

FAWCETT LIBRARY
FRED STREET
S.W.1.

AL/26

Dear W. B. ⁷

I hope you will forgive me for troubling you with a letter on the subject of the Women's Franchise Bill.

You may have noticed that it is the first order on Wednesday April 17th, the ~~last~~ Wednesday before Good Friday. We are in some anxiety lest the House may adjourn before that day; in this case the Bill would lose its chance of coming on this session. My immediate object in

writing is to beg you ~~if possible~~ to use your influence to ~~keep the~~ postpone the adjournment of the House till after the 17th; so that I the House may have the opportunity of voting on the 2nd

reading of the Bill on the 17th.
The friends of
the Bill have a strong case, I think, to plead for a hearing; because more than half the present H. of C. is pledged in favour of it.

and ~~the~~ ^{of the} parliamentary leaders have never
succeeded during this Parliament in
bringing the subject before the House.
The Parliament of 1885-6 carried the
2nd reading of a similar bill and ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} further
progress of the measure was then
prevented through the strenuous exertions
of the Gladstonian Whigs aided by the Irish
Nationalists. Their conduct then was a
^{in parties} convincing proof of the effect-
lessness of the bill; and as a ^{minist} ~~minist~~
I feel very strongly that to go in the next general
election with the women householders still unempowered
is to begin a battle with one wing of the army
without ammunition.