

AL/1533

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

S.W.

13th June, 1895.

Dear Mrs Fawcett

I have sent you to-day a copy of the Summary Jurisdiction Married Women Bill which has been read a second time and referred to the Grand Committee on Law. I have been put on the Committee in respect of the Bill and shall be glad if you can send me any amendments that you think it would be desirable to move. One thing that occurs to me is that the Bill should be extended to Scotland and Ireland, but as to the best means of doing this I should have to get legal advice. The Committee of the Women's Liberal Federation have suggested several improvements, chiefly by reducing the penalty which must have been imposed upon a husband before the wife can ask for an order, and also ~~practically~~ giving a married woman the right to obtain an order if an offence similar to that mentioned in clause 6 has been committed by the husband. I do not know whether it would be possible to compel the magistrates to grant these separation orders, but any amendments you can propose I will endeavour to adopt. The Committee meets on Monday so there is no time to lose.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Walter B. Mason

* AL/1536

Malden