

AL/709

WHITTINGHAME,
PRESTONKIRK, N.B.

Dec. 16/04.

STA: EAST LINTON, N.B.R.
TEL: STENTON.

My dear Mrs Fawcett.

I had intended writing or try-
ing to see you before I left Lon-
don on the 9th. I took two good
meetings at Rugby en route, &
was encouraged by the condition
of a hitherto untilled soil. Yes.
The day I was speaking of a Scottish
Emigration Society in Edinburgh.
Thro' its preaching the word. I was
asked to lunch beforehand with
the Secretary, & three other of the
women officials, all capable

practical women. One a niece
of Flora's. Suffrage came
up. I found them all antis,
not organised, but against
really on the grounds of never
having thought of the subject &
only knowing of thro' militant-
ism. After about ten minutes
elementary talk. I was con-
strained to say something in
the following style. "It would
be impossible in England, to
be asked to lunch with, much

women engaged in such a work
as Mrs. [?] to find all four
ants. It would also be
impossible - may [?] say so
quite civilly - to find such
total ignorance both of the
cause & its methods, & don't
laugh, & a promise ~~that~~
to consider it "from another
point of view".

Otherwise of a working thro'
a series of lectures on the
House of Commons, promised
to various Church Societies.

I don't expect to be south
again, till after the new

year. So far, I am refusing
election work. I feel I must
get a little rest before I be-
gin the Commission work. This
is unusually arduous, I un-
derstand, as R.C. go, we are
to sit every day fr. 10. to 4.
except two days in the week.
at our first meeting, I
asked Mrs Tennant (my

women
self to name witnesses, who
~~on the~~ wd give evidence on
the condition of the poor un-
der the law as it now stands.
both with regard to separation
orders, & divorce, also where

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cont.

the law presses hard on
women. Mrs Tennant
of committed. She has named
a Dr among her number.
I asked of you, Mrs Bar-
nett, Mrs Bramwell
Booth. I thought, from
an old paper of yours wh.
is one of my most treasured
books of reference, you wd
be so excellent on where
the law is unjust & unequal

but I also thought if you
did not think you had ^{exactly}
the right knowledge you
wd know who has it &
ought to be called - ^{wd com.} mend.

The Secretary (son to our
President) is a very nice
man, & open to all ^{learn.}

& help.

Arthur is rather feeble, & not
very fit for the coming year
I fear. I think the General

view is a small majority
for the liberals - Asquith,
I believe, expects 80.

Yrs affately

Francis Balfour

Fawcett Library
27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.1.

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