

AL/710

2, Gower Street. Dec 18. 09
London

My dear Lady Frances,

I am yesterday & Mr. Barnes
are Secy of the Royal Commission,
to explain that I did not feel
my knowledge was sufficiently
exact & up to date to justify me
in offering to give evidence. I suggested
the names of the following as
probably useful witnesses
Mr. Cecil Chapman
Mr. W. A. Coote (Vigilant No 4)

Miss Liddell P.L.G

Miss B. Leppington of Leamington.

I think all of these ought to be
really useful witnesses.

Our Lardn meeting went
excellently yesterday; we carried
everything which we had given notice
of. The tag on to my resolution 2, had
been agreed upon by the Lardn Ex. Com.
at its meeting last Wednesday & was

added by consent. Mr Chapman &
Mr Heutschel moved & 2nd ed the
going back to the old unamended
Rule 3, and their speeches were ^{almost} entirely
directed against the motion adopted
on Nov 5 which precluded our members
from giving financial or other support
to the militants; although they had
received the enclosed for more than
a fortnight they appeared unable to
detach their minds from the financial
& other support amendment which had

been abandoned by the Ex: com: as
untenable. Prof. Westlake attended
& made an excellent little speech on
our behalf. The militants cheered
madly when Miss Davies rose, because
they knew she was against the pledge,
but they looked rather rueful when
she went on to speak much more strongly
than any one else had done against
methods of violence. Our mistake she
argued had been in ever giving been
any quarter at all & she reverted to
what she considered our great mistake

AL / 710
conv

in allowing Mr. Despard to
appear on our platform at
the Albert Hall demonstration
after the process of last year.

Sunday morning

I heard from Miss Strachey

last night that 51 of her ^{real contacts} ~~contacts~~

had resigned; Miss Evelyn Sharp

who was one of them had written

a very friendly letter enclosing 10/-

as a parting donation. She has

~~2079~~

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been a "very friendly evening"
all the time and I attribute
a good deal of the improved
demeanour of the malevolent
section to her influence.

There was quite a good account
of what actually happened
in yesterday's Times but I
thought you would be glad to

have a few more intermediate
teachers added.

We have had 160 new
members joining since the
very imperfect pledge that
was agreed to in Nov. 5.

I think there is no doubt
that it will very greatly
strengthen us to finally get

rid of the militants within our gates

Ever yours affectionately

W. J. Bennett

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Have you heard that Miss Jenner
has been very seriously ill,
My last news of her was that
she was distinctly better.