

AL/3618 Feb 6. 1912.

Homewood

Wheeler, W. H.

Dear Mr. Fawcett,

Your last letter
in a separate
sheet.

Yours
Sincerely

Constance Hyton.

Thank you for several

letters. I am distressed that,

owing to illness, I have left

so long unanswered.

Baby nephew is now happily

telling well. Brother Vic was

due home about Feb. 14 but

hope may come before.

I gather from your public

utterances of renewed confidence

Mr. Lloyd says that you

to Sir Ed. Grey & Mr. Lloyd please that you will not
publish & with out delay
friendliness unless
all their
promises
carry
them
with
regards
to their
personal
conduct.

have silenced his recent proposal
"solution" for achieving a
smooth path for the Reform
Bill by a H. of C. resolution
that no women's ^{vote} measures are
shoved past without a Referendum
& ~~the~~ Cabinet ^{decision} ~~deciding~~ that
there shall be no Referendum.

I understood from your
comments when you read me
his suggestion that it had
shaken your confidence in Mr.
Lloyd George. It seems strange to
me that you should be

counseling your audience to
a reliance you no longer can
share. But perhaps you do
this as part of a policy
for holding the suffragist
Ministers to their promises
of a Campaign on behalf
of Women's Suffrage. Since that
Campaign was, I take it,
the principal ground of
your acceptance of the
Government's "offer" as a
workable chance, it is

certainly important that you
should not release them from
the Compact. If whenever they
break their bargain, women
are ready to accept the
next remaining best chance
they will ~~certainly~~ continue to
play that game. From all
private accounts that reach me
the Cabinet are at Nash beginning
to fear the situation they have
created for themselves on this
question. It is the moment therefore
to press home our advantage & more
than ever to remember the
helpless women for whose sake we
fight. * I enclose my reply about the

to make clear
to believe in their
anxious to
continue to
feel that you are
talk with you
since my

ltd off to watch their interests
in Parliament, in spite of their
financial resources (so much
greater than those of working
women) yet, some of them, have
recourse to violence at every
election, abutting practically
every strike, in fact on any
occasion when they consider
that their interests are seriously
frustrated: & in their case, the
"violence" is injurious to both
property & human beings in a
way never attempted by women.

Their Consciences might have
questioned - What did working
men do to ensure fair play for
women in 1832, 1867 & 1884;
through all the long drawn out
struggle of over 40 years during
which there was no question of
"violence" on the part of women?
When militancy began - 1906 to 1909
(there was ^{then} no violence from women)
what did the Labour party do
to secure that ~~votes for~~ Women's
Suffrage
should be made a ^{for} measure,
that women's deputations should
be received, that women suffragist-

should not be imprisoned, that
if imprisoned the treatment of
them should be differentiated
from that of criminals?

How did these Defenders
of the right to strike, stand by
the women when their hunger-
strike (surely not "violence" (that))
was met by ^{the} barbarity of
forcible feeding? During
weeks and months of
imprisonment? What did
the Labour Party do to stop such
~~the~~ cruelty to women who were
fighting for the very liberties this
party exists to uphold?

When after the last General Election the ~~women had cried a~~
~~truce,~~ the Labour Members
owing to the Govt's narrow
majority could control the
situation in Parliament, there
was no "violence" then, the women
having cried ^a truce. But did
the Labour party, as a party,
do anything to secure ~~either~~
a Govt. measure or the passing of
a private member's Bill for franchise to
women? They need only have
said "No Home Rule, No Budget,
No Welsh Disestablishment unless
you give votes to women". That

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would have been a more effective
stopper of future militancy
than any of these sanctimonious
sermons & "Conditions".

When Mr Henderson was a
member of the Adultist Deputation
which produced Mr. Asquith's
promise of more votes for
men & no votes for women, how
was it that he had no "or
condition" ready for Mr.
Asquith?

I think Mr ~~Asquith~~ (Cuthman
& the "fair number" of others
whom he guarantees to agree

with him, ^{probably} quite ~~possibly~~
speak hastily & without due
consideration, & I have no
wish to take them too
seriously. If, by chance, ^{however,} they
really mean what they say
I hope they will say it, not
only to you in private, but also
in public and on those
occasions when they are
professing to stand up for
the women because their
~~own~~ Demand is just & urgent.