

AL/2456

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> / 96.

Whittinghame  
Bretonkirk.

My dear Mrs Fawcett.

It was kind & like yourself  
to write to me. We have had  
a terrible time, and it was  
a bolt out of the blue. I  
never heard my sister was  
ill till I was telegraphed  
for, the illness was so dread-  
fully sudden. It is the first  
break in among the seven  
sisters, & we do feel it acutely

for ourselves, but the two  
children, <sup>she has eith'</sup> makes it very hard  
to bear. She was a devoted  
mother, & I am glad she was  
spared the knowledge that  
she was parting from them -  
we had a hope she was to  
pull thro', but the heart  
suddenly failed. I got  
back ~~here~~ yesterday & shall  
be settled here for sometime.

I was so glad to hear about  
the Courtnays, I have often  
been thinking of them. I have

a feeling that she will not  
be able to resume the Hon. Sec.  
work, I expect she will have  
to give all her time to her  
husband's work, & I am sure he will,  
however many secretaries he  
has, make great demands  
on her time. Believe me  
dear Mrs Fawcett

Yrs very sincerely  
Francis Balfour

Lord Salisbury is here for one night  
on his way to Balmoral. He has  
said nothing, but I think he looks  
as if he had not been dissatisfied  
with his interviews with the Queen.