dealing with the Tasmanian elections of April 29<sup>th</sup> of which I had received at last the detailed report most perfect and complete - and the recent municipal elections in Pretoria and Johannesburg which Mr Humphreys<sup>1773</sup> Hon Sec to the English P R League went to organise or aid in organising - and he sent me 7 papers (daily) dealing with the subject - I also enclose you a passage in the Foreign Situation ~~written~~ or compiled from Home papers by Mr Young - which shows how strong the movement is in France - Also the first part of an article on Public Speaking by Women<sup>1774</sup> which has appeared in the Register. I thought the second part would have been in todays paper but it is delayed. This was written by request and will be paid for at the rate of 21/ a column - and is I suppose the last of the series. I sent a proof to Vida Goldstein - she asked me for a telegram to help her in her defence of the Suffragettes which I wired at once and afterwards wrote somewhat more guardedly - for I cannot say I like all the things they do - But their treatment as criminals under the most degrading conditions when as British citizens they only wanted consideration of their claims justified the extreme measures they took - that was my wire -

I had your notice of The Old Roof Tree<sup>1775</sup> in the Public but I have not heard what you did with the book -

I wrote to Mrs Garrison a month ago - I saw the death in the San Francisco Star but no particulars -

Mr Tyson<sup>1776</sup> in his contribution to the Equity Series says that he has had a serious illness and resigns the Hon Sec and Treasurership hoping that the League will select Mr Hoag<sup>1777</sup> of Boston to succeed him - I should prefer the headquarters to be more central in N. York or Chicago but Toronto was really not the place for the whole of America.

Now with regard to the Report of the Conference - You say you will make an abstract of it for my book. Have you forgotten that I made one and sent it to you for the purpose and that you at once sent that to be typed? I have paid your brother the

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<sup>1771</sup> *The Public*: A journey [sic] of democracy, a weekly published in Chicago 1898-1919. Edited by Louis Freeland Post (1849-1928) 1898-1913, and by his wife Alice Thacker Post 1914-1919.

<sup>1772</sup> 'Effective Voting in Municipal Elections', a letter by Catherine Helen Spence, in *Register* 2 December 1909, p. 10c.

<sup>1773</sup> John H. Humphreys, secretary of the Proportional Representation Society in England from 1904 to 1946, was for many years a writer on Proportional Representation, elections and constitutional reform.

<sup>1774</sup> The two articles by C. H. Spence, 'The Art of Public Speaking. The Woman Speaker. Reminiscences and Comparisons', appeared in the *Register* 11 December 1909 p. 15ab and 25 December 1909 p. 8gh.

<sup>1775</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. A novel by Catherine Martin.

<sup>1776</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1777</sup> Clarence Gilbert Hoag, born 1873, became a leading advocate for proportional representation in America.

5/ on your account that he gave for the Jennings Carmichael boys<sup>1778</sup> - as part payment for the typing. And the Survey<sup>1779</sup> people told me they had put the Conference Report into the hands of an expert for review, but I have seen nothing of it yet - But I knew you had no time to spare, and I worked very hard to make the abstract to send off on 8<sup>th</sup> July - hoping that I was not too late to get it in as a concluding chapter of the book - My abstract would be far too long for the Survey and if their Expert did not think the thing worth doing they are not likely to want one from you.

Last month I think I wrote that our P R Bill would be talked out - It is possible that the fusion<sup>1780</sup> Cabinet may make it a Govt measure after the March elections but I have had too many disappointments to say it is probable - Anyhow we cannot keep up the hard propaganda work of the last twelve months - Mr Young a month ago had to call in the doctor who said he was suffering from inflammation of the kidneys nephritis - really Brights disease but fortunately without complications - neither the eyes nor the heart seems to be affected - He got 6 weeks leave of absence and was confined to bed lying on his back for three weeks absolutely - This last week he is allowed to sit up a few hours each day - His doctor a German probably Polish from the name - von Lukovitz<sup>1781</sup> [sic]- hopes to patch him up for some years but the disease is incurable -

He has been a much more docile patient than I expected - If he can live to see the three older children started in life it will be a good thing. Courtney Spence Young is 2¼ 13 years younger than Blakeney who may get a scholarship - Freda wants to be a doctor and she is trying for a scholarship - she is 18 - The eldest boy after 18 months of journalism has gone to the School of Mines (engineering) for one year or two - at his own request and also the desire of both parents. Even if he goes in for journalism this will be of advantage to him - Pat Morice has the same taste for journalism but a few years at business will be good for him - Lindsay Young was getting 40/ a week on the Renmark Pioneer<sup>1782</sup> - Mr Young was always most extravagant in books and has no business faculty at all. I think there is a £500 insurance policy - He is second on the staff of Advertiser and has £6.10 a week - and they cannot afford to have a domestic - But a washer woman comes for half a day weekly - The ironing is done by Mrs Young and Freda. Freda hopes she has got through in Latin - which she failed in two years ago but she passed in five subjects and so got her Senior - but Latin is Compulsory for University -

We have got our State Children Amendment Bill through - substantially - much more has passed through both Houses than either Mr Gray or I expected - and it is greatly due to the Conference - Illegitimate babies are to be inspected till they are seven - We need a coadjuter for Miss Moule - We also need another clerk as the records are thereby increased - We are asking for an additional inspector - a woman to travel - It will be two women and one man - so that we may give surprise visits -

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<sup>1778</sup> Grace Jennings Carmichael (Mrs Francis Mullis) (1867-1904), a well-known Australian poet, died impoverished in England. C. Hay Thomson found her three sons, aged 7, 10 and 13, in a workhouse in Northampton and pleaded for the establishment of a fund to bring them back to Australia.

<sup>1779</sup> The new name of *Charities*: a weekly review of local and general philanthropy 1897-1952, published in East Stroudsburg Pennsylvania. From November 1905 it was called *Charities and the Commons*, and from April 1909 *The Survey*.

<sup>1780</sup> A coalition of several parties.

<sup>1781</sup> Max Carl Marcell von Lukowitz, medical practitioner in Adelaide.

<sup>1782</sup> A weekly newspaper established in 1892. It is now published twice a week as the *Murray Pioneer*. Renmark is a town on the River Murray 250 km north of Adelaide.

and see offered homes before placing children in them. ~~Altogether~~ Mrs Holden<sup>1783</sup> had to retire at the age of 70 and we have got Miss Bessie Price<sup>1784</sup> installed at Redruth - the most competent woman for the work in the State - the Archbishop<sup>1785</sup> unwisely quarrelled with the S C Council and would no longer keep the R C Reformatory girls at St Johns Kapunda so the 11 girls went up on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov along with a R C wardswoman - The new matron Miss Price and the R C travelling nurse who declined to go as wardswoman to Redruth -

I must congratulate you on your Convention<sup>1786</sup>. You sent me two copies of the reports - of course not full ['complete' has been added above 'full'] but most interesting -

The coal strike is a most serious thing and it is lasting long - You will hear of its settlement I hope before you receive this - I think Wade<sup>1787</sup> is incompetent to deal with such a big thing -

Eleanor is still here and means to stay till 6<sup>th</sup> Jany. It will be nearly four months absence from home -

Dr Bickle<sup>1788</sup> has returned and says he had not time to make the enquiries about the boys in the workhouse and our Adelaide people are again applying to Miss Thomson [?] -

Lucy Morice is up to her eyes in negotiations for uniting with the Ed Dept in the training of Kindergarten students - so that Kindergarten subjects proper should be taught by K experts and other subjects by the university -

We think we can make better terms now than before or after -

I must conclude to catch the mail - I posted a letter and cuttings to Mr Tyson yesterday.

Believe me always  
Yours affectionately  
C H Spence

I hope you have got the switch to your bedroom - I feel for the fatigue and loss of time rushing up and down two flights of stairs.

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<sup>1783</sup> Mary Elizabeth Holden had been the matron in charge of the Redruth reformatory. The State Children's Council ran a reformatory for Protestant girls in the former gaol at Burra. The girls from the Roman Catholic Industrial Home for Girls at Kapunda were moved to Redruth.

<sup>1784</sup> Elizabeth Annie Price was the new Matron of the Redruth Reformatory.

<sup>1785</sup> Rev. John O'Reilly D. D., Roman Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide.

<sup>1786</sup> Proceedings of the second biennial Convention of the National Women's Trade Union League of America held in Chicago in 1909.

<sup>1787</sup> Sir Charles Gregory Wade (1863-1922), lawyer, from 1907 Premier of New South Wales, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Although he introduced many reforms he was not a skilled politician.

<sup>1788</sup> Leonard Watkins Bickle, medical practitioner in Adelaide.



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**PRG88 7/120**

Queen St Norwood  
28<sup>th</sup> Jany 1910

My dear Miss Henry

I must have unwittingly missed a Vancouver mail but there is an odd San Francisco mail going tomorrow which I can take advantage of - I am glad to hear that you have tried my book at McMillans<sup>1789</sup> [sic] but it will be beyond my expectations if it is taken by the first publisher - What you say about Mrs Holmes younger boy is extremely sad<sup>1790</sup> - and must be a great trial to his parents. And Mrs Holmes does not forget me - I cannot forget the first American hospitality I received or the wonderful sympathy we had with each other's ideals and convictions.

I am sending in separate packet the complete article on Women as Public Speakers<sup>1791</sup> - two copies - one for yourself, and one for Mrs Spencer<sup>1792</sup>, whose address I do not know - because I mention her - I got by mistake 20 slips of the first instalment, and only 10 of the second - The first is the longer and the more important - I got £2./6 for 69 inches - How does that compare with rates in the U. S. A - I think I sent you the first half not the second - so if you have a spare slip, you might give it to Mrs Holmes. I hope Miss Scott will not be hurt because I mention Mrs Parkes as well as herself - I have not heard from her since I wrote with the slips -

I am sorry about Dr Fishbourne's<sup>1793</sup> illness and the bereavement of your good friend Mrs Nimnes [?] - Has not your sister in law her acquaintance so that she could report on how she is bearing it?

My domestic news is sad. My sister in law Mrs J B Spence after seven years gradual decay of faculty, had a sort of collapse two days after she had been moved to Mount Lofty for the three summer months, and has had two trained nurses in constant attendance since the 24th Dec - I was up for four days last week - I think she knew me but never named me - I did not think she had very long to live when I came home on Saturday, but Jim & Lucy Morice were summoned there on Tuesday evening, and they did not think she could live through the night - But so far as I know she is still alive, but may go at any moment - suffers no pain - but sleeps almost constantly - Her neice [sic] Louie Galloway had broken down so much and suffered so from sciatica and rheumatism that she sailed in the ~~end of Nov~~ beginning of Decr for Europe, and when she reached Marseilles she would hear that her aunt Mrs William Murray<sup>1794</sup> had died suddenly of heart failure - leaving a husband who has lost his memory and who depended on her for everything - though he was not so feeble as Mrs Spence

We have had no particulars yet -

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<sup>1789</sup> Macmillan publishers.

<sup>1790</sup> Ralph Holmes, son of Dr and Mrs Bayard Holmes, suffered from schizophrenia.

<sup>1791</sup> The two articles by C. H. Spence, 'The Art of Public Speaking. The Woman Speaker. Reminiscences and Comparisons', appeared in the *Register* 11 December 1909 p. 15ab and 25 December 1909 p. 8gh.

<sup>1792</sup> Anna Garlin Spencer (1851-1931), American educator, feminist and Unitarian minister. She was president of the Children's Section of the Charities and Correction Congress which Spence attended in Chicago in 1893. They continued friends.

<sup>1793</sup> John William Yorke Fishbourne (1843-1911), Victorian medical practitioner, pioneer of both residential and day care for the mentally ill, critic of Victoria's mental institutions.

<sup>1794</sup> Helen Morrison Murray, née Cumming, who had married William McIntosh Murray in 1857, was a sister of Jessie Spence, wife of John Brodie Spence, and of Louisa Ferguson Galloway. Louie Galloway was niece to Mrs Murray and Mrs Spence.

I suppose when Mrs Spence dies, everything will be divided amongst her three daughters - I think there will be £300 a year for each of them, and I also think they will continue the £50 a year which my brother and his widow allowed me - I am rich with £150 a year, but would be poor with only the A M P annuity of £100 - For instance the Effective Voting costs me £10 a year and the Unitarian Church not much less besides personal exertions for both - It would be terrible to be unable to give towards Church Charity and Causes -

I have not yet seen *Some everyday people and Dawn*<sup>1795</sup>. I am afraid to read it for fear I should not like it -

I thought *My Brilliant Career* clever but unpleasant and the notices I have seen are very half hearted - of the new book I mean - I was disappointed with Evelyn Vaughans book<sup>1796</sup> - there were no bones in it - nothing to take hold of - I am reading Mrs Oliphants<sup>1797</sup> Autobiography - profoundly sad - She did not think well enough of her own work. I know my novels are not to be compared with hers, but I am always satisfied with my lectures and my journalistic work -

But it has had this effect - I have yesterday began[sic] an autobiographic sketch of my own life - I still have my memory - I cannot tell how long I shall have it, and I hope I may keep at this till I bring it down to date.

Mrs Oliphant always suffered from shyness - I did not after I was quite grown up - Do you recollect when Mrs Joss [?] who had made a reputation for herself by writing a dozen of novels and a volume of poetry, could not stand up in a meeting of ladies even to say I second that motion for a vote of thanks?

And I think that my literary lectures and leading to discussions, and my sermons and my P R lectures and demonstrations gave me a personal influence which the mere writer cannot obtain - I love Mrs Oliphant and think her range of subjects was vast and varied - I can read her novels again and again. Some of her heroines are more living persons to me than my own - (She says that of her own experience). But as a factor in the development of my own province of South Australia and indeed of the Commonwealth, I count for more than she did - I suppose I could not have sunk to be a mere provincial, if I had not emigrated at 13½ but I have had more opportunities in S Australia than I could have had in Scotland.

I think of you on the other hand enlarging your scope by leaving the Melbourne Argus for the Chicago Labour Advocate<sup>1798</sup> - If there was anything that could have tempted me to leave Australia it was America - Issues there seemed so vast - and needs so great -

I had a letter today from Mr Hoag<sup>1799</sup> who takes Mr Tyson's place as Hon. Sec. of the American P R Society. He wants the Tasmanian Act, and the report of the 1909 election. I could not send him the Act but I sent the report, which is the more valuable.

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<sup>1795</sup> *Some everyday folk and Dawn*, a novel by Miles Franklin, published in Edinburgh and London, 1909, by William Blackwood & Sons. *My Brilliant Career*, her first novel, had been published in 1901.

<sup>1796</sup> *Days that Speak. A Story of Australian Child Life*, by Evelyn Goode, London, Ward, Lock, 1908. Spence had liked the book better when she first met it.

<sup>1797</sup> Margaret Oliphant Oliphant (1828-1897), Scottish novelist and historical writer, born like Spence in East Lothian. She produced over 120 separate works. *Her Autobiography and Letters* appeared posthumously in 1899.

<sup>1798</sup> *Union Labor Advocate* was the official journal of the National Women's Trade Union League of America for which Alice Henry worked. It began in 1908.

<sup>1799</sup> Clarence Gilbert Hoag, Honorary Secretary of the American Proportional Representative Society, born 1873, became a leading advocate for proportional representation in America.

Mr Tyson<sup>1800</sup> was hopeful about Oregon, but Denton Cridge<sup>1801</sup> tells me of all the difficulties put in the way of P. R. by the rings and the trusts and the politicians - I am watching for France to move -

It looks as if the Liberal strength depends on the Irish Nationalists for Liberal and Labour are not at all overpowering so far. I am sorry the Suffragettes go to such extremes, though they have provocation - But really if they get all they want - the 1½ million of enfranchised women would be at least two thirds Conservatives. A wider suffrage would admit working women as well as propertied women - Propertied women are, as a rule, more conservative than propertied men - Sir John Logan Campbell<sup>1802</sup> who was doctor of our ship the Palmyra in 1839, has just ~~given~~ offered to build a Kindergarten & training college for Auckland perfectly equipped - the movement in Auckland is only a year old - The land has been given by some public authority. This is fine - You recollect he gave Cornwall Park to Auckland when the Duke of York was there - He is now blind and 91 years old - He sent me the newspapers about the gift - Mrs Morice is at Mount Lofty -

Mrs Tomkinson<sup>1803</sup> died early this month - An operation was imperative and she died under it - Our friend Amy was managing a University Settlement in Sydney and was telegraphed for and just reached the Adelaide railway station when her mother was breathing her last - Mrs Tomkinsons estate was sworn under £25000 but there are four single daughters, and four sons - only one the eldest married and steady - living in London - the three in Australia addicted to drink. They the girls, seem stunned by the blow - all the money was left to Mrs Tomkinson by her husband - I dont think Amy will go back to the Settlement - She found a noisy street in a Sydney slum very trying - and the work harder than she could do.

She has a great deal of zeal but she is not strong and I am sorry to have to say it - she is not very practical.

Perhaps you are right and that I have been exceptionally fortunate in finding work that I could do and meeting with little opposition to the course I saw before me. My brother John always encouraged and helped me - and as I repeat, I did not suffer from diffidence or shyness - Lucy Morice has taken it into her head that she will not live long - I dont know why - Pat has been a year at business and likes it. He has had two rises and two bonuses he is a great rower and swimmer. He wants to join the society of journalists and for that reason contributes to the Weekly Herald.

South Australia is going to have a Daily Labour Paper next month and Geoffrey Burgoyne is to be the editor<sup>1804</sup> - I wonder how they have arranged about the cables.

I think I told you that Mr Young was seriously ill of nephritis and had to get 6 weeks leave of Absence from Advertiser - As there were no complications the doctor's prescriptions and his wifes care have patched him up and he is again doing

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<sup>1800</sup> Robert Tyson, a Canadian who edited the review published by the Proportional Representation League from 1901 to 1913. Spence had met him in Toronto.

<sup>1801</sup> Alfred Denton Cridge was the son of Alfred Cridge (1824-1902), San Francisco journalist, a strong supporter of proportional representation about which he published books and pamphlets. Spence had corresponded with him before she met him in 1893 when she was in San Francisco. Cridge had married Annie Denton, a spiritualist, and Spence now corresponded with their son, Alfred Denton Cridge.

<sup>1802</sup> Sir John Logan Campbell (1817-1912), New Zealand pioneer, businessman, member of Parliament and benefactor. He was known as the Father of Auckland.

<sup>1803</sup> Louisa Charlotte Tomkinson née MacDermott died on 5 January 1910. Her husband had been manager of the Bank of Australasia in Adelaide.

<sup>1804</sup> The Weekly Herald (1894-1910), the official organ of the Trades and Labor Council, United Labor Party and Democratic Societies of South Australia became the Daily Herald in 1910.

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his work, but as a rule coming home by the latest electric car - I am afraid he is doing too much but he is a great worker and a quick one. Freda has taken up again her university work, and the boys - one at the School of Mines and the other at the High School, fully engaged - It is little help she can get from Freda or the boys - Courtney Spence is over two years old, a beautiful little fellow.

We dont know where we are with this fusion<sup>1805</sup> ministry and P R - We are moving for a deputation to the Premier, and list of questions for candidates.

The Labour Party have swung apart from P R unless with redistribution of districts, which means a change in the constitution.

Eleanor was four months in South Australia visiting amongst her many friends - Her last visit to Aunt Jessie was a sad one and took place just after the collapse - Marjorie Wren has come out and I think enjoys it - I wonder if Vida Goldstein will get in for the Senate. That will be a good record -

Believe me always yours affectionately  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>1805</sup> A coalition of several parties.

**PRG 88/7/121**

Queen St Norwood  
11<sup>th</sup> Feb/10

My dear Miss Henry

When I wrote a fortnight ago I told you that Mrs J.B. Spence was dying - She lingered till the 31<sup>st</sup> and then passed peacefully out of existence - She did not know of the death of her sister, Mrs W Murray<sup>1806</sup> on the 5<sup>th</sup> Janry - That was kept from her - Louie Galloway would get the news at Marseilles and would go straight to London instead of going to Grindelwald with her cousin Louie Murray as intended - We hear that William Murray bears the loss of his wife better than was to be expected but it must be a terrible miss to him.

You will be pleased to hear that the three daughters continue to me the £50 a year I have had for eight years from John and his widow. They also give to Mrs Maule<sup>1807</sup> £25 a year which is more than Mrs Spence and I gave to her.

They cannot get into the Glenelg house because it is let till the 21<sup>st</sup> March and they have the Mount Lofty house till then - They will sell the house and I hear of three people enquiring about it - I hope after things are settled that the single daughter will travel for a while -

The estate is turning out better than we expected - I think each daughter will have £300 a year probably more - Daisy Stephen would like to go home but does not like to leave her sister Elsie or Helen - who seems much upset after the long strain - She is not quite alone - she has one friend staying with her - but they are both much depressed. The two maids who have been 23 years in the place stay till the 21<sup>st</sup> March and then will go to help in the settling of the furniture for Sale or to be Kept - ~~Mrs Spence left~~ My brother made no will, but the daughters agreed that their mother should have the whole income during her life strictly settled on the three equally after her death.

She however had some surplus income and she left £500 to her neice [sic] Miss Galloway £100 each to the two servants and left half of the furniture to the unmarried daughter the other half to be divided between the two married ones - The house was valued for probate at £1900 - and the furniture at £500 -The best part of the estate is a big holding in the Adelaide Steamship Co.

So you see Mrs Morice whose husband has £425 of salary, and whose only son is earning 20/ a week and is not quite 18 - will be in very easy circumstances and Daisy Stephen even better off for her husband had his share of his fathers estate - The single sister has money of her own I think £200 a year savings and investments - Louie Galloway I think has £175 a year from investments and presents - The Murrays are all wealthy.

If I had only the £100 annuity from the AMP I should feel poor - but with the additional £50 I feel rich - and have a good deal to give away to church charities and Causes.

I have begun to write my Autobiography<sup>1808</sup> - So long as I retain my memory it would be wise to note down the happenings of a long life - I want the Register or

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<sup>1806</sup> Helen Morrison Murray, née Cumming, who had married William McIntosh Murray in 1857, was a sister of Jessie Spence, wife of John Brodie Spence, and also of Louisa Ferguson Galloway. Louie Galloway was niece to Mrs Murray and Mrs Spence.

<sup>1807</sup> Janet Maule was the daughter of Spence's father's half sister Janet Reid, née Spence.

<sup>1808</sup> The first three instalments of Spence's *Autobiography* were published in the *Register* and the *Observer*, the first appearing at the same time as her obituary. She had drafted about two thirds of the work before her death. It was completed in the first person by her friend Jeanne Young.

Observer to publish it serially, for then I should be compelled to go on with it. The editor is afraid that I might overload it with details from my recollections and records - but so far I seem to to [sic] have left out a great deal - I know that it would be useless to try it on the English market but if it was liked in the newspaper it might be brought out in Australia. I have suggested that as I am accounted the representative woman of Australia and not of South Australia only it might be syndicated - He says it might run into 100 000 words 75 columns of the Register - I must have a talk with him when we can fix a time for an interview -

Mrs F. Martin is here for the day, and I think will come for a few weeks later before she leaves for Europe - I wish she were stronger - She is very thin - and eats very little and sleeps badly.

She is delighted with the results of the British elections - So far as I can gather from American reform papers there has been a conspiracy of silence by the Associated Press with regard to the Land tax proposals of the Budget - Americans seem to think that they are free from the grip of hereditary Peers and a House of Lords, but land owners have as hard a hold on their property.

I read to her a letter I had had from my cousin Laura Symon about the municipal misgovernment of the little city of Mattoon which is a dry town but the mayor was put in by the antiprohibitionists and is a partner in illicit liquor vending - The town appeared to depend on saloon licences for its revenue and now it seems to have none -

Laura is delighted at the appointment of Ella Flagg Young<sup>1809</sup> to be the head of education in Chicago - or is it Illinois - and mentions with approbation many of the reforms she is carrying out. Her two sons are both in the Illinois Central but the younger who came lately has great hankerings after dealing in wheat which was the line he was in in West Australia -

Laura is shocked at the bad grammar and bad accent of the well to do provincial women she meets - Wonderful clothes and more wonderful English - I think American writers as a whole are careless of their grammar - A friend of mine would not let her children read *Little Women* or *Little Men*<sup>1810</sup> or *Little Lord Fauntleroy*<sup>1811</sup> because of the bad style of English -

Well I suppose I shall hear that Macmillan declines my book - I am prepared for one or two refusals - And now that I have the Autobiography in hand I am less anxious about the other.

But the loss will be that of America if it is not published for there is much in it that would be helpful to your workers -

I am glad that you think the Women's Cause and the Workers' cause are advancing together - In its inception both in England and in America it was the well to do women who wanted the vote for themselves - In my Autobiography I shall quote a letter from J S Mill<sup>1812</sup> in which he anticipated that Womens Suffrage would be carried

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<sup>1809</sup> Ella Flagg Young (1845-1918), leading American educator, became Superintendent of Schools in Chicago in 1887, Professor of Education in the University of Chicago in 1899, and again Superintendent of Schools from 1909 to 1915. In 1910 she became the first woman president of the American National Education Association.

<sup>1810</sup> *Little Women: or Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy* (1868) and *Little Men: Life as Plumstead with Jo's Boys* (1871) were two much-loved novels by American author Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888).

<sup>1811</sup> *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886) was a famous children's novel by American author Frances Hodgson Burnett. She was born in Manchester, England. Her other most remembered children's books are *The Secret Garden* (1888) and *The Little Princess* (1909).

<sup>1812</sup> John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), English philosopher and political economist, an influential liberal thinker in the nineteenth century. He had corresponded with Spence about proportional representation.

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in England sooner than in Australia! Even the wisest make mistakes - I shall quote give George Eliots<sup>1813</sup> letter to me in full - I shall tell how Mr Hogarths Will<sup>1814</sup> made Edward Wilson<sup>1815</sup> leave his money to Melbourne Charities -

I dare say you think my head is full of this and of nothing else - but one of the Destitute Board has resigned and I want a woman to be appointed and no other member wants one -

"There is only one Miss Spence" they say but I dont like a compliment to myself at the expense of my sex - there are lots of good women - By the by, Vida Goldstein has sent a circular for my signature - I feel a little doubtful for I am not an elector for Victoria but am signing it today - I hope she may get in but I am more doubtful than she is -

I wrote to you by an odd mail a fortnight ago and sent you the papers on Women as Public Speakers - I have to write to Laura Symon and to Mrs Ames - I shall ask the latter if she had the Old Roof Tree<sup>1816</sup> - I have had no reply from Mrs Garrison to my letter

I keep well - and I hope you do the same  
Believe me  
always yours affectionately  
C H Spence

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<sup>1813</sup> George Eliot (pseudonym of Mary Ann Evans) (1819-1880), a leading English novelist whom Spence had met in England in 1865.

<sup>1814</sup> *Mr Hogarth's Will*, a novel by Spence, published in London in three volumes in 1865.

<sup>1815</sup> Edward Wilson (1813-1878), journalist and philanthropist., Born in England, he arrived in Melbourne in 1841, and later became proprietor of the Argus. He was known to Spence who at his request wrote an article for him 'Principles of Representation' which was published in England under his name in the *Fortnightly Review* vol. 4, no. xxiii, p. 421-436 in 1866.

<sup>1816</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906. A novel by Catherine Martin.

**PRG 88/7/122**

Queen St Norwood  
12<sup>th</sup> March ~~1909~~ 1910

My dear Miss Henry

I find there is a mail going today and have no time to write.

I have been so exceedingly busy over my Autobiography that I seem to forget everything else - I have got about half through with it according to the editors supposition of 100,000 words and that is not bad for six weeks' work - I wrote to you about my sister in laws death on the 31<sup>st</sup> Janry - I think it likely that the Morices will sell or let their house in Glenelg and come to live in or near town.

They did not want to live in Mrs Spence's house and it has been well sold to the three months tenant, who takes the furniture at a valuation - but not the plate, china, linen or bedding -

I have Mrs F Martin with me for a time before she goes to Europe. She has had a short story the only thing she has written since her husbands death accepted by the Leader and a commission to go to Ober Ammergau this year and to contribute articles with illustrations. I had the pleasure of giving her a camera and she is getting on with the use of it.

I wonder when you will hear anything about State Children in Australia -

Going back over my literary life I see that I had a good many rebuffs about Mr Hogarths Will<sup>1817</sup> -

I find the A.B. very interesting - I hope I am not overloading it - Mrs Martin takes a keen interest in its progress - and reminds me of good stories to put into it, but she does not know the earlier part of my life. I made her acquaintance in 1877 and Mrs Webster two or three years before -

I am at present in the 80s - My mother still alive in her 90s and myself in full work on the Register - I see I was 14 years a regular outside contributor.

I wrote to Mrs Garrison at the time of her husbands death and have had a beautiful reply.

I wrote to Mrs Ames six weeks ago I think and asked her if she had ever received the Old Roof Tree<sup>1818</sup>.

I enquired at Coles<sup>1819</sup> for some Everyday People & Dawn<sup>1820</sup> yesterday. He said it had not come yet but that must be nonsense -

Yours in haste  
C. H. Spence

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<sup>1817</sup> *Mr Hogarth's Will*, a novel by Spence, published in London in three volumes in 1865.

<sup>1818</sup> *The Old Roof-Tree: Letters of Ishbel to her half-brother Mark Latimer*, Longmans, 1906, a novel, published anonymously by Catherine Martin.

<sup>1819</sup> Edward William Cole (1832-1918), a Melbourne bookseller. A branch of Cole's Book Arcade opened in Adelaide in 1898.

<sup>1820</sup> *Some everyday folk and Dawn*, a novel by Miles Franklin, published in Edinburgh and London, 1909, by William Blackwood & Sons.



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[This letter was written to Alice Henry, probably by Florian Elkington, principal, from 1904, of St Aidan's, a school for backward children at Moonee Ponds. It is not part of the Spence-Henry correspondence, though it is possible that Henry kept it with her Spence letters as it was a subject which would have interested Spence. Spence knew many of the people mentioned.]

St Aidan's  
Moonee Ponds  
Dec: 19th 05

My Dear Miss Henry

I am quite sorry that I burthened you with the task of buying school paraphernalia for me and beg that if you have not got things for the school not to bother about them, I would much rather that you enjoyed your holiday. I fear you are doing too much work and not having any relaxation. Give yourself up to seeing things for a bit in that most interesting country and leave problems alone. The Talbot Epileptic Colony fund has now reached about £11000 with Mr Bent's £6000 and the Wilson Bequest £1300, but as yet we have not been able to select a site. Really no one seems to recognise the paramount importance of not beginning to do anything till we get a site that will fulfil all our requirements as stated by Letchworth & Spratling. Good land, abundance of pure water, drainage and proximity to a town and railway station. I have been battling for this all along. I fear I may be overcome. Dr Norris and Mr Bent are most anxious we should go to Broadmeadows. The Premier refused to allow the Austin Hospital to open the Krankheimer ward for consumptives because the Heidelberg people object and Cameron, Member for the District, is a member of the Cabinet. The "Age" made a terrific onslaught on Bent for his heartlessness &c in refusing this boon to poor dying creatures. So, in order to prove that he is not heartless, he determined on a sanatorium on Govt land near Broadmeadows. Dr Norris undertook to do it and they are running it for incipient cases. No provision for incurables as Krankheimer wished!

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but no one knows at what cost to the State. They have been carting water from Broadmeadows, and they send their washing to Oakleigh Convent by train! Norris says he can conserve ample water from the roofs and from the surface, and says he can do the same for the Epileptic Colony if we go to an adjoining block of 320 acres of which Mr Bent offers us 100 acres for nothing. I say if we get the whole 320 acres for nothing it will cost £2000 at least to conserve enough water for 200 people and at least another £2000 to precipitate, disinfect, filter and distribute and then there wont be suitable water for all requirements \= £13 an acre for 320 acres/ and no possibility of extending the Colony. Mr Bent says when he gets a settlement of 100 people or so he will bring the water from Yan Yean. I say bring the water first. He may be in Kingdom Come before we finish building it would cost many thousands of pounds to bring it from Yan Yean, the reservoir is only some 150 feet above this site and about 20 miles distant. Imagine going to bring water all that distance with only that incline and what we should have to pay! Mr Bent wants us to go and bolster up his sanatorium. I can't see it, but what can you do with a committee of "society" ladies. Lady Talbot wants to know why Epileptics want so much water! Are they different from other people! Dr Norris says 20 gallons per head per diem is ample. I answer that the average consumption in all the towns of Victoria is 50 galls a head per day! Melbourne is 50 galls a day! Imagine such a man sitting in the seat of Dr Gresswell! Springthorpe and Jones want to start building at once and if the site is unsuitable,

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why move some place else! I really am amused sometimes at the way I have to battle and fight and can get nothing done. However I hope in time something good will come of it all. We had our Christmas tree yesterday for the children. Unfortunately we struck an awful day 98o but as we have had no previous hot days except Cup day everyone felt it. It was too much for Mrs Fishbourne; she had a bad bleeding from the nose last night and is very low today but comfortable. Everything went off well and the parents are satisfied. Miss McGowan very kindly put this notice in the Age which I send you. She did not come. It was very good of her to give us the notice but it is a curious thing that we have only had one child come to us owing to anything that has appeared in any paper. One person recommends another and so we get known though not at a rate I should like.

[letter ends here]