

AL/1530

Bombay

Dec. 6. 1891

S. P. Chy. Phipson

public works are urgently needed is I think just the same
of what the representatives
of the
My dear Mrs Fawcett

I am sincerely with
all good wishes for
the new year

The Ahmedabad Mill
Lands (women) have just
sent me a copy of a
petition they have forwarded
to you which I send on to
you. These regulations
are a good example of
the way in which men
legislate for women. Of
course if they choose to
restrict the hours of working
in the whole mill that is a

different matter. But the
11 hours day is not so hard
as it sounds for mill owners
find that natives cannot
work for long periods like
Europeans & have a double
set of hands. Whatever time
of day you go into a mill
here one of the hands at a
frame is generally outside
taking a siesta on the floor.
It is funny to our notions but
it seems to work well. And
in Ahmedabad where wages
are cheaper in Bombay there

are generally more than two
to a frame.

Perhaps this petition & the
legislation which led to it
may be of some use in ensuing
debates.

Do you know Mr. Curzon
who has taken Sir J. Gordon's
place at the India Office?
Sir J. G. was very friendly to
the medical movement here
& if Mr. C. is the reverse it
is very likely to be knocked
on the head. The Viceroy is
trying hard to sponge me out
but perhaps that is only fair
as I want (tho' I have never

expressed my opinion) to
throw him out, in a more
catty & useless person could
not be imagined. Besides the
enormous expenditure he entails
on British India he is the occasion
of the most lavish waste of money
by native States. The Begum of
Bhopal to whose entertainment
my husband & I were invited
is said to have spent 19 lakhs
on the 4 days visit. Of course
the illuminations of the city &
especially of the palace were
joyous in the extreme, there
must have been literally millions
of lamps & the palace was a sight
to be seen once in a lifetime,
but to encourage such waste of
money in smoke when so many