

AL/1485

18. Brookside,

Cambridge.

Dec 10.

My dear Mr. Estlin

I hope you will forgive me for writing  
to you on a very painful subject. I sh<sup>d</sup> not of course  
venture to do so on private grounds; I do so  
solely because I believe the prospects of the  
women's movement will be very materially  
affected by what you do at the present time.  
I think it is best to say at once that I am writing  
to entreat you most earnestly to retire from  
the secretarship of the M. A. P. Com<sup>ee</sup>, and  
that my reasons for doing so are to be found  
in the circumstances connected with your marriage  
and what took place previous to it. I am ex-  
ceedingly grieved to write to you, who have done  
so much good work for women, in this way.  
But I think you must on reflection, see  
that what happened before you were married  
has been and is a great injury to the cause of  
women. I purposely do not touch upon the moral  
question; altho' there too, I cannot think you  
were right. But what I would venture to urge

upon you is that by what you did  
you dealt a heavy blow at the very  
movement you had previously done so  
much for and sacrificed so much for.  
At the present moment more than half  
the life and energy of the W.P. Com<sup>ee</sup> is  
suspended, and a large section of workers  
feel they must dissociate themselves  
from it as long as you are the secretary.  
By retiring you could in some measure  
repair the injury which the circumstances,  
connected with your marriage have inflicted  
on the women's movement. These circum-  
stances are known by many outsiders and  
will become more known the longer the present  
position of affairs lasts. If you continue sec.  
I agree with Miss God that she will be bound  
in honour to tell Mr. Lefevre the reason  
why she and the Irish section have dissociated

themselves from the Com<sup>ee</sup>. This she is quite deter-  
mined to do; and I cannot but think that she is right.  
I think however she would be wrong if she told  
Mr. Lefevre what has taken place before every  
effort has been made to induce you to retire.  
Should these efforts fail, I have promised to  
go with her to see Mr. Lefevre on the subject.  
I only trust and hope they will not fail. I am  
hopeful that they will not because of all the  
work you have done for women's interests, and  
I believe that if you can be brought to think  
that you can now best serve the women's cause  
by retiring, you will retire. The matter is urgent  
for Mr. Lefevre has written in reply to  
Miss God that he will be able to see her  
on any Friday during this month that she  
may appoint. I have had a good deal of  
information sent to me on this subject &  
I have heard of what took place at the  
meeting of the S. A. Com<sup>ee</sup>. I can only say  
that if I had been a member of that Com<sup>ee</sup>  
I should not have voted with those who brought-

forward the motion against you. It is no thing  
being a simple member of ~~the~~ a com<sup>tee</sup> and it is  
another thing to be put forward as secretary  
and therefore as a representative of the move-  
ment in the eyes of the public.

Believe me, Faithfully yours

W. J. Fawcett

Fawcett Library  
27 Wilfred Street  
London S.W.1.

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