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BAGLEY WOOD,

OXFORD.

May 26. 1908

Dear Mrs Fawcett

I fear you must think me
a person very easily taken in, but
I cannot help feeling that Asquith's
concession is more important than
you apparently think it. It is evident,
is it not, that, barring improbable
accidents, Women's Suffrage must
be carried in the present House of

Commons as part of a Government
Bill, tho' a part not proposed by
the Government. I had supposed
hitherto that our object in pressing for
a Government Bill rather than a
private Member's Bill was that
private Member's Bills never get
through all their stages. But this by
no means applies to a private
Member's Amendment to a Government
Bill, which, if carried when first
proposed, has exactly the same chance

as if it were proposed by the Government.
So far as I can see, the only obstacle to
our securing Women's Suffrage in this
Parliament is the House of Lords. That,
I admit, is a great obstacle, but I
should have supposed that was a
reason for objecting to the House of
Lords rather than to Asquith. As to
Asquith's personal opinion, & his
motives for the concession, I cannot see
how they concern us. As for the
"Adult Suffrage Trap", it has surely

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been clear for some time that this
House would never pass the
limited Bill. Therefore I should
have supposed that friends of
Women's Suffrage would have to
resign themselves to a somewhat
wider measure. - I do not of course
know what you know about the tricks
of official liberalism; but surely no
Prime Minister has hitherto made any
promise on the subject to a body of
members?

Yours very truly

Bertrand Russell.