

Call for Papers
The Victorians Institute
October 20, 21, 2006
Converse College
Spartanburg, SC

*From Mrs. Jellyby to Edwin Chadwick:
Gender and Reform in Victorian Culture*

Keynote Speaker: Alison Booth, University of Virginia

Author: "How to Make it as a Woman"

Possible topics may include:

- Vegetarianism
- Middle-class women and the working classes
- Women as advocates for children and the poor
- Male reformers or activists who had good (or bad) working relationships with women
- Women writers addressing social reform
- Women and missionary work, in the empire as well as at home
- Education
- The abolitionist movement
- The anti-vivisection movement
- Women utopian writers
- Women in utopia
- Reform and the engendering of empire
- Theosophy, spiritualism and reform
- Parodying reform
- Gender, genre and the discourse of reform
- Gender in the administration of reform

These are suggestions. Papers are welcome on other topics, as are proposals for panels. Proposals should include name, title, mailing address, email address and telephone number. Proposals for panels should provide contact information for all participants, a synopsis of the panel and abstracts of all papers to be included. The deadline for proposal submission is **June 1, 2006**.

Send 250 word abstracts for individual papers as well as panel proposals to Anita Rose, anita.rose@converse.edu or Department of English, Converse College, 580 E. Main St. Spartanburg, SC 29302. Electronic submissions are encouraged as MS Word or Word compatible attachments.

"Their objects were as various as their demands. They were going to raise new buildings, they were going to pay off debts on old buildings, they were going to establish in a picturesque building (engraving of proposed west elevation attached) the Sisterhood of Mediaeval Marys, they were going to give a testimonial to Mrs. Jellyby, they were going to have their secretary's portrait painted and presented to his mother-in-law, whose deep devotion to him was well known, they were going to get up everything, I really believe, from five hundred thousand tracts to an annuity and from a marble monument to a silver tea-pot. They took a multitude of titles. They were the Women of England, the Daughters of Britain, the Sisters of all the cardinal virtues separately, the Females of America, the Ladies of a hundred denominations."

Bleak House, 1853