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[13-2-06]

13. 2. 06

Dear Mr. Lawcock,

Edith Palliser was so knocked up that she is taking along week-end of rest to try to be fit for the coming week (she will be back tomorrow).

Meanwhile I am rather anxious about tomorrow's Conference in the House. We have not a particularly weighty

collection attending & I feel therefore that our fate depends

entirely on your being able to go & lead us. Also we

can't expect a large or important body of M.P.s (probably most of them will be new members with no experience).

Do you think it wd be of any use to have Mr. Courtney<sup>2</sup> as an old parliamentary hand? If so is he in London & do

you think he wd come? If you approve perhaps you

wd ask him (Mr. Stocker wd take a note on to him if you liked).

I get many urgent suggestions from the County Societies (notably the Scotch ones) that a deputation to Sir Henry C-B. should endeavour to extract a pledge from him.

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of a Government measure (tho' not necessarily <sup>to be brought in</sup> this session of course).

I don't know if we might ask or urge the M.P.s to ~~form~~ form this deputation themselves?

The question of whether a W.S. Bill having passed would necessitate an immediate dissolution has also cropped up again. Perhaps that ought to be discussed tomorrow?

One new M.P. (zealous, however inexperienced) advised me that a Resolution wd be better than a Bill this year, as having just as good an effect in pressing the Government <sup>to be brought in</sup> without raising points of difference in our own ranks.

May we count on your coming tomorrow, & what do you advise about Mr. Courtney?

Yrs sincerely  
F. Sterling

Mr. Fawcett