

Volume 6

Section I

27 June 1912

to

end Dec. 1912

(fols. 1 - 337)

vol T, 160 belongs to the
year 1912

1912

27 June

(fols. 1-54)

(1)

MR. LANSBURY'S PROTEST.

says protest - 26 June 1912

Suffragist Leader Says it has Done Incalculable Good.

Following Mr. Geo. Lansbury's stirring protest in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening a big demonstration will be held to-day at the Savoy Theatre. Miss Annie Kenney will preside, and Mr. Geo. Lansbury will address the meeting.

Interviewed yesterday, Miss Kenney said, "Thank God there is one man in the House of Commons with the courage of his convictions. Mr. Lansbury's remarks were simply magnificent, and the whole world knows to-day how suffragist prisoners are being tortured in the prisons of England.

"Both Liberals and Conservatives went into the Lobby full of admiration for Mr. Lansbury's courage. The women will think very highly of the member for Bow and Bromley, because his short and pointed protest has brought home this question more than all the meetings and demonstrations throughout the country. The Government do not know what they are letting themselves in for when they goad women so far."

Miss Kenney announced that strenuous efforts were being made to secure the release of Mr. Pethick Lawrence.

*25 June
1912*

June 26.

SIR,—In the name of justice, I ask whether Mr Tom Mann has gone down on his knees, confessed his fault, and promised not to do it again? He was convicted some time ago of what is usually called "treason"—viz., the inciting of soldiers to disobey orders. As far as I recollect, his sentence of imprisonment was for some years' duration. After a few weeks he is released. In the name of justice, may I ask why?

The militant suffragettes were at worst convicted of causing a disturbance and destroying some property. They were sentenced to some months' imprisonment, to which torture has been added, and are not yet released. In the name of, I fear, obsolete justice, may I ask why not? Is it perhaps that Mr Lansbury is the only manly man left of us who cannot like to feel that even unwomanly women are ill-treated?—I am, &c. C. M. M.

Submission, June 27th 1912.

with letter
27 July 1912
from Jessie
Hansman
[27 June
1912



2

BEAUTY AND STYLE
IN
SPECTACLES AND EYE GLASSES.
TROTTER, OPTICIAN,
40 GORDON STREET.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.
Both Sides of the Question,

"The Lansbury Lesson."

TO THE EDITOR.

It is unquestionably true that, as your leading article of the 26th inst. says, "There is more than surface significance in the extraordinary outburst of Mr George Lansbury in the House of Commons yesterday." But we may differ as to the primary impulse of the outburst and as to its value in the public life of our time. Many cannot agree that the "spirit and temper shown . . . degrades the national life." On the contrary, the alleged outrage stands to Mr Lansbury's credit as a man, a citizen, and a senator. When one recalls the Gospel story of an effective purification of the Temple by an indignantly-wielded whip of knotted cords, Mr Lansbury's outspoken commentary on the cynical trifling of the Prime Minister acquires the dignity of a Christian virtue, worthy of a vigorous Churchman. When 17,000 women in Glasgow maintain life by selling their bodies, can men retain their self-respect while permitting without protest vile outrages upon women of culture, whose crime is their endeavour to obtain the vote as a means of establishing social and political sex equality which will destroy the white flesh commerce of our sainted streets?

The present Cabinet's record on the women suffrage question is a disgrace to British public life. You have commented on the refutation of office by a Cabinet seriously divided on this, one of the few political proposals capable of influencing a public opinion, increasingly engrossed in industrial matters. Can you defend as worthy of the rather shady traditions of British politics the Government's refusal, as a Cabinet, to accept responsibility for including in the Reform Bill (or for rejecting) the principle of votes for women? If accepted, this principle involves a more unsettling constitutional change than any Home Rule Bill. If rejected, the nation demands to know by what means the just claims of womanhood are to be met. With issues so serious depending upon their action, the Cabinet's policy displays an unparalleled contempt for popular movements. It cannot be pleaded that the settlement of the matter by the unfettered votes of private members of the House of Commons is more democratic; this Cabinet has too often used the closure. While this action may enable the divided Cabinet to escape fulfilment of its members' pledges, it is a denial of the Government's duty to the King and to the community, and a practical abdication (would it were complete!) of power by the Ministry.

It may be true, as Mr Asquith suggests, that the prison doors will fly open when the prisoners promise quiet toleration of the Cabinet's serpentine evasion of its pledges; but the women at present classed with murderers and thieves can only give this promise at the expense of honour, consistency, and principle.

CALUM MAC CHOLLA.

June 26, 1912.

Glasgow Evening News

THE HUNGER STRIKE.

June 26, 1912.

SIR,—I should like to draw the attention of your readers to two misleading statements in your leader regarding the suffragists and Mr Lansbury in to-day's issue.

In connection with those who have rebelled against prison rule, it says:—"Under these circumstances there are apparently only three courses that can be followed. Either the culprits must be released from jail; or they must be allowed to die of starvation, or they must be forcibly fed." There is, however, one other course, and that is to grant to the rank and file of the suffragist movement, who are legally guilty of a less serious offence than their leaders, the first division treatment which has already been granted to these leaders.

The hunger strike is based on this demand—a demand for equal treatment. None of the hunger strikers are trying to end their sentences. The fight is for the object of establishing a principle which shall hold good for all time—the principle of first division treatment for political offenders irrespective of rank or position—and the hunger strike is the only weapon left to the women.

Secondly, the leaders were removed to the first division on their re-affirming a statement they had repeatedly made, both before and after their conviction, that they refused to accept any responsibility for guiding or restraining the suffrage movement whilst in prison, and that they would neither suggest nor advise. On the other hand, the rank and file are asked by Mr Asquith to walk out of prison on condition that they take no part in militant action for the rest of their lives! Surely there is a difference here, which your leader, sir, does not point out.

I trust in fairness to our cause which is now being misrepresented, and in justice to the handful of women fighting for freedom, you will find space in your columns for this letter.—I am, &c.

A. S. MACDONALD.

[Our argument was directed against the claim for special treatment on the ground that the offences were committed for what are called political reasons.—Ed.]

10 Wester Coates Avenue, Edinburgh,
June 26, 1912.

SIR,—You state in to-day's leading article that the Suffragist leaders secured release after having given an undertaking not to repeat their "offence" and on a recommendation of the Judge before whom they were tried. You will be glad to correct an inaccurate statement. The leaders have given no undertaking not to repeat their offences. They were asked to promise that if first division treatment were granted them they would not use the greater freedom thus obtained to encourage further militancy. They replied that they had already resolved that, under the circumstances of imprisonment, they would not undertake the responsibility of controlling the Suffrage movement, and that while they were in prison they would not direct or control the commission of any acts whatever, whether legal or illegal. This statement had nothing whatever to do with their being set at liberty. The Judge who sentenced them did not recommend their release. That would have been an extraordinary comment on his verdict. Mrs Pankhurst and Mrs Pethick Lawrence were released because the state of their health made forcible feeding dangerous to life. Mr Pethick Lawrence is still in Brixton Jail.

You argue that the Government have no alternative in dealing with people who refuse food except to release them, or see them starve to death, or order forcible feeding. All these alternatives the Government could avoid by acknowledging the principle that the Suffragist prisoners are political offenders, and should be placed in the first division. Such a principle is part of the legal code of every civilised country of Europe; and the very men now denying it in the case of women shouted it from the house-tops when Irish agitators were in prison. This Government actually conceded it when they ordered the transfer of the leaders from the second to the first division. There is the less reason for denying it to their followers, and inflicting on them, when they protest, the shame and cruelty of forcible feeding.

Small wonder that Mr Lansbury was beside himself with indignation. The wonder is that the whole House of Commons, save one member, sits silent or applauds with laughter, while the Liberal Government, the traditional champion of the political offender, defend their policy of brutal

Swinkhope. W. Thos June 27th
Home ~~Swinkhope~~ Pins. 1912.

W^m Aliington of Swinkhope
sends W^m Laushory her
warm sympathy. She is
thankful that at least, an
Englishman can speak
up bravely in high places
in defence of women, who
because they are voters
can be shamefully treated.
Ho men, may tamper
with the loyalty of our
Soldiers, & spout treason
unrebuked!! It is, as said,
truly shameful & is -

precipitous - Women, willing
men to lay down their
arms, to help & sweated
women & little children
to hinder vice, & make it
hard for transgressors to
look their evil deeds, &
monash hypocrisy, the

THIS BOOK MAY BE USED OR
WRITTEN MATTER FOR
AND

witness of
a great state
man, the late
Premier of
N. Zealand
was, that "Women

ON THE ADDRESS
WRITTEN HEREON



House of Commons
Library
Economic and Political
Science



Do most men wish this?

Emma L. Anderson

27th June/12 (5)

29 UNIVERSITY AVENUE,
GLASGOW, W.

Dear Sir

I cannot help writing to
thank you for your
outspoken rebuke to
the Government yester-
day on behalf of the
suffragist prisoners.
What you said was
well deserved, & those
of us who have been
suffering in spirit

(6)
with these heroic women
surely owe you a debt
of gratitude for your
championships.

I am one of many women
once liberal but who call
themselves by that name
no longer. The agitation
for woman suffrage has
opened our eyes.

Yours very sincerely
Emma L. Anderson

Mary Douglas (friend)

Frank J. Johnson
(friend)

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND WOMEN VOTERS' COMMITTEE

(7)
Association.
(LONDON).

Chairman - LADY STOUT.
Hon. Sec. - Miss H. C. NEWCOMB.
Hon. Treas. - Mrs. W. J. TURNER.

c/o INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,

9, GRAFTON STREET,

LONDON, W.

June 27th 1912.

G. Lausbury, Esq.

Dear Sir,

As Secretary for this association I beg to offer you heartfelt thanks for the protest you have made in the House of Commons. Humanity & justice are greater than etiquette & history will show which of the men in that memorable scene showed most respect for the honour of his country.

In gratitude, believe me,

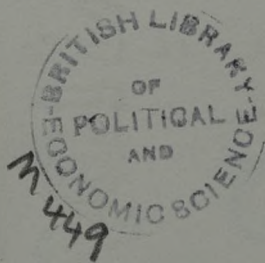
Yours faithfully

Harriet C. Newcomb
Hon. Sec.

John Earnshaw Bellows

8

15, GREENFIELD CRESCENT,
EDGBASTON,
BIRMINGHAM.



June 25, 1912

Sir,

I am filled with rage at the disgusting treatment that is being meted out to the Women Suffragist prisoners. You were quite right in denouncing those in authority in the way in which you did and it does one good to see that there are some men who will not sit down satisfied with this callous calculating hypocrisy. I trust you will

forgive me for writing but I
think those who are fighting the
cause of the oppressed at the
present time need all the support
we can give them.

Yours faithfully

John Earnshaw Bellows

TELEPHONE
2626 MAYFAIR.

Thurs

(9)

78, HARLEY STREET,
W.

Mrs. Wm. C. F. Cavendish - Bentinck
(m. Ruth St. Maur)

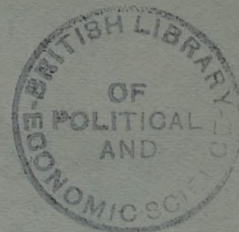
27 June 1912

Dear Mr. Lambury

I cannot say how grateful
I feel to you for your so-called
"scenes" in the House -
Such "scenes" at least convince
us that we have a few
champions who are honestly in
earnest & see that a true
civilization cannot result from
a sex-democracy. Those of us
who have spent any time

talking of "Honourable Members" to
 after walk away sadly wondering
 wherein the "Honourable" part of their
 work lies! - actions such as yours
 give us fresh heart. We still have
 men who desire this country to be
 one of real men - women - not
 "actions" of men - this belongs to
 men who can look ahead! -

Yr truly
 Ruth Bentricks



M449

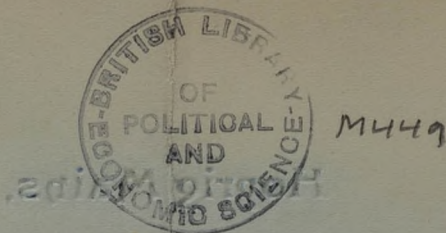
Catherine Blair

June 27th 1912 (10)

Hoprig Mains,
Gladsmuir. N. B.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Please accept our heart-felt
thanks for the splendid protest
you made last night on behalf of
the brave women fighting for a
principle. It is good to realise that
chivalry is not yet dead: that one
man in the Ho. of Commons dares
to put principle before party. We
were feeling so cut up ^{about} our friends
in Holloway & we felt so helpless.
We did almost everything we could think
of: written to our Member: written to
the Home Secretary: written to Lord St. Aldwyn
our late Member, appealed to him
as a man as well as a minister



Glasgow N. 8.

but what's the good? One gets polite
acknowledgments - but nothing is
done. If the Suffrage Movement
has done nothing else it has demon-
strated to no women the rottenness
of the ^{whole} Party System: and from pro-
test last night came as a beam
of light in the darkness - with a
lighter heart, with a thrill of ad-
miration: and, when we think of
our loved ones in Holloway, with
a sob in our voices we say "God
bless you, Mr. Lansbury" -
with heart-felt gratitude from
my husband & myself.

Behind me.

Yours faithfully,

Catherine Blais -

Evelyn Branch

(11)

Thameside,
Abington,
Northampton.

27/6/12.

Dear Sir.

As a suffragist will you
allow me to thank you from my
heart for the noble protest you
made against the insults offered to
women, & the vindictive treatment to
which they are subjected?

Mrs. Pankhurst & others are ready to
suffer any torture these tyrants can
deviser, & it is for us who dare not
face physical & mental suffering to

12 rouse public opinion to declare this barbarous treatment shall cease.

Your fearless contempt of conventions & all personal considerations will be an inspiration to many of us & a joy to those who are making such great sacrifices for freedom.

With my deep gratitude

Yours Truly,

Evelyn Branch

W Brown (J.P.)

13

Witchamere

June 27. 1912

Dear George Lansbury

I am not behind in window
smashing but I thank you with all my heart -
for your splendid championship of the right - which
every woman has to have her person protected
from the hideous torture & degradation of forcible
feeding. It is only a little one can do, but I want
you to realise that there are those even in rural England
who recognise & salute a brave man & a gentleman
when they read of such action as yours in the House
of Commons. As such salute you

Your friend

W-Brown

J. P. Somerset-

14

Elizabeth Sloan Chesser (M.D.)
(Mrs. Stennett Chesser; d. 1940)
n. Sloan; d. 1940

TELEGRAMS: MINSTERWORTH.

BEAUCHAMP HOUSE,
NR. GLOUCESTER.

27th June, 1912.

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

I am sure you will get many letters from women all over the country thanking you for your honest and sincere advocacy of our Cause in the House of Commons. So I shall only send you a few words of thanks. We women doctors realise how much the woman's vote is required in politics at the present time and we are proportionally grateful to ~~the~~ men like yourself who are straightforward, honest supporters of the Movement. *have the courage to voice their convictions in the House of Commons.*

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth Sloan Chesser

W. Lansbury, Esq., M.P.,

Mr. Cooke

(15)

WOTTON SCHOOL,
GLOUCESTER.

June 27th 1912

Dear Mr. Lausbury

I feel I must write +
thank you for the splendid
way you spoke up for the
women, & I wish with all
my heart there were more
men in England like you.
Women would never have
done what they have done.

16
they have been driven to it,
why should they not have
a voice in the Country's
doings, they pay taxes (so
do I,) therefore I say
every woman who does
pay taxes, has a right to the
vote.

Yours truly

W. Cooke.

Toplar Cottage
Pantybuarth, Ardud
& Wales.

(17)

27.6.12

To George Lansbury Esq M.P.

Dear Sir

Though personally
unknown to you, I
trust you will allow
me to express my
gratitude & sympathy
with you in your
outburst of generous
indignation in the
House of Commons
on Tuesday last.
I am a non-militant
Suffragist, & disapprove

of violent methods -
But I abhor still
more the spirit of
injustice & brutality
which finds expression
in the present prison
treatment of women
political prisoners.

It is easy enough
for coldblooded &
selfish people who
have no generous
feeling which may
carry them away
to condemn your
conduct.

But
although I consider

18
it better to observe
the "conventionalities"
wherever possible
I hold it a small
offense compared
with the selfish
flippancy which
can jeer at the
sufferings of
conscientious women
(or men) - however
misguided we may
judge such persons
to be.

Faithfully yours
Chubb
(A supporter & fellow member
of the Socialist League)

Allan S. Dobson

(19)

20. Ironmonger Lane.

F.C.

June. 27th 12.

My dear George,
I just want to write
& say "Thank you", & grip your
great hand silently, for what
you said in the "House" last
night. As a thank offering, I have
bought 23 (all I could get) Heralds
& marked the passage, & given
them away in the City.

With all my heart &
sympathy

Yours

Allan S. Dobson.



J. Winton Evans

THE WELSH CLUB,
WHITEHALL COURT,
LONDON, S.W.

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June 27/12

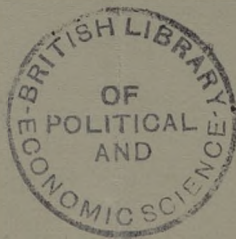
Dear Mr Mansbury,

As a member of the
J.L.P. allow me to Congratulate you
on your splendid outburst in the House
last night. I have not the slightest
doubt it was extremely unconventional;
but as a frequent, - a daily visitor to the House -
it appears to me that the Labour Party, as
a whole, has been supported by Convention
and your virile conduct is just the
necessary stimulant to revive them.

As a Welshman I am convinced
enough to think that your Welsh blood
may yet be the Salvation of the Labour Party

Wishing you every power in your
will doing yours truly
Winton Evans

P. What happened to Macdonald's
~~with~~ his extraordinary letter to the
Chronicle



M449

Elinor Penn Gaskell

STATION:
WILLESDEN JUNCTION,
1/2 MILE.

June 29

12, NICOLL ROAD,
WILLESDEN, N.W.

21
TELEPHONE:
255 WILLESDEN.

Dear Mr. Lausbury

In case when the question of the
discharge prisoners ~~is~~ comes up on the Home
Office Vote you are again referring to the case of
Miss Emily Davison I thought it might be useful
for you to know that I have seen both the Secretary
& Assistant Secretary to the Prison Commissioners
and have also written to Mr. McKeena and
to the Governor of Holloway Prison offering if
Miss Davison is released to take charge of
her and receive & nurse her in my own
house or if it is thought best to place her
in a nursing home the cost of which my
husband is willing to bear. These
offers have been replied.

I received a telegram from a released
prisoner two days that Miss Davison
was terribly ill and depressed and begged
me to try and get her removed to a
nursing home. The appalling cruelty of
forcibly feeding a woman in this state
is unthinkable.

The words of the "Daily Herald" about yourself
find an echo in the heart of every woman
- and man too - who is awake.

Yours sincerely
Elinor Penn Gaskell

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,
BARN GREEN,
NR. HORSHAM.

Home address
4 Trafalgar Studios
Chelsea.

22

DUNCANS FARM,
BILLINGSHURST,
SUSSEX.

Florence E. Haig

27th June.

1912

Dear Mr. Lausbury

I want to thank you so much
for fighting for us. I was splendid of you -

I see this same question of "forcible feeding"
is coming up again tomorrow Friday &
I think you ought to know that in thinking
of the effect it had on Miss E. W. Davison
(in attempting to hurt herself by a fall) that this
idea is not limited I am sorry to say to
her, others too have thought of throwing themselves
from one floor to the basement. I was released
after ^{the 5th day} hunger striking on Sunday & that day before
I left a girl, a sensible level headed girl
about 28 years of age, told me she quite
understood this act of Miss Davison's & had
thought of trying it in the previous hunger strike

(the one you put a stop to by coming up to see
us at Holloway) And she also said "there
are several others it seems who had thought
of doing the same".

The horrors of that last week are always with
me & the thought that lots of my friends are
still there is agony - I am recruiting
& rapidly getting stronger & hope I may
have the pleasure of meeting you in a happier
place than Holloway.

Thanking you again for the splendid influence
of real feeling for the prisoners who are
so outraged Believe me

Yours sincerely
Florence E. Haig.



M449

Selma Hirsch

23

~~11, ST MARK'S CRESCENT,
REGENT'S PARK, N.W.~~

Long parish Fleury
Hault

June 27
1912

Dear Mr. Lansbury
May I write a
word of thanks to you
for your noble champion-
-ship of our Cause
Some may call your
conduct "unconstitutional
& unparliamentary" as
our parliament is now

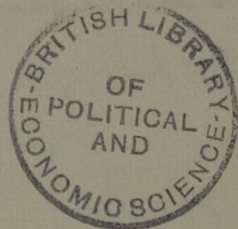
concluded - I trust you
 may take that - as a
 compliment to yourself -
 I would like to take this opportunity
 of telling you that the
 Ch. League in W.S. of which
 I am you are a member -
 - tho' not of course taking
 a militant line of action
 itself - has in its ranks
all degrees of support -
 is increasing its numbers
 rapidly & over 50 clergy
 have joined us this
 month - we are breaking

24

much and different
ground

My thanks & my
prayers are yours

For the good cause
Yours
Gerard Hirsch



M449

TELEGRAMS "HULMENIA"
LONDON.
TELEPHONE
3519 MAYFAIR.

Annie E. Hulme

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THE NURSES' LODGE,

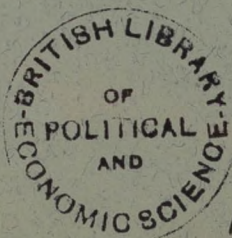
9-10-11, COLOSSEUM TERRACE,

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.

To George Lansbury Esq M.P. June 24th

Sir It has fallen to your share
to prove to the women of England
that Chivalry, Courage &
tenderness to the weak &
unprotected are not extinct
virtues in the House of Commons!
Last Monday. June 24th.

was the Seat of St. John the
Baptist -
you have embraced his doctrine



M449

& his preaching for you

" bold by rebuke vice

" constantly speak the truth
& patiently suffer (for doubtless

you will be made to suffer)

for Truth's sake —

See Collect for

St John the Baptists Day -

Believe me to be

Your grateful &

Sincere well wisher

Annie S. Hulme

Superintendent

The Nurses Lodge



PARK HOTEL AXENSTEIN

26

Charlotte E. B. Ireland

VIERWALDSTÄTTERSEE

Axenstein, June 27/12



M449

Dear Sir,

I have just read in the Telegraph of the protest you made in the House of Commons last Tuesday & I feel that as a Suffragist & in the name of womanhood I must thank you for the honesty & manliness you then showed in a House of Commons. More or less given up to some sermons & hypocrisy to such an extent that it has stultified those feelings of straightforwardness, honesty & right feeling which it used to be the proud boast of Englishmen that they possessed. Whatever the daily

papers (who are tainted with the
same taint as the Government) may
say about your action you may have
the satisfaction of knowing that it
appealed to all fair & right minded
people whose convictions have not
been sacrificed to their desire for
advancement & to their self interest -
as regards myself though I am
opposed to you as a politician (though
perhaps I may have the good of the
people equally at heart with yourself,
though my methods might be different
to yours) I cannot but feel admiration
& respect for a man who can stand
up at risk to himself to speak up
for the oppressed & helpless - the
militant & suppressed however & an
one who has experienced the brutality
of the present Government

ment I should suggest that there is
another & even more effective way
of fighting for the woman's Cause -
a way which I know you have often
taken in the past & which is perhaps
the most effective policy of all as it
takes away all power of retaliation
from the other side - I wish to make
a suggestion which may possibly not
have occurred to you as it is not
all well known - I'm making this
suggestion I do not wish to make
any reflection upon men, as men
as I believe that it is owing partly
to the fact that women do not have
the vote that such a condition exists -
I refer to the fact that according to the
only statistics obtainable 60 per cent
of the crimes of violence are committed

(27)

to men upon women - Now I believe that if this subject were brought up & well ventilated in the House of Commons it would help our Cause immensely as it entirely strikes at the root of the paltry & so often brought forward by Anti-Suffragists, that women's interests are safe in the hands of men & consequently it would strike a blow at the enemy which would be very damaging. I have tried my best to get a letter into the paper calling attention to this fact, but so far it has always been refused though other letters have been accepted. It is my belief that if a Member of Parliament would get up in his place & demand these statistics to be given by the Government (as they are as much as possible suppressed) it would do much good to our Cause & it is in the hope that you may be able to bring it

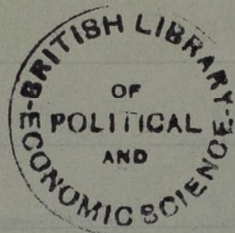


Charlotte E. B. Ireland

PARK HOTEL AXENSTEIN

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VIERWALDSTÄTTERSEE



Axenstein, 27 June 1912

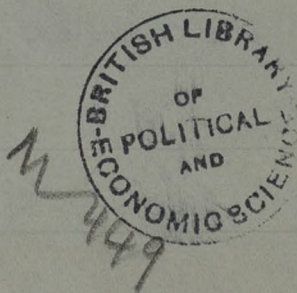
I would that I ask you to do
this if you have the opportunity -
personally my conviction is strong
that at the bottom of these crimes
of violence is the root idea that
women are a subject or inferior

class & that the empowerment
of women by raising their status
& putting them as they should be
beside instead of behind the
man would do a great deal
to prevent these crimes.

I have had some experience of
these crimes of violence as twice
(the last time on March 4th last)
I have been violently struck on the

face by men when doing
what I considered the very
best - I could do help them -
I do not however wish to refer to
my own case. I am in a position
to defend myself & my position
from violence if I choose. It is
for the sake of the poorer women
who cannot protect themselves
that we women must do what we
can most ^{your} - always thanking
you for defence of womanhood.

Believe me
yours truly
Mrs. Charlotte S. R. Ireland

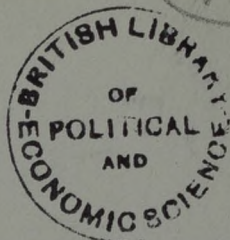


Jansen

27th June 1912.

29

WINTERSGARTH,
TRAFALGAR ROAD,
BIRKDALE, SOUTHPORT.

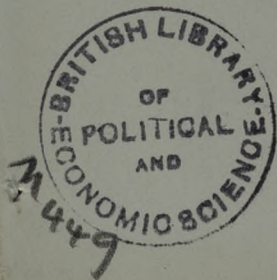


Sir,

An old lady of 72 salutes you as the only true gentleman and the only true Knight in the House of Commons at the present time. Your courage in upbraiding the Cabinet for keeping in prison and feeding by force the flower of the women of England will never be forgotten by them.

Your truly thankful

M. P. Jansen.



James Knox

30

Heaton Mersey,

Manchester 27 June 1912.

My dear Sir,

I have not the pleasure of knowing you, but herewith I enclose a cutting from the Manchester Dispatch, which may interest you.

I see you have a great bit of my own temper and mind or spirit within you - but if I may make a friendly suggestion I would apologise to the Speaker and Mr Asquith and tell them I have been a "bad boy" and shall never do it again - I may add I am a most Democratic Tory, but a good man is a good man regardless of politics.

With every kind wish -
George Lansbury Esq. M.P. Yours faithfully
House of Commons. James Knox
London.



M449

Gladys Lawrence

31
c/o William Brown. J.P.

Wiveliscombe

27.6.1912.

Dear Mr Lansbury,

May I tell you, chiefly as a woman, & then as a suffragist, how I honour you for the brave stand you made in defence ~~of~~ of the imprisoned women.

In future, when sneering offments ridicule the militants as hysterical fanatics, the answer will be ready. "No! a strong man like George Lansbury feels their ~~message~~ ^{cause} so keenly, that he dares to make any sacrifice, for the principle."

I do not understand how any one who has really entered into the spirit of the Women's Movement, who sees its ethical side, ~~right~~, can endure to sit down tamely & see them suffer. The measure of your emotion, is the measure of your intensity of conviction & your utter loyalty to it.

When you entered Parliament, I
told you with what interest I should
follow your speeches. That was no
form of words, & I never felt
more proud to be your supporter
than I do now.

Here we ~~are~~ in the middle
ages, the women were dumb for
their knight who rides abroad,
"redressing human wrong".

I feel more hopeful for the
victory, when I remember one of the
strongest men in the country, is
our champion.

Yours very sincerely
Gladys Lawrence.

Sometimes known in Reading as
"Mabel Lawrence's ^(X) sister."

Of course you will be misunderstood. The "little
people" have always failed to realise recognise
courage. I want you to remember every
one who dares to uphold truth, has been
so misunderstood, from Christ, downwards.

(X) [see at 26 Nov. 1912 (fol. 216-217 in this Vol.)]

LWP Lewis

Escholt

32

N^o Shipley

Yorks

June 27 1912

George Lansbury Esq

Dear Sir

I cannot resist the temptation of thanking you personally for the noble and generous protest you made in the House of Commons last Tuesday on behalf of the women of the country. However much your action may be misunderstood or deliberately misinterpreted in some quarters, I must take an opportunity of assuring you that

it has won for you the high admir-
-ation (I am sure) of many of your
fellow-countrymen and of myself
amongst them.

I am a voter in the Otley
division of Yorkshire and have in
general been a keen supporter of
the Liberal party and of the present
government. I can only say that if
the Labour party will ~~only~~ contest
the constituency at the next election,
my vote and, as I happen to know,
the votes of not a few other Liberals
will most certainly be recorded
in their favour.

Believe me

Y^{rs} Very Truly
L. W. P. Lewis.

P.S. I have just shown this ⁽⁵³⁾
letter to my friend Mr Charles
Smyth, also a voter in the Otley
division, and he desires to associate
himself with everything I have said.
L. W. P. L.

TELEGRAMS -
BEWITCHING, LONDON.
TELEPHONE 2752 KENS (VISITORS)
1628 " (OFFICE)
(WESTERN.)

Maud Lloyd

311

THE STANHOPE HOTEL,
STANHOPE GARDENS,
QUEEN'S GATE, S.W.

6 Wynnepield Road

Thursday Rathmines

27 June 1912

Dublin

Dear Mr. Lansbury,

Please accept from an
Irish Suffragette prisoner
(out on bail awaiting trial)
heartiest congratulations &
patience for your splendid
stand in the House of Commons.

Yours most sincerely

Maud Lloyd.

member WSPU & Irish

Women's Franchise League.

Mrs. Jane C. Matheson

10 Chapland Road,
Lanark, N. B.

35

27: VI: 12.

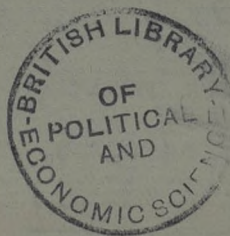
Dear Mr. Lansbury, I know I shall be only one of many women writing to thank you for your protest in the House of Commons on Tuesday, but I feel I must do so, as a woman, a suffragette, and a Socialist. My husband & I had the pleasure of hearing you at Lanark Market-place last year, and we have since felt quite a personal interest in all your public utterances. It is something, in those days, to know that there is one man in that House, not caught in the wheels of the Party System — even the Labour-Party System — and that whenever a wrong is crying for redress, or a right for defence, you, Sir, will raise your voice even if there should not be a single other member to support you.

More particularly as a working woman and a member of the W.S.P.U. do I wish to thank you for your action in connection with the invidious treatment of the Suffragist prisoners. I never lose an opportunity of trying to impress on my fellow-members that, while the vote is a simple human right, of women as of men, it is not a cure-all in itself — that Socialism, & only Socialism will give to woman that freedom she is striving for, and that Socialists, and only Socialists, are the real friends of the woman's cause. Consequently, I feel all the more gratitude to you, Sir, for your action as an absolute proof of the soundness of the Socialist position which tests the woman's claim, or any other claim, on its rightness or wrongness, justice or injustice, & supports it because it is right; and the utter wrongness, ^{& insincerity} of any of the other parties, which apply the thoroughly immoral test of expediency.

Once more permit me to thank you, & to assure you of the
whole-hearted sympathy & admiration of my husband &
myself.

I am, Sir,

Yours very sincerely,
Jane C. Matheson.



M449

I. M. Peartree

(36)

TELEGRAMS, MOUSEHOLE.

REDHOUSE, PAUL,
PENZANCE.

27th June /12

Dear Mr Lausbury
I thank you from the
bottom of my heart for
what you said & did
in the House the other
night - It is splendid,
magnificent, & breaks
through all the foolish
formalities of the place.

37

& all the quips & quibbles
of these double lawyers
& to speak the truth out.
You are right - Asquith
is beneath contempt -
Not only does he betray
& trick women, but he
does the same with the
men workers - How he &
his Cabinet, have tricked

& outwitted the railway men,
the miners, the Transport workers.
The cold technical legal
mind, is simply hateful, &
England is in the grip of it.
I fear you may have
damaged your parliamentary
reputation; - you have
gained the thanks of millions
of women. I wish the Labour
party & its leaders, had backed

(37)

you up more steadfastly,
then the episode would have
made history - As it is, at
least there is one righteous
man, among the crew at
Westminster -

Many many thanks

Sincerely yours

Isabel Moulton Peartree



M449

Harbour View, Flushing, Falmouth.

W. Fleming Phillips
(M.B.)

June 27/12.

G. Lansbury Esq. M.P.

Dear Sir,

It was with the keenest pleasure that I read the account of the noble protest which you addressed to Asquith on Tuesday last. It was precisely what increasing numbers of the best men & women of the nation have been thinking & saying privately. It was in great & urgent need of being said, & it is both gratifying & reassuring to find that there is at least one member of the House of Commons who has sufficient moral courage to administer a just & well-merited rebuke to a person who, unfortunately for the country, - usurps the office of a Statesman & iniquitously abuses his "little brief authority."

For some years past I have been led to conclude that the House is hopelessly rotten & contemptible, & it is only such conduct as yours that tends to redeem

W. Fleming Phillips 2

27 June 1912

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its character & entitles it to any respect at all.

I hope that some one in Parliament will point out that, up to the present, the Government, in this matter, instead of maintaining law & preserving order, have deliberately violated the law & caused & fomented disorder, - not merely by delaying justice (which action, of itself, at once puts the Government in the wrong in their futile & foolish & brutal policy in regard to this agitation) but also by doing so in the most insulting & provocative way - a course of conduct which is seen to be all the more dastardly when we reflect that they would not dare so to behave to men. And no one who has taken the pains to understand the subject & is free from bias can fail to see that every member of Parliament who remains silent & passive in the face of this tyranny, which has driven the women to necessary & righteous rebellion, is jointly responsible with the Government for that political crime.

27 June 1912

3

40

In honouring you for your action I know I am
but anticipating the judgment of posterity.

Accept my heartfelt thanks.

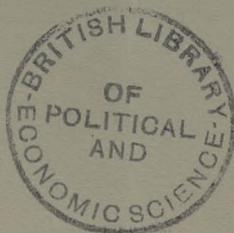
Yours gratefully & faithfully,

W. Fleming Phillips, M.P.

(A Non-partisan)

P.S. My wife desires to sign this too.

E. L. Phillips.



M449

Popelton

POST CARD.

BIRMINGHAM



THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

54 Albert Rd,
Aston,

June 27th 1912

Dear Sir,

I am as passionate a supporter of the enfranchisement of women as any member of the Labour party, so all that is to be done to bring pressure against the Government is to give a slight hint to the chief whip, that your party

George Lansbury Esq, MP,
House of Commons,
London.



M449

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P.T.O.

will vote against their pet
measure of the season, Home
Rule and Welsh Disestablishment
You will very soon bring them
to their knees and it will
not be long before it will
be universal suffrage
including manhood and
womanhood. The Irishman
adopted those tactics with
some success, hence, the
measurable distance of the
aspiration of the lives. So
let the Labour party do
like-wise if they wish to
accomplish a victory for the
women. Hoping you are
well, With kind regards.
I may be in London and will
send in my card at the
House for you.

Yours Resp;^g

Wm. Popetton

Mrs. G.W.
Thomson-
Price



M449

KINGSLEY,

42, PARK HILL ROAD,

HAMPSTEAD, N.W.

(42)

June 27th/12

Dear Mr Lansbury!

I do not know you personally but I cannot let another day pass without writing to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the magnificent protest you

HAMPSTEAD N.W.
42, PARK HILL ROAD
KINGSLEY

made in the House the other
day on behalf of the
noble women who, as
a result of serving the
great Cause of Liberty,
are being tortured by
a so-called Liberal
Government. That you
had the courage & the

43
manliness to denounce
these hypocritical scoundrels
is adding but one more
to the many services you
have undertaken for
the women of this Country,
& I assure you, we
shall never forget it.

I was one of those
who, 25 years ago, (with
Annie Besant) welcomed
John Burns & Cunningham

(43)
Graham when they came out
of gaol after serving six
weeks for "inciting to riot"
in Trafalgar Square on
"Bloody Sunday." For years
I worked & spoke for the
Women's Liberal Federation.
Never again! When I
get my vote, it will be
used for the Independent
Labour Party. These past five
years have taught women
something.

With renewed grateful
thanks,
Yours cordially
Louisa Thompson - Incl.

Jan
16 5
P.O. Home

44

Mrs. G. W. Thomson-Price, M.S.W.J.,

M.S.W.J.

HEALTH & TOILET ED. OF "THE LADY,"

ED. OF "HOME PAGES" (MARK LANE EXPRESS),

ED. OF "FIRESIDE" (FARM, FIELD & FIRESIDE).

"Home Medica" of "The Lady's World."

42 PARKHILL ROAD,
HAMPSTEAD, N.W.

LYCEUM CLUB,
128 PICCADILLY, W.

While deploring the unwise ^{Ross} tactics of my ¹⁵ fellow-suffragists, allow me, dear sis, to show you how deeply touched I feel by your outburst of noble emotion in the House on Tuesday.

I though an admirer of this most fo-ahead government I consider that in attacking the implacable Premiers you have laid the blame in the right quarters. May God give you to feel encouraged by the affection and respect which women all over the country feel for you at this moment.

Wade Wallace Ross
The Poplars, Tain, Ross-shire. June 27, 1912.

POST

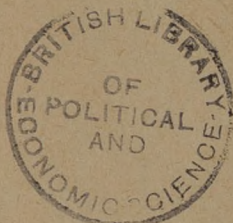


CARD



~~REPLY~~

George Lansbury Esq. M. P.
House of Commons
Westminster
London.



M449

Frank Smith

10, Cliffords Inn,

Fleet Street, E.C.

June 27th 1912

(46)

To the Editor of the "Daily Chronicle"

Sir,

"Ruining the Women's Cause"

Thousands will, I feel sure, have read Mr Ramsay's ~~xx~~ MacDonald's letter in your issue of to-day with amazement. He is the leader of the Labour Party. Is he speaking for the Party, or only for himself? It is important the rank and file should know.

Does Mr MacDonald understand what fighting and suffering for principle means? One can scarcely believe he does, or he would not use such terms as "tomfoolery", "pettifoggish qualities", "doing the devil's work", etc, etc, and associate them with women who, at any rate, have the courage of their convictions - a quality which is sadly lacking to-day in every party in the State.

Women are refused constitutional ~~rights~~ recognition, what right have we to demand from them so-called "constitutional" methods? While scores of women who have proved their devotion to the people's cause are enduring prison, and suffering indescribable tortures; while some have been driven to attempt suicide, and many have had their health permanently shattered in defence of a great principle, is this the moment for Labour representatives to join the enemy in denouncing and pouring contempt upon them?

May I say in conclusion that the "cause of women's en-

Frank Smith

(47)

10, Cliffords Inn,
Fleet Street, C.C.

27 June 1912

2

franchisement is being "ruined" not because of what the fighting section of its advocates are doing, but because of the dilettante and weak-kneed support given to it by its professed friends.

Yours faithfully

Frank Smith

Jane E. Strickland

June 24.

48

1912.

HALSTEADS,
HASTINGS.

Dear Sir

Allow me to thank you from
the bottom of my heart for your
brave protest on behalf of the
Suffragist prisoners in the House
of Commons on Tuesday last.
Thank God there are still a few
men left who understand the
meaning of the word chivalry and
who, ^{translating} understanding, ~~put~~ it into
action! I was once an active worker
for the Liberal Party. I now write
on the pillars of that party "Cheer
for King, its glory is departed!"
Be Suffragists, as be realize that be
still have some whole hearted
friends in the House of Commons,
who possess the courage of their

HALSTEDS
HALSTEDS
Cautious, thank God and take
heart again, in this ^{our} lonely and
uphill struggle.

May the God of righteous
reward you according to your
work:

Believe me, dear Sir, with
profound gratitude and esteem,

Faithfully yours

Lucas Sturtevant

(Mr.)



M449

the in-
closed lettering
may interest you.

Lilian F. Sutton

49

GUNDREDA COTTAGE,
PORT SETON,
PRESTON PANS. N.B.

June 27th 1912.

Sir,

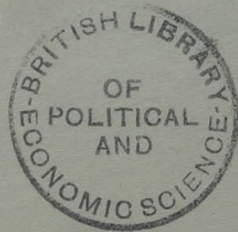
Pray let me thank you for your
courageous protest on behalf of
women in the House of Commons.
I am glad to know that there
is at least one man worthy
of the name in the House, & it
your protest will help to redress
the deep disgrace to England,
in the eyes of all the world,

GUNBREDA COTTAGE,
PORT SETON,
PRESTONPANS, N.B.

of the members of our House of
Parliament - so-called gentle-
men, - juring & laughing at the
sufferings of women - to their own
shame, & that of the women who
are their wives & mothers -

A general demand for liberty
cannot be successfully resisted
in the 20th Century, but it is
due to the Labour party that

I look for the help that will secure
the Franchise for women - & I trust
that when that Franchise is won,
the women may never forget those
through whose help we have won
it. As an Irishman, I feel
much shame that ~~my~~ ^{my} own
countrymen ^{should} have deserted us, when
the game was practically in their
hands - but all the more do I
honour those who now stand
by us. Pray receive a hearty



written letter. My time is taken
 up in writing to secure help for
 my poor friend Miss Edith Hed-
son, who is one of those whom they
 have nearly killed, & whose only
 chance now is immediate release.
 She is a nurse by profession, & has
 spent her time among the most
 miserable of the poor in Edinburgh,
 joining us because she saw there
 was no relief for the misery of the
 women under present conditions -
 & this is her reward!

Yours with sincere respect
 Edwin F. Suttner.