

it would be of ~~very~~ great
importance to the future of such
a book; if you would give
some assistance to it.

I do not think ~~the~~ work
of any writer, save yourself, on
the antiquities of Wiltshire,
would be of any interest.

I should be very glad
indeed if you would tell me
what you think about the
plan altogether — & would
come over & call on me
to talk about it if you would
prefer it.

The following is a rough
sketch of my idea as to

Ans'd
Jan 2/96

L1466

THE VICARAGE,
WARMINGSTON

Dec. 27. 95.

Dear General Pitt Rivers

I am writing to ask
your advice & assistance
about a proposed history of
Wiltshire.

I have just taken my
degree at Oxford & am giving
some lectures in London — but
I have spare time which I
should like to devote to literary
work.

It was proposed by some
gentlemen in Warmingston who

are interested in the subject - that
Hoare's Mod. Wills should be
abridged & published at a
reasonable price - & they asked
me if I would undertake the
work.

But on going into the
subject it was found that
such a work would imply
many years of labour & being
it up to date & would
probably be of little interest
in its Parochial Form.

The idea now is that a
History of the County as a whole

from the earliest times in which
Parochial History would only be
drawn upon for purposes of
illustration would be of great
general interest, & supply a real
want. — & that if the
different parts of the book
were written by those who
were authorities on the different
subjects, the book would be
of course of very much
greater value — whilst at the
same time it would be
more easily compiled.

As your name stands
at presentment by the
Wills here authority on Antiquarian
Matters

of Wiltshiremen, & I fully
believe that such a book
would be of real historical
value.

Believe me

Yours truly

Elisbeth Phillips

(Miss)

the chapters, but it is all
rather vague at present, & I
should be very glad of any
suggestions.

- (L1488)
1. Pre-Roman Wiltshire
 2. British ..
 3. Saxon ..
 4. Norman ..
 5. Medieval
 6. Civil Wars
 7. 18th Century
 8. after 1832
- } Political
} Hist. of
} Wills.

+ chapters on special subjects
such as

Monastic History
Ecclesiastical & Domestic Architecture
Industries.

Literary Worthies.

Geology.

Natural History, Dialect, &c,

If it would be possible for
you in any way to assist
with the first 4 chapters —
it would really be the
making of the book.

I feel it is a great
deal to write + ask — but
if a History of Girls is to be
of any real use, it must
be the work of "those
who know" —

I would propose that each
chapter be signed by the
writer "as in a book lately
edited by Traill — "Social
England" —

As to illustrations I should
figure 2 or 3 small ones to
each chapter showing the best
work in the country of that
period — + 2 or 3 large ones
to the whole book.

Ellis Stock would I
believe publish such a book,
with perhaps some assistance
in the way of subscribers.

If you would consider
this scheme I should be
very grateful — So far
it has RECEIVED
THE ARCHIVE
met with the warm approval

Rev. Canon Sir James
Erasmus Philipps.