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*Annie Hedson correspondence*  
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*Miscellaneous Papers.*

पूर्व निर्देश  
Previous reference

बाद का निर्देश  
Later reference



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**PATHIK**



ARCHIVES OF INDIAN

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA



How! -

Can man be free if woman be a slave?"

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One of the most important questions which arise in the social development of a people is the question concerning its women.

Women represent one half of a nation & they, more than any one else, must realise & give answer to this question.

It has come about through the ages, that ~~men~~<sup>men-</sup>folk the world over, have arrogated to themselves a position of superiority over ~~their~~ women, and in order to maintain that position have unblushingly kept them in ignorance by withholding education from them.

Everywhere men have struggled against women's entry into their so called particular sphere of work, but the economic stress, <sup>& enterprise</sup> has called forth many women to a field of labour hitherto unknown to them & so well have they acquitted themselves that they have often undersold men in the market for their labour power.



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However much we may deplore the sex antagonism often caused through the displacement of men by women, we cannot deny the fact that women as well as men have to live, & that women as well as men have dependants to support; ~~we~~ must also admit that women's entry into the world of work has developed in them a self-reliant strength which has come to stay, and which, as social life adjusts itself to modern ideas will help in the uplift of a nation's people, for as the women are, so is a nation in the making.

It is exceedingly difficult to emancipate ourselves from ideas of early training but the old fashioned idea <sup>submissively</sup> that women should toddle behind their lords and masters has long ago lost ground for women have proved their ability to rank with men as workers and organisers and have successfully competed with them in the legislative Chamber —



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First & foremost it rests with <sup>earnest</sup> women workers to devote their talents and energies to the stupendous task of arousing in their less enlightened sisters the consciousness of their power for good.

They must educate them to understand that as wives and mothers women are the guardians of the life blood of a nation <sup>that</sup> they have to deal with the very foundation of society and mould the material of which a nation is made & that the men who are born & reared by them cannot shake off the shackles of subjection unless they - the women of the nation first are free.

Enlightened women who feel the desire for a fuller life than that which is the confine of ignorance & many women have been reared crave to exercise their abilities in public service for the uplift of their sex & race.

They do not desire to outshine men or usurp their just privileges, but to gain a place of equality by their side where as colleagues

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they may work out harmoniously the problems which beset them in their own particular sphere; each set the complement of the other marching consciously towards the glorious freedom which is the awakening change for human betterment lies waiting to be grasped & which is even now only withheld through the ignorance with which past tradition has doped mankind.

It is the duty of women to shew that they comprehend their true position in the movement towards the emancipation of their countrymen. and <sup>that they</sup> are resolved to do their share in the present contest for a better future.

As women struggle for the uplift of their sex so they will gain greater confidence in their own power and in daring, will again & again dare, until the clouds are lifted from the minds of men into the vision of broad daylight and women as co-partners will stand erect and unabashed conscious of their own worth —

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In like manner as Indian women in particular strive to educate and liberate themselves so it is the duty of their men to free themselves in this matter from all prejudice concerning women, support them in their uphill fight, for though all suffer together in bondage & alien rule women suffer doubly in their bondage & <sup>also</sup> new. Let men realise that women <sup>also</sup> are summoned not to remain behind where freedom & deliverance of a nation is at stake.

The Youth of India conscious that in showing organised solidarity the past delusion of the tyrant's power will be exposed, will only ride to victory in so far as they encourage the women to work in their ranks.

As within the wide organisation of the Youth movement various groups will work as their particular talents direct; so also from within that organisation will the women's committees & <sup>w</sup> councils evolve & come to fruition.



As women are naturally more concerned with domestic & social affairs than the more politically minded men it is plainly apparent that legislation by men alone cannot be successful. From their ~~pro~~ natural position as organisers in the home women will through public service move to the wider domestic & social affairs of the nation as a whole. What district councils & legislative bodies of men will refuse to carry out the reforms clearly & definitely decided upon by representative assemblies of women!

Only by the full development of the powers & faculties of their women can the men of a nation obtain freedom & while it remains to the women to undertake the task of freeing themselves from the shackles of convention & superstition let every right-minded man see to it that he places no obstacle in the way to hinder any woman



from rendering helpful constructive service to the community rather let him do his best to encourage & assist her to an equal share in the results of civilisation as he himself wishes to attain.

Princes of Indian States! You have a unique opportunity! Your country is crying for its freedom! Little children are dying for want of care & proper nourishment! You must discard all artificial misconceptions & delusions & demand to stand in the fight against oppression on a basis of equality with your neighbours in face of oppression for only by the inviolability freedom & security of all can the liberty of all be attained.



To the Rayastha Youth League.

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Comrades! Brothers & Sisters all!

I have just read the announcement of your Youth League in "Young Rayasthan".

My heart is filled with gladness as I learn of this fresh glimmer of light amid the surrounding darkness.

The membership may as yet be a mere handful of earnest young workers, but it is a forecast to the world that the Youth Movement of the States after long travail is now born and welcomed. and that it will continue to develop from strength to strength linking hands with kindred groups over every acre of your beloved motherland.

May it soon become evident to the most ignorant & wilfully blind, that there is a growing force of youth in the States to be reckoned with, which can no more be stopped. than can the tides of the sea —



Those who are mentally old — those whose education has been too academically learned to understand you enough to link up with you, must go their own ways.

Do not waste valuable time & energy in criticising them overmuch, or in trying to convert them to your way of thinking, you have much more important work to do.

Let them hold their conferences if they wish, make their own rules — elect themselves as the only exponents of wisdom — & dress their speeches with long & fluent oratory — It does not matter — You remain!

The Common people remain! and the real work remains to be done, & can be done only by you & your supporters, because you are young enough in mind to outgrow phase after phase of an everchanging & ever unfolding world, youth movement whose goal is liberty — Your conferences will be youth



Conferences! Your Representatives will be those who know the Common People & who by one acclamation are elected by you en masse. to do the bidding of the ~~the~~ enlightened mass -

Work then together constructively for education of the people as you organize numerically until you stand shoulder to shoulder strong in the strength of your Youth Solidarity & awakened understanding.

With my love & greeting may I conclude in a message from Kropotkin's Conquest of Bread.

"Before such an irresistible force conspiring kings will be powerless. Nothing will remain for them but to bow before it, and harness themselves to the Chariot of Humanity, rolling towards new horizons opened up by the Social Revolution" -

Annie Hodson -



Pioneers! O Pioneers!

Come my tan-faced children,

For we cannot tarry here.

We must march my darlings, we must  
bear the brunt of danger.

We the youthful sinewy races, all the  
rest on us depend.

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

All the past we leave behind;  
We debouch upon a newer, mightier  
world, - varied world,

Fresh and strong the world we seize,  
World of labour and the march,

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

We detachments steady throwing,

Down the edges, through the passes, up the <sup>(steep,</sup> mountains  
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing as we go  
the unknown ways.

Pioneers! O Pioneers!



See my children, resolute children,  
 By those swarms upon our rear, we  
 must never yield or falter,  
 Ages back in ghostly millions frowning  
 there behind us urging -  
 Pioneers! O Pioneers!

These are of us, they are with us,  
 All for primal needed work, while the followers  
 there in embryo wait behind.  
 We to day's procession heading, we the  
 route for times clearing  
 Pioneers! O Pioneers!

Was the night descended?  
 Was the road of late so toilsome? did we stop  
 discouraged, <sup>nodding</sup> by the way?

Yet a passing how I yield you in your  
 tracks to pause oblivious.

Pioneers! O Pioneers! 25

Till with sound of trumpet -  
 Far, far off the day-break call - hark! how loud



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and clear I hear it wend,

Swift! to the head of the army! — ~~Swift!~~

Spring to your places,

Pioneers! O Pioneers!

From Walt Whitman

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