Prospectus of the edition

by John G. Slater and Kenneth Blackwell

1. Brief description of the edition

The Collected Essays of Bertrand Russell will include nearly all of his published and unpublished essays, reviews, scholarly papers, and popular articles, as well as those letters he intended for publication. In a writing life spanning 80 years Russell wrote about 2,000 such items, so the Edition is likely to run to some 25 volumes. In order to achieve an accurate and definitive text, rigorous editing standards will be employed; but, as a prime intention of the Edition is to present a clear, readable text, the scholarly apparatus will be kept as completely as proves possible in the background.

2. Need for the edition

Russell himself collected only a small fraction of his essays into books. Several of these collections are well-known: Mysticism and Logic, Sceptical Essays, Unpopular Essays (which proved very popular) and Portraits from Memory. None has ever gone out of print. An examination of Lester E. Denonn's bibliography in The Philosophy of Bertrand Russell, edited by Paul Arthur Schilpp, conveys some idea of the variety and number of the essays that have never been reprinted. In the last decade, extensive bibliographical research has turned up many hundreds more. Occasionally a fresh one is discovered, though rarely now from the early years of Russell's career as an author. The Russell Archives, which has nearly a complete collection of the 2,000 essays in one form or other, including many unpublished ones, is regularly asked to supply photocopies of essays which lie, inaccessible to most but not forgotten by all, in out of print books, newspapers and periodicals, such as the Jewish Daily Forward, The Journal of the Louise Pettibone Smith Society, and even Mind. During the first five months of 1972-73, to take an example, the Archives supplied 10,000 photocopies, most of which represent pages of his essays.

As for essays which have never been published, Russell may have had good reasons for not publishing them at the time he wrote them. They may soon have been superseded by further developments in his thinking or in public events. Some may have been rejected by the magazine editors or literary agencies who commissioned them. Some were clearly intended only for the enjoyment of a small group, such as the Cambridge Apostles, or
for the critical eyes of his partner in the writing of *Principia Mathematica*, Alfred North Whitehead. It is even possible that some were published in obscure journals. None of these reasons afford a good ground against their present publication. Indeed, the wide availability that publication would give Russell's earliest attempts, both as a student and as a young Cambridge Fellow, might result in a reassessment, to his credit, of his importance to the history of twentieth-century philosophy. For example, a study of some of the essays he wrote in the 1890s shows that Russell was overgenerous in attributing to Moore leadership in the revolt against absolute idealism. An unpublished book on theory of knowledge, written in 1913, is our best source for the direction in which Russell's philosophical thinking was moving just before Wittgenstein's impact on it. Its publication will also make it possible for readers to decide for themselves what Wittgenstein may have learned from Russell.

Scholarly works have now begun to appear tracing the details of Russell's philosophical, political and personal development. Such scholarship, if it is not to have to be done again later, demands ready access to everything Russell wrote. We have to bear in mind too that Russell is read not only for research purposes, but also for pleasure. Proof of this lies in the fact that over 50 of his books are still in print in the English-speaking world: were they read only by researchers, as are those of many of his dead contemporaries, they would have gone out of print long ago. The exquisite wit to be found in the Archives' files is enough by itself to justify the reprinting of many of the essays. Republication of many others is justified by the information they contain about Russell and the world he graced for so long.

### 3. Problems of copyright

McMaster University (through its instrument, Res-Lib Ltd.) holds the copyright in all of Bertrand Russell's unpublished writings. The copyright came into McMaster's possession through the agreements it signed with Lord Russell and the Bertrand Russell Estate. Even writings whose text is not available to McMaster are included. Although the Russell Estate holds veto power over the publication of any of Russell's hitherto unpublished manuscripts, it has consented to the publication of all such material in the Edition. Indeed, the Edition, in many ways, will be a cooperative project. The only difficulty which might be encountered concerns manuscripts owned by private individuals and other institutions, e.g., the dozen or so essays written between 1902 and 1910 now owned by the University of Texas. Often individuals and institutions will not allow copies of their materials to be made unless McMaster pledges in writing not to publish them without the owner's consent. Some institutions and individuals refuse to part with copies of unpublished materials under almost any conditions. We remain hopeful, however, that consent will be given when it is explained that a definitive edition of Russell's *Collected Essays* is being undertaken.

Russell's published essays fall into two groups with respect to the question of copyright: there are essays in which Russell retained the copyright, and essays in which he did not. It is sometimes difficult to know into which group a particular essay falls. Since copyright automatically rests with the author unless it is expressly purchased by the publisher with the provision that the author must apply to him for permission to reprint, the ownership of the copyright in a particular essay is usually fairly easy to determine. If no evidence can be found in the publisher's favour, then we shall assume that the Russell Estate holds the copyright. The Russell Estate has agreed to permit any essays in which it holds the copyright to be included in the Edition. In the case of copyrights which were transferred to publishers, they may have passed into the public domain. This will have happened with publishers who are defunct; and with American publishers whose publication of his writings occurred over 28 or 56 years ago (depending on whether or not they re-registered their copyrights). In all other cases, permission of the presumed copyright holder will have to be sought. Most copyright holders will probably waive their right to a fee, since any one essay will be only a very small part of the whole Edition.

### 4. Scope of the edition

The Edition will draw upon all of Russell's writings, exclusive of published books and private correspondence. The scope of the Edition must, however, be more narrowly defined. For example, Russell sometimes wrote more than one review of the same book. When these reviews are very similar only one will be included in the Edition. Incomplete drafts will usually be omitted. His notes on books he read and lectures he attended will also be omitted. However, no essay will be excluded simply because it is highly technical or merely because it is popular. Russell's genius encompassed both these poles.
5. Format of the edition

Each volume will have the following sections:

a. A short general preface to be reprinted in each volume.

b. A short introduction to give readers the necessary facts about Russell's life during the period covered by the volume and the reasons for the selection of the essays in it. The introduction will neither summarize nor critically assess the contents of the volume. Nor will the introduction repeat the statement of editing principles; it will appear in Volume I only and then as an appendix.

c. Table of contents.

d. Definitive text of the essays, with the date of composition of each, followed by a brief note at the beginning of each essay summarizing the source(s) for the text. A minimum of editorial footnotes will draw attention to any important variant readings. Only the most obscure allusions to people and events will be clarified by the editors.

e. An appendix discussing any major textual problems and listing the less important, though still substantive, variant readings. Accidental variant readings will not be listed.

f. Alphabetical list of the works Russell refers to in the essays contained in the volume.

g. Index of names and topics.

6. Editing principles to be employed

For several years the editors have been studying the problems which fall under this head. We have learned what the various schools have to offer, and in what respects they seem susceptible to criticism. As our readers may be aware, the comparatively lax standards which were used for editions of contemporary writers in the nineteenth century have been replaced by far stricter ones. Under the influence of classical scholarship, modern textual scholars are willing to devote large chunks of their graduate students' time, and even their own, to collating the history of every comma of a text through its passage from various stages of manuscript and typescript to proofs and all versions printed during its author's lifetime. We have studied the tradition of Pollard, McKerrow, Greg (whose Calculus of Variants adopts the symbolism of Principia Mathematica) and Bowers, which has culminated in the Statement of Editorial Principles of the powerful Center for Editions of American Authors. We have profited from Edmund Wilson's scathing criticism of this school in his monograph, The Fruits of the MLA, and from James Thorpe's more balanced appraisal in his book, Principles of Textual Criticism. We have attended symposia on editing problems sponsored by the University of Toronto Press. We have familiarized ourselves with editorial practices in such diverse editions of Complete Works as those of Marx, Lenin and Stalin; John Stuart Mill and John Maynard Keynes; Hegel; Whitman, Twain and Henry James; Shakespeare; and several others. (The prize for completeness goes not to the Americans, but to the Russians, for their inclusion of Lenin's marginalia.) One of us visited the John Dewey Center at the University of Southern Illinois for tips on their edition of Dewey, which has been called "An Approved Text" by the Center for Editions of American Authors. We have even considered the "diplomatic" approach of which an outstanding example is the recent facsimile edition of T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land. There are many interesting approaches in editions not purporting to be definitive, and we have examined them. In general, we admire the care lavished in the modern editing process, but often disagree with the result. Not only do many editors neglect to pull down their scaffolding when the job is done; their "all or nothing" approach to the retention of scholarly apparatus is not as helpful to the reader as a more selective and piecemeal attitude to variant readings. Our own approach follows.

It is the aim of this Edition to present in so far as possible a definitive text of Russell's writings. By a definitive text we mean the text as Russell intended it. Since his intentions are frequently unknown, various means will be used to determine them. Manuscripts, typescripts, proofs, correspondence (especially with publishers and editors), published versions of the text, and Russell's own copies of the published versions will be consulted and collated with a view to establishing the definitive text. Neither a manuscript nor a published text can be assumed to be definitive, for Russell may have introduced changes at the (usually missing) typescript level or an editor may have altered his text without Russell's authority. Examples of many kinds of interference abound. For these reasons all available versions produced during Russell's lifetime of any given piece of his writing will be scrutinized with care for the clues they may provide of his intentions.

When the collations have been done, and the choices between variants made, there remains the question of whether to include the rejected variants in the form of appendices or footnotes. They would
serve as evidence for the editors' choices and also provide a history of the text from the manuscript through proofs to the last version printed during Russell's lifetime. Revisions within the manuscripts themselves might also be noted; although they do not present a problem in determining Russell's linguistic intentions, they do form part of the history of the text. It is extremely doubtful, however, whether readers of the Edition will desire such lists, since most of the emendations that could be noted are of a very minor nature. The editors will, of course, have to discover all alterations in the text to determine the definitive text, but they do not believe that lists of the alterations need to be printed. They are persuaded that it would be more consonant both with Russell's own attitude to textual matters and with the needs of Russell scholars to make their emendations silently and to deposit their working materials in the Russell Archives where they would be available to all students of textual history.

There is, however, one kind of emendation which could usefully be printed with the definitive text, namely, emendations which significantly alter the meaning of Russell's text. Since there is no mechanical way of distinguishing between meaningful alterations and mere verbal changes, a certain amount of trust will have to be accorded the editors. The alternative of printing all emendations is a mark of pedantry which Russell would have abhorred. Examples of emendations which the editors have already decided are worth printing include omissions of passages of one or more sentences and any changes in technical or philosophical vocabulary. In "The Free Man's Worship," to give an example of the first sort, at the end of the paragraph beginning "But passive renunciation," the following passage was omitted in Philosophical Essays (1910) and all subsequent printings of the essay: "At times of such inspiration we seem to hear the strange, deep music of an invisible sea, beating ceaselessly upon an unknown shore. Could we but stand on that shore, we feel, another vision of life might be ours, wider, freer, than the narrow valley in which our private life is imprisoned." Yet the manuscript and the first two printed versions include the passage. The fact that it was omitted might possibly interest the student of Russell's development.

So far we have been discussing the treatment of "substantive" variants, i.e., alterations which demonstrably change meaning. There is another class of variants, of very minor importance, but whose treatment presents vexing problems. These "accidental" variants concern punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraphing and italicization — all matters which do not affect

(continued on p. 19)
meaning, but as to which most authors have habitual and decided approaches. Russell was no exception. It is desirable to deal with problems of accidentals both conventionally and consistently, so that the reader's attention is not distracted from the meaning of what he is reading. Russell's practice with regard to accidentals was almost always consistent and (in terms of British practice) usually conventional. Since some style must be adopted for the Edition, no harm will be done by adopting Russell's own style. Indeed, in so far as accidentals contribute an intangible flavour to verbal expression, some additional note of authenticity may thereby be gained.

In practice this policy means that little alteration can be done to texts of which only published versions exist. All we can do is compile lists of words Russell normally hyphenated and capitalized, and of words that he spelled unconventionally, and using these lists, change printed texts back to the way he likely wrote them. Paragraphing and punctuation are less objective, and probably little change should be ventured here. In cases in which Russell's manuscripts or typescripts exist, respect for the best evidence of the author's intentions would require that the original texts be followed, though authorized changes in proofs must always be kept in mind as possibilities. Only rarely would alterations of accidentals, at any stage, be noted in the Edition.

The only period in Russell's life during which his practice with regard to accidentals was noticeably different is the period around the turn of the century. His capitalizations at that time were much more frequent than later. In this he was following the convention of the time. The policy to be adopted for the Edition will be to retain these frequent capitalizations. In all other respects, such as quoting, footnoting and italicization, a single style will be applied throughout the Edition.

On the matter of essays which were published in other languages, only English translations will appear in the Edition. In the case of certain early philosophical essays published in French, it seems that Russell himself made the translation from an initial draft in English. This was certainly the case with "The Logic of Relations" (1901) of which manuscripts in both English and French exist; and English manuscripts of several other essays are extant. Such manuscripts will be consulted in preparing a definitive English text, with the published version taking precedence where conflict occurs.
7. Plan of the contents

Work on the Edition has progressed far enough for us to be able to estimate accurately the number of words in the corpus up to 1914. The word counts show that the first volume can comprise all the publishable material (except early drafts of The Principles of Mathematics) through 1899 in 160,000 words. It will include the more outstanding undergraduate papers and the addresses to the Cambridge Apostles and to the Moral Sciences Club, as well as Russell's adolescent and first published essays. By grouping together writings of such diversity in a single volume, readers will be able to survey all the primary material (exclusive of letters) relating to Russell's early development. And readers will also be given a better estimate of the range of interests occupying the young Russell's mind. We believe it important that the first volume attract as many readers as possible, which is an additional reason for selecting its contents in the way we have. Some of the essays are undoubtedly popular, and hence ought to attract a wide audience. This is likely to influence the sales of later volumes.

The remaining essays could be ordered chronologically, but, in our opinion, only two advantages would accrue: ease of reference, and the exposure of any reader to the whole of Russell's work in the period covered by a single volume. The disadvantages are very great. Few readers of Russell's political writings are likely to be capable of reading his technical philosophical writings. Because Russell had such an enormous output, his writings in a single field would be scattered over many volumes, and thus lose the attraction to specialists such as that, for example, which a new volume of his writings on logic or China or religion or war would have. Our aim is to emphasize Russell's contributions in a number of fields. Any advantage the chronological method has is exposing the reader to the many topics on which he wrote could be provided almost as well by a full bibliography of his writings keyed to the Collected Essays.

After the first volume, the essays will be grouped into several series, or streams, of volumes, according to the subject matter. There will be a Logic series, a Philosophy series, a Politics series, and several volumes on miscellaneous topics. The number of volumes within each series is as follows:

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<td>Cambridge (or Early) Essays. 1888-1899</td>
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<td>II-IV</td>
<td>Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics</td>
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<td>II</td>
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<td>IX</td>
<td>1935-1965 (including the lengthy &quot;Notes to Human Knowledge&quot;)</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>Politics</td>
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<td>Free Trade and Women's Suffrage</td>
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<td>Pacifism in World War I</td>
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<td>XIII</td>
<td>China, India and Japan</td>
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<td>Communism and Fascism</td>
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<td>Democracy in America</td>
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<td>XVI-VII</td>
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8. Detailed contents of the first volumes

We have indicated by one asterisk those essays which were published in contemporary journals, and by two asterisks those which are available in collections of Russell's essays. Titles lacking asterisks will be published for the first time in the Edition.

The dates beside published essays are dates of publication. Otherwise they are dates of composition. The word counts are considered estimates which have been rounded off to the nearest hundred.

Vol. I. Cambridge (or Early) Essays. 1888-1899

Only half the text of "Greek Exercises" has been published before — in My Philosophical Development and the Autobiography — where the versions supplement rather than entirely duplicate each other. Russell's adolescent essays — some of them probably written for a tutor and some for himself — have never been published before. They are not of uniform worth, but we are including them all because they are short and we wish to make available all the evidence relating to this early stage of Russell's development. The same principle has been followed with respect to his undergraduate papers, with the...
exception of one paper on the history of philosophy which appears to have been written merely as an exercise. The rest, we have tentatively decided, provide information regarding Russell's personal and philosophical development, even though most, as his lecture notebooks show, were chosen from a list of assigned topics. The occasional papers, e.g., those read to the "Apostles," are remarkably better written, and have been grouped together. We have organized the post-adolescent essays by broad subject areas, rather than chronologically, because that is the way the reader can best survey Russell's development in each area. But as an aid to those wishing to study Russell's development as a whole, a list of the essays, including those omitted from the volume, in their order of composition is appended.

When Russell finished his Cambridge course work in 1894, he was undecided whether to pursue a career in philosophy or political economy. While continuing to write on philosophy he and his first wife, Alys, went to Germany to study economics and to do research for their book, *German Social Democracy*. Three short items dating from this period have been found and are included in this volume.

It was also in 1895 that Russell's first known publication appeared—a review for *Mind* of a book, written in German, on the philosophy of science. There is some indication that Russell may have written for student publications such as the *Cambridge Observer*, but a diligent search has revealed no articles, signed or unsigned, that can with reasonable probability be attributed to him.

Papers on mathematical philosophy and ethics have been separated from those on other philosophical topics, such as epistemology and the history of philosophy. At the end of Section IV will be found many short "notes," most of which were found together in Russell's archives under the head "Various Notes on Mathematical Philosophy, 1896-8". Similar, but separate, materials—often of considerable length—written after 1897 will be found in Volume II. Those written before 1898 are to be found in this volume.

CONTENTS

I. Adolescent Writings

1888 Greek Exercises 10000
1889 Evolution as Affecting Modern Political Science 1200
1889 How Far Does A Country's Prosperity Depend on Natural Resources? 600
1889 State Socialism 1200
1889 The Advantages and Disadvantages of Party Government 1500

1 See his "A Turning-point in My Life," *Saturday Book* 8(1948), 142-146.

2 BR to Rollo Russell, 1 May 1892.

II. Apostolic Essays

1893 Can We Be Statesmen?
1894 Lööberg or Hedda
1894 Cleopatra or Maggie Tulliver
1895 Mechanical Morals and the Morals of Machinery
1896 The Uses of Luxury
1897 Is Ethics a Branch of Empirical Psychology?
1897 Seems Madam? Nay, it is.**
1899 Was the World Good Before the Sixth Day?

III. Philosophy

1893 Paper on Epistemology I
1893 Paper on Epistemology II
1894 Paper on History of Philosophy
1894 Paper on Epistemology III
1894 Paper on Descartes
1894 A Critical Comparison of the Methods of Bacon, Hobbes and Descartes
1894 Paper on Bacon
1894 Paper on Descartes
1894 Paper on Descartes II
1894 Paper on Hobbes
1895 On the Distinction between the Psychological and Metaphysical Points of View
1895 Review of Heymans, *Die Gesetze und Elemente des wissenschaftlichen Denkens*°
1896 Review of Hannequin, *Essai critique sur l'hypothèse des Atomes dans la Science contemporaine*
1898 Review of Goblot, *Essai sur la Classification des Sciences*
1899 The Classification of Relations
1899 Review of Meinong, *Über die Bedeutung des Weberschen Gesetzes*°

IV. Mathematical Philosophy

1895 Introduction [to Fellowship dissertation on the foundations of geometry]
1895 Alternative or Supplementary Introduction [to above]
1896 The Logic of Geometry°

1889 "The Language of a Nation is a monument to which every forcible individual in the course of ages has contributed a stone."
1889 Contentment; its good and bad points
1889 Destruction Must Precede Construction

17000 words
1896 Review of Lechalas, *Etude sur l'espace et le temps* 400
1896 The *A Priori* in Geometry 6600.
1896 On Some Difficulties of Continuous Quantity 5300.
1897 Review of Couturat, *De l'Infini Mathématique* 3400.
1897 On the Relations of Number and Quantity 6600.
1899 Sur les Axiomes de la Géométrie 9400.
1899 Various Notes on Mathematical Philosophy 1896-8 12100.

1900 Necessity and Possibility 153,000 words

*CONTENTS*

- 1898 On Causality as used in Dynamics 1300
- 1898 Note on Order 6000
- 1898 An Analysis of Mathematical Reasoning 27000
- 1899 On the difference of metrical and projective Geometry 1800
- 1899 On the Quadrilateral Construction 3500
- 1899 Definition of the Plane 2800
- n.d. On the Principles of Arithmetic 5000
- n.d. On Quantity with Distinction of Sign 4500
- n.d. On Pure Extensive (Scalar) Quantity 2700
- n.d. On the Constituents of Space and their mutual relations 5000
- n.d. Calculus of Extension 300
- n.d. On Equality and Inequality 300
- n.d. Positional Manifold 500
- 1899 The Fundamental Ideas and Axioms of Mathematics 17000
- 1899-1900 [An early version of the] Principles of Mathematics 75000
- 1900 On Identity 300

Total for Volume II 160,100 words

Vol. V. Philosophy. 1900-1910

We have made what is perhaps a severe distinction between Philosophy and Logic. As a result, even popular articles on the philosophy of mathematics will be found in the Logic series. We have also omitted from the Philosophy series essays in the genre of "The Free Man's Worship". This series does include, however, all popular essays and reviews that are substantially devoted to explaining or criticizing philosophical positions. And despite Russell's later separation of Ethics from Philosophy, in the period covered by Volume V he did not do so; accordingly, we have included, in a separate section, his ethical writings during this time.

We have chosen several articles for this volume which were published unsigned. The evidence for ascription of the articles to Russell is overwhelming, and we have set it out at the appropriate place within the volume.

Vol. II. Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics. 1898-1900

This volume is comprised entirely of unpublished writings on the foundations of mathematics during the period 1898-1900. It includes several attempts at a full-scale work. A few items which might have been included here have, for the sake of continuity, been printed in Volume I. They are the 1898 manuscripts found under the title, "Various Notes on Mathematical Philosophy 1896-8," and an article published in 1899 on "The Axioms of Geometry".

1900 Necessity and Possibility 6500
n.d. Leibniz's Doctrine of Substance as Deduced from his Logic 12000
n.d. Do Differences Differ? 1200
1901 Review of Hastie, *Kant's Cosmogony* 1200
Vol. X. Politics: Free Trade and Women's Suffrage, 1904-1910

In trying to coordinate the volumes of the Edition with the units or stages into which the various aspects of Russell's life seem naturally to break up, we have ended the first volume of his political essays before the inception of World War I. As a result, there is not sufficient writing, in the form of essays, before that time to fill a standard-sized volume. We are therefore including other documents than essays, such as correspondence and press clippings. This approach promises to work out doubly well, for we have observed that Russell's participation in the movements for Free Trade and Women's Suffrage has largely been ignored. The provision of these other documents should help to make this stage of his political life more widely known.

CONTENTS

n.d. On the Democratic Ideal 5000
1904 Literature of the Fiscal Controversy* 2100
1904 The Tariff Controversy* 1700
1904 Mr. Charles Booth on Fiscal Reform* 1000
1904 Old and New Protectionism* 800
1904 International Competition* 500
1904 Mr. Charles Booth's Proposals for Fiscal Reform* 3400
1904 Mr. Gerald Balfour on Countervailing Duties* 600
n.d. [The Rights of Women] 3500
1907 A Letter to Mr. Chaplin* 200
1907 [Manifesto for the Wimbledon By-Election]* 200
1907 Biology and Politics [review of Chatterton-Hill, Heredity and Selection in Sociology]* 3300
1908 Biology and Politics [another review of Chatterton-Hill]* 700
1908 Liberalism and Women's Suffrage* 2800
1909 Should Suffragists Welcome the People's Suffrage Federation?* 1500
1910 Anti-Suffragist Anxieties* 5300
1910 Address to the Bedford Liberal Association* 3700

The Wimbledon By-Election, 1907

Correspondence - principally that with Margaret Llewelyn Davies - and other documents concerning Russell's part in the Wimbledon By-Election and in the general movement for Women's Suffrage will round out the volume, making a

Total for Volume X of about 90,000 words