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VOTES FOR WOMEN.

The National Women's Social and Political Union.

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*All Communications,
unless marked "private" will be opened
by one of the Hon. Secretaries.*

10th June, 1909.

Dear Comrade in the Woman's Movement,

A very important stage has been reached in the history of our organisation. The past year has seen enormous development, and a complete change of public opinion towards the Votes for Women agitation.

The Prime Minister remains obdurate in his opposition to this long delayed reform. He holds to the position which he took up originally when the Movement was in its early days and our forces were weak; namely, that women could be crushed by repressive measures and unyielding refusal. But this position becomes every day more embarrassing to the Liberal Government, by reason of the unexpected persistence which we have shown.

The time has now come for a great demonstration of women's determination, at all costs, to win their political liberties. It has been resolved to gather our forces together and to send a deputation to the Prime Minister on the 29th of this month, and to make the day

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historic in the annals of our Movement. Nearly a hundred women have already sent in their names and we hear, informally, of many others who have determined to join the Deputation. We want the names of hundreds more. We want your name too, if possible. Will you come and join with your comrades in a demonstration of numbers which will strike a blow at the complacence of the members of the present Government?

Many who have suffered imprisonment already, some who have suffered more than once, are sending in their names again. Their example is putting courage and resolution into the hearts of those who have found difficulty hitherto in offering themselves for this service. They feel that, in view of the urgency of the crisis, difficulties that seemed insuperable must now, by sheer force of will, be overcome. It is most important that we shall know the full strength of our forces at once, so that there may be no flaw in the organization of all arrangements for the day. Will you therefore send us a letter within the next two or three days, saying whether you can and will take part in this deputation, or whether, on the other hand, circumstances render it in your case impossible? We feel sure that none of our members will hold back now except for some very real, insurmountable reason.

Yours ever,

EMMELINE PANKHURST.
EMMELINE PETHICK LAWRENCE.
LABEL TUKE.
CHRISTABEL PANKHURST.

I answered that had I been strong enough I would have joined the Deputation but I could not stand the conflict for I should have been a great help to the cause.