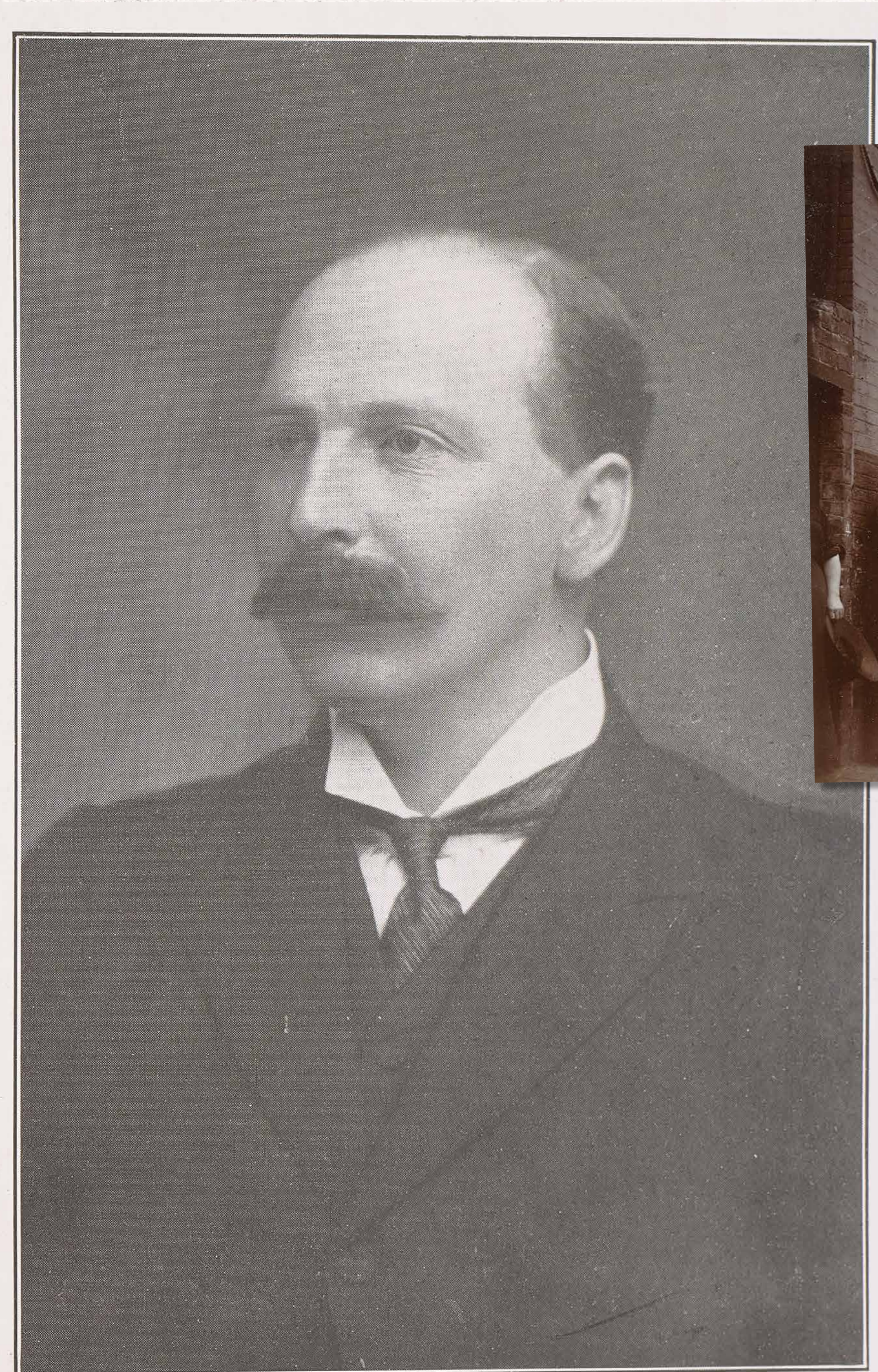
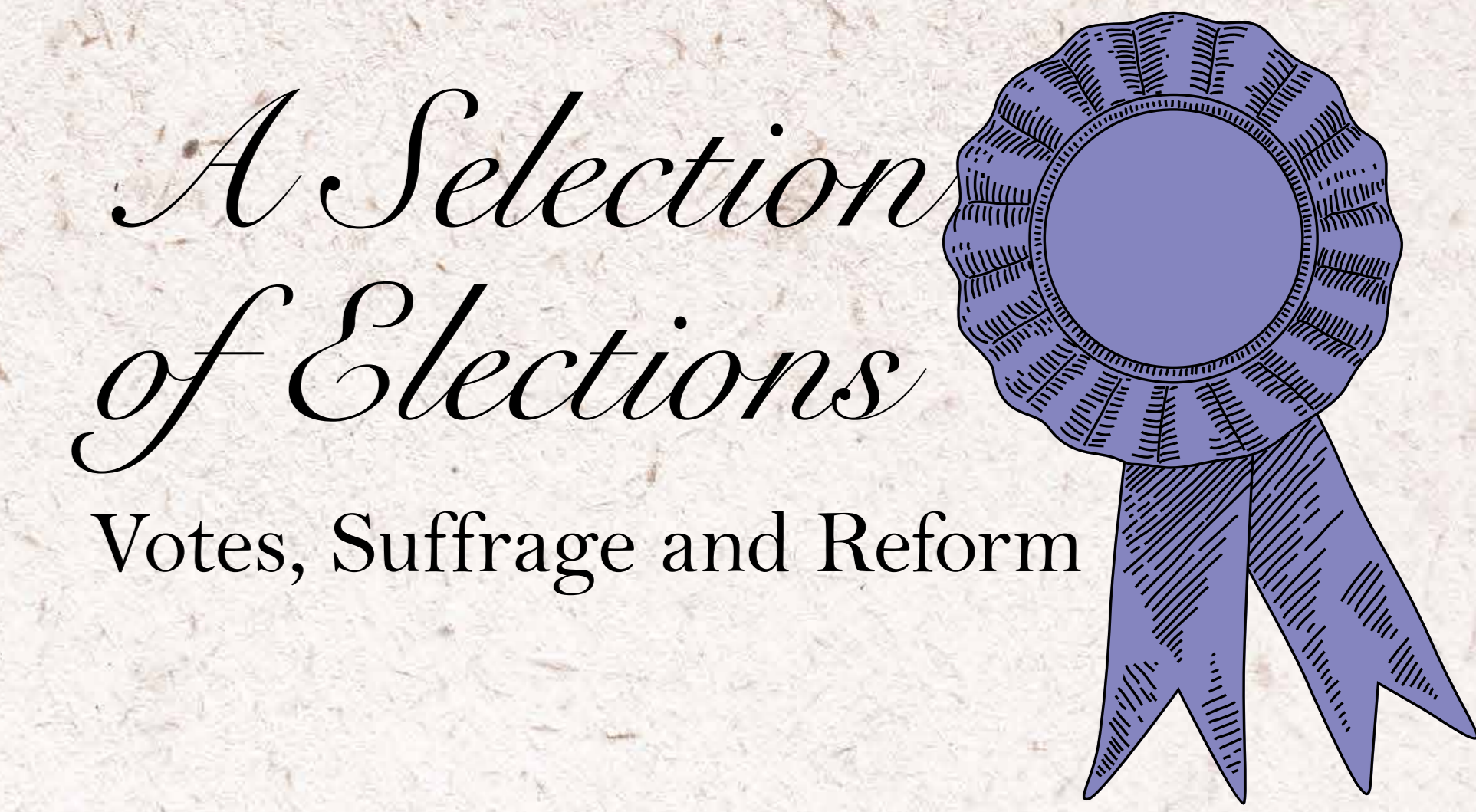


# James Morrison MP, “Friend of the Poor”



*Yours very truly,  
J. A. Morrison.*



Left: Signed photograph of JA Morrison, from a printed address to voters, December 1909  
Manuscript Collections, MS 824/1, p. 6

Above: Photograph of supporters near Apple Yard, off Old Street, Nottingham, 1911  
Manuscript Collections, MS 824/1



Above: Photograph of women making fabric garlands, Nottingham, 1911  
Manuscript Collections, MS 824/1

A rich, land-owning gentleman, Captain James Morrison was Conservative MP for Nottingham East for less than three years, but made his mark among the poverty-stricken inhabitants of Sneinton and St Ann’s.

James Archibald Morrison (1873-1934) had no apparent connection with Nottingham before being selected as a prospective parliamentary candidate in 1908. In the general election of January 1910, Morrison overturned Sir Henry Cotton’s majority and won Nottingham East by 152 votes. He was so popular that he increased his majority to 1,470 in the next general election in December 1910. His Liberal opponents claimed that he won this victory by bribery, and brought a petition against his election.

At Morrison’s trial at the Guildhall in Nottingham, the judge heard allegations that Morrison’s agents had illegally paid people to carry torches at two processions gathering crowds to public meetings. However, none of those claiming to have been torch-bearers would make the same statements under oath.

Another allegation was that Morrison gave money to people living in his constituency to induce them to vote for him. But the judge decided that a fund set

up by Morrison to help people in need was unconnected with his election campaign. Most working-class men and all women were excluded from voting at this time, yet they still received help.

The petition was dismissed on 19 May 1911. In the last few days of the trial, people living in ‘The Bottoms’ area of Sneinton had garlanded their streets with floral tributes, bunting and banners in support of their MP. A month after the trial, 12,897 penny subscribers from the constituency presented him with a replica of the Warwick Vase as a testimonial of their esteem.

The following year, Morrison resigned his seat on the grounds of ill-health and retired to his country estates.

Newspaper cutting reporting “East Nottingham’s Tribute to Capt Morrison”, 1911  
Manuscript Collections, MS 824/1, p. 42

