

THE LOS ANGELES DECISION

An Appreciation

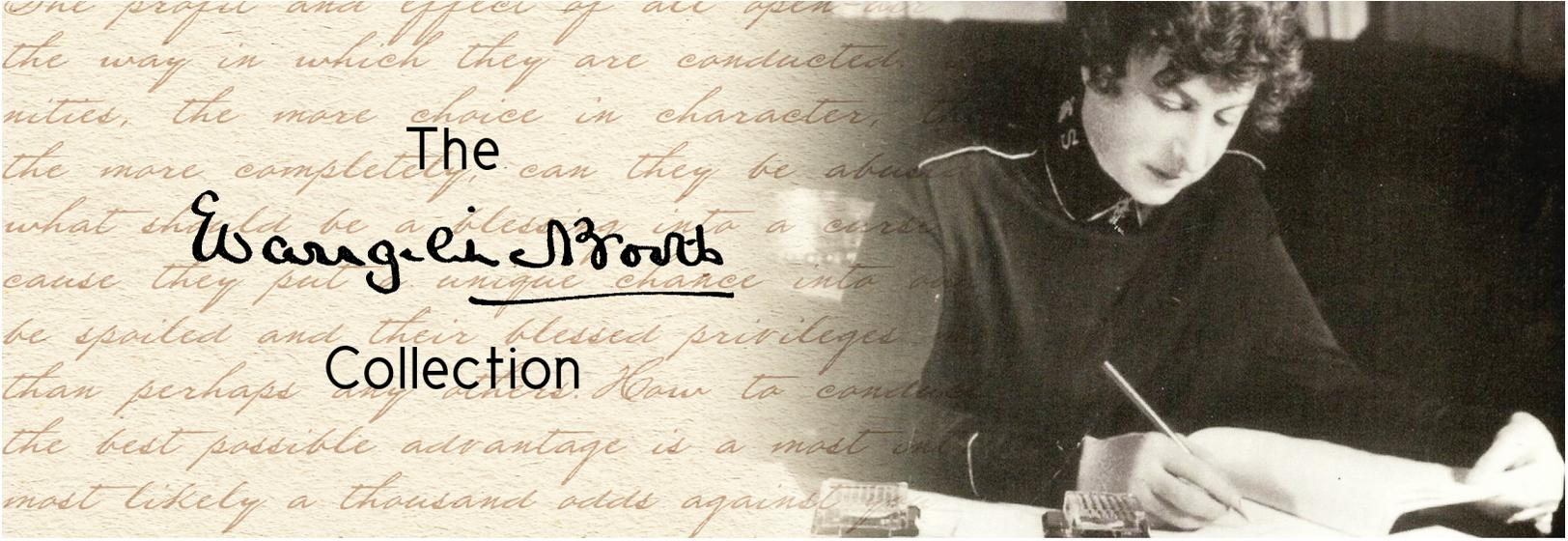
My feelings are those of deepest gratitude.

The issues involved were quite serious, for had the ordinance and the action of the Los Angeles Charities Commission been sustained by the decision of the Supreme Court of California, for which all were anxiously waiting, a hard blow would have been dealt the work, the upbuilding of which has meant so much of sacrifice, and the doing of which has brought so much of blessing to the most needy.

Its temporary curtailment while the case was pending was a sorrow to me. To be forced into a defensive antagonism to any authority deriving power from a city ordinance is in itself most distasteful, and nothing could be more contrary to our world-wide and well-known policy, which is always one of heartiest co-operation. Civic authorities have testified to this in innumerable cases. However, in the Los Angeles position, I never entertained any doubt as to the illegality of the ordinance; and what was still more regrettable, I was sure that there was a total wanting in lawfulness in the exercise of that authority, which became so arbitrary and unyielding. Hence we were compelled to appeal to the Supreme Court; and while, as already stated, I fully believe that our position would be upheld, I hardly looked for such an eloquent and complete vindication at the hands of that great judicial body — the Supreme Court of California. Naturally the decision has brought joy to me, and I ask my people all over the country to join with me in praise and gratitude to God.

The masterly presentation of our case by Judge Gibson, our leading attorney, evoked the warmest praise, and for the patient restraint and persevering toil of Commissioner Estill and the Los Angeles officers, I tender my sincerest thanks and congratulations. The people of Los Angeles, who so bravely stood with us, are rejoicing.

(March 11th, 1916)



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