

AL/3506

Nov. 11. /08

32 ADDISON ROAD,

KENSINGTON, W.

Dear Mrs Fawcett.

I dined with the Home Secretary  
last night, & put all our points  
to him. He was a rather keen  
Suffragist, but I see his trials  
with the militants have a  
good deal upset him. He had  
just seen Mrs Cobden Sand-  
erson, "a terrible, an aw-  
ful woman," so Hubert wink-  
ing large eyes. She wanted  
an interview with the Pankhursts  
wh. he denied. Mrs C. S. swept  
of the room saying "very well

I shall go to prison, & refuse  
food when I am in." Mean-  
while Christabel & mother are  
suffering fr. cerebral excitement.  
The Dr reports that at their life  
outside of excitement, & tension,  
they can stand prison life. Mrs  
Drummond was let out because  
she had a prolonged fainting  
attack, & is in the family way.  
A thing says Herbert, "Pauls  
announce," but the Dr. wd not take  
the responsibility of her remaining  
in. He has not given Mr Mac-  
daren leave to see the Park-  
hurst on behalf of the liberal  
women, so that meeting may

go by the board. He says too he  
hears, they are finding it difficult  
to get people to go to prison, & he  
thinks the Government are crush-  
ing the whole movement. He  
told me he was still uncon-  
vinced many women want  
it, and that fr. his own con-  
stituency, he had only one  
letter signed by a family.  
What is Miss Ford about??  
As quite he told me was  
quite uninterested.  
I saw he felt he could not  
answer fr. Asquite. I also  
saw he thought that the  
Constitutionalists sh. be  
encouraged.  
If we decide on a depu-

tation, I think he will do his  
best to have us received, but I  
could get no assurance for  
him. In truth, he ~~or~~ knows  
he has no influence in the  
Cabinet. I have a great friend-  
ship for him, but I am never  
in his company without seeing  
his ineffectiveness.

I think we sh. form our deputa-  
tion announce who they <sup>represent</sup> ~~are~~  
ask' to be rec? & let the refusal  
fall on the government head.

But, I don't think it is much  
use going till before the new  
session, or just after it begins.  
Some say the government

ConV

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mean to dissolve, if the dows  
throw out the Licensing Bill.  
This, I don't agree to at all.  
Asquith will keep the saddle  
as long as he can. But, the  
longer he stays in, the more  
he is bound to bring in his

Franchise Bill.

There is no doubt just now  
militarism has injured

us.

I doubt if I can get to the Com-  
mittee on Friday. My eldest  
son, who is just going back  
to Egypt, will be with me in

the afternoon, & "the cradle must  
be rocked." Repath, although  
you think well of my attempt,  
it was a friendly talk, but he  
will only give us a helping hand  
when we make the push. He  
will try nothing for us.

all seems to have gone well  
with the voting.  
I hear there is <sup>be</sup> a big meeting  
tonight at Portsmouth -

Yours affly  
Francis Balfour