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AL/3382

12/10/12

Dear Mr. Cavendish Bentinck

I was touched (and perhaps amused) by your letter to Mr. Webb as to my assumed weakness about woman's suffrage. But in fact I am, and always have been a convinced suffragist. Twenty years ago I helped to draft the Fabian Reform Bill, which gave all women votes as men; and in every tract the F.S. has published, from 1884 to now, I have always taken

case that the right of women as such to full voting (to other) Equality was explicitly argued for, whenever it could be brought in. See, for instance, our political tract of 1887-92. And I am quite unrepentant. I would try for, and acclaim, any sort or instalment of woman's suffrage - I am not particular what, if it concedes the principle. But I have always asked for universal adult suffrage, and the

entire removal of all sex disqualifications for office &c.

I feel it a little hard to be doubted on this point, because (as my wife bids me add) I have converted her! When we married, she was an "Anti"; & had signed the great manifesto against it in the nineteenth Century about 1889-91.

— My objection to the Fabian Executive passing resolutions except on very special

occasions, When the
F.P. is practically
alone, applies to all
subjects, not to the
Suffrage in particular.
I think we destroy
our influence by
merely adding our
resolution to hundreds
of others, passed by the
most diverse bodies.
And I don't think one
more resolution effects
anything.

Yours truly
Seaman Webb