Papers Aletta Henriëtte Jacobs
Inventarisnummer: 0032
Dr. Aletta H. Jacobs,
Tesselschadestrasse 5, Amsterdam.

My dear Aletta:—

I have an apology to make, and might as well do it at once. Your dear letter of September 3, intended for all of us, came to me about the 15th of last month. Neither Anna nor Lucy had seen it until a few days ago, when I read it aloud to Anna in the intervals of our Business Committee meetings. In some way I stupidly had not comprehended that it was really intended for us all, and had carelessly overlooked the reference to business.

Of course this explains Miss Shaw’s failure to write you in regard to the work of the International Woman Suffrage Committee on the Council. At present she is traveling from place to place, constantly speaking, and as it is too late to have her letter of use at your convention this month, you will probably not hear from her on this subject until next month, when she has a week or ten days of quiet at home. I am very sorry for my carelessness, and will promise to try never to do such a thing again.

We have had a very good business meeting, and some of us feel that our work is going on wonderfully well here in America; yet, those of us who were at the Copenhagen meeting are very much afraid (no that is scarcely the word) that you women in Europe will gain your political freedom before we get ours in America. Certainly your organization in Holland is much larger, in proportion to the population of your country, than ours is. We are struggling now to make our organization grow. There is so much woman suffrage sentiment here which does not crystallize into membership.
The children are now in school at Swarthmore (I do not mean boarding school). They are laying plans to organize their association, but want first to get acquainted with a good many of the pupils. I am ashamed to say that, while their school is supposed to be co-educational, the line of demarcation is drawn so strictly between the boys and girls, that to my mind it is much worse than having them in separate schools. I shall do what I can against this, but have very little hope of making any change; and if I cannot succeed in changing that spirit in the school, I shall probably put the girls into the Public School next year.

Tell Charlie that the girls will be very happy to have him as a "foreign member", and they certainly will be delighted to have you as a combination of foreign member and donor.

Affectionately yours

RFA.-R.

Rachel Foster Avery

My permanent address is

SWARTHMORE, PENN.