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Finding Aid for the STEPHEN SHIPLEY WILSON COLLECTION,  
1850-1950

Collection No. 1126  
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Gift of Stephen S. Wilson, 1977.

**INFORMATION FOR USERS**

All dates are standardized rather than transcribed, viz: yr mo/day.

The abbreviation HJW is used for Henry Joseph Wilson and ACW for Alexander Cowan Wilson.

Though not all letters are listed individually, those that are highlighted are done so on the basis of content of the letter or historical importance of the letter writer.

**RESTRICTIONS**

No restrictions.

**ABSTRACT**

Correspondence primarily between Liberal members or activists in the British government and Henry Joseph Wilson or Alexander Cowan Wilson mostly the period when Gladstone and Disraeli led the Whig and Tory parties (1860s to 1890s).

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Henry J. Wilson, born in 1833, was elected to Parliament in 1885. He was a member of the Royal Commission on Opium in India in 1893-5 and acted on behalf of temperance and the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts.

Alexander Cowan Wilson, his son, born in 1866, became a Quaker in 1899. A champion of many causes, his two main concerns were the right use of wealth and peace testimony.

(Information from internal evidence and the Dictionary of Quaker Biography)

## **SUBJECT HEADINGS**

Bright, Jacob, 1821-1899.

[Cadbury George, 1839-1922](#)

[Garrison, William Lloyd, 1838-1909](#)

[MacDonald, James Ramsay, 1866-1937](#)

Martineau, Harriet.

[Morley, John, 1838-1923](#)

[Great Britain -- Politics and government -- 19th century.](#)

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection consists of correspondence which is primarily between Liberal members or activists in the British government and Henry Joseph Wilson or Alexander Cowan Wilson. It is concentrated in the period when Gladstone and Disraeli led the Whig and Tory parties (1860s to 1890s).

Correspondents include Archbishop Benson, Jacob Bright, George Cadbury, William Lloyd Garrison, William Ewart Gladstone, Ramsay MacDonald, Harriet Martineau, John Morley.

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

Highlights include:

Acland, A.H.D. to "Dear Wilson." Privy Council Office, [London, Eng.], 1892 12/ 6. [cannot help Wilson with statistics, suggests he try School Board]

Andrews, Elizabeth to ACW. Southport, [Eng.], 1894 12/ 5. [thanks for paper re Wilson's father]

Argyll, Duke of [George Douglas Campbell] to --. India Office, [London, Eng., 1871]. [re a bill's repeal.]

Armstrong, R.A. to Mr. Wilson. Liverpool, [Eng.], 1903 8/17. [would join resisters of rate payment, but conscience does not permit]

Bannerman, H. Campbell to [HJW?]. London, Eng., 1900 1/19. [important discussion to take place in Parliament.]

Bannerman, H. Campbell to [HJW?]. London, Eng., 1900 11/26. [House of Commons to elect a Speaker]

Benson, Edward (Archbishop of Canterbury) to Mrs. Hind Smith, Lambeth Palace, [Eng.], 1883 2/16. [re petition concerning repeal of Contagious Diseases Act of 1866-69]

Bright, Jacob to --. [London, Eng.], [18]82 6/22. [will present his petitions to the House.]

Bryce, James (viscount, lord) to Mr. Wilson. Sussex, [Eng.], [18]99 10/10. [re political situation in England]

Butler, T.E.? to Mr. Wilson. Wimbledon, [Eng.], 1891 6/29,. [re subjecting women to surgical examination to prove innocence and woman's cause]

Cadbury, George to HJW. Bourneville, Birmingham, [Eng.]. 1911 9/18. [re labor and wages]

Cavendish, Frederick (Lord) to HJW. [London, Eng.], [18]75 6/23. [has presented Wilson's petitions re Contagious Diseases Acts in House of Commons; will vote as previously on the Harcourt Johnstone bill]

Coleridge, - to "HJ" [Wilson]. Temple, [Eng.], 1902 2/17. [Off for assizes; is very concerned about the Boer War]

Cowan, John to "Charlotte". Beeslack?, 1893 8/8. [receives letters daily containing accusations against Gladstone and some against himself]

Dalton, Hugh to ACW. Millbank, [London, Eng.], 1943 3/9. [re need for war effort to overcome Germans]

Garrison, W[illiam] Lloyd to Mrs. Wilson. Rydal, [Eng.], 1901 7/6. [declines invitation.]

Garrison, W[illiam] Lloyd to Mr. Wilson. Bradford, [Eng.], 1901 8/15. [speaks of political situation in England]

Gladstone, W[illiam Ewart] to HJW. [18]85 10/19. [re a bill]

Gladstone, W[illiam Ewart] to [HJW?] 1882 1/17. [House of Commons to determine whether and in what manner local government will be granted to Ireland.]

Gladstone, W[illiam Ewart] London, [Eng.], 1892 8/1. [House of Commons to choose Speaker and hear Queen Victoria]

Granville, [Granville George Leveson-Gower, (earl, lord) to HJW. [London, Eng.], [18]80 4/ 22. [in receipt of Wilson's memorial]

Hardie, J. Keir to Mr. Wilson. Old Cumnock, [Scotland], 19001/1. [names representatives of a movement; war and Chamberlain's policy]

Hirst, F.W. to "dear Wilson". [London, Eng.], 1918 11/28. [re government influence on elections and his hopes for election]

Hobson?, John A. to Mr. Wilson. Hampstead, [Eng.], 1912 11/28. [re allies in Boer war now turned jingo; British empire vs. German empire]

James, Henry (Sir) to [A.J.] Mundella. Temple, [Eng.], 1884 11/10. [ re conduct and management of an election, use of election agent and expenses incurred]

Lawson, Wilfrid to Mrs. [HJ] Wilson. Brayton, Cumberland, [Eng.], 1903 4/16. [re political situation "in which Balfour is sold body and soul to Butcher and his friends.]

MacDonald, Ramsay (Prime Minister) to Mr. Wilson. Scotland, 1910 9/10. [cannot accept invitation because of pressing engagements]

Mann, Tom to HJW. London, [Eng.], 1891 3/ 25. [re bill for optional 8-hour day for miners]

Mann, Tom to HJW. 1892 3/12. [re conference in which Wilson spoke about hours of a working man's day and other labor questions]

Martineau, Harriet to "Frank". Ambleside, [Eng.], 1876 3/26. [re (abolitionist's?) cause; sends recommendation for HJW]

Martineau, Harriet to ACW. Edgbaston, [Eng.], 1907 11/8. [confirms that Mr. MacCarthy was elected as a Liberal to the School Board]

Morley, John. 1909 1/11. [Indian political business a difficult affair]

Ripon, - (Marquis). Ripon, [Eng.], 1897 11/11. [re division of Liberal party over Boer war]

Symonds, Arthur G. to Mr. Wilson. Manchester, [Eng.], 1908 3/7. [strong feeling of his committee that by electing most ministers to vice presidents, the two wings of the party under "C.B." would be reunited; remarks on Wilson's message on (Liberal Associations?)]

Signatures of: HJW, S.T. Evans, C.P. Scott, James Duckworth, F.A. Channing, F. Maddison, E. H. Pickersgill , Wilfrid Lawson , J. Carvell Williams, Robert Cameron and ?

? to Mr. Wilson. [London, Eng.]. 1909 2/10. [sees a recrudescence of militarism which will threaten Liberal party and government, but could be stopped by National Reform Union; requests donation for Union]

to Mr. Wilson. [London, Eng .], 1918 6/2. [re Friends Meeting.]

? to HJW. Nottingham, [Eng.]. [saw Prime Minister re armaments question; also about licensing.]