

and  
Apr. 25/41

STERLING

TELEPHONE,  
HARTFIELD 22.

I was surprised to see  
the death of my Sally  
near the other day - hadn't  
realized she was still alive.  
at home's great as yet

HOME WOOD,

UPPER HARTFIELD, Sussex.

AL/1234

VIA TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

23 April '41

Dear Miss Strachey,

Books in a  
separate parcel.

I was relieved to get your letter this morning  
 after last week's Blitz, since one needs to be re-assured abt:  
 London friends - particularly after seeing that the Speaker's house  
 had been hit. The Abominations poured over our heads  
 with no break for hours on Wed. night & I heard (the 'didit' sort  
 to look) of constant flares descending in N. direction, so we knew  
 what dear London was in for - we had only a few bangs, mostly  
 a good many miles away & we thought, more like guns than bombs.  
 I will see if I can dig up out of an old cousin's memory any  
 details of Pauline Deby. I believe she was still alive in 1908  
 but not for much longer, I fancy. I've forgotten the little I ever knew  
 of her except her vivid personality & my Aunt's being attached to her from  
 girlhood - I chuckled at yr observation as to our Pioneers  
 having been handsome. Actually they were divided between  
 real beauties & the ugliest or plainest women that ever were! My memory  
 is of hardly anything between, when I was a child!  
 If you c<sup>d</sup> have seen Becker, Helen Blackburn & the Biggses (all but one

who was handsome) - to name only a few - in their middle life you  
w'd hardly have believed of eyes! On the other side were the  
Fawcett sisters & their Cousin Rhoda / handsomest of all I was told - I  
don't remember her) & Mrs. Ballett & I believe, Barbara de la Smith  
(Madame Bodichon) & Mrs. Josephine Butler, all exceptionally  
handsome & if I may say so, my own Aunt Miss Stone & my  
Mother were none so dusty, in their day. Emily Davies  
had a certain white-mouse attraction in her old age but was pretty  
plain in middle life.

My first Suffrage Meeting  
at St. James' Hall was a real sight - Becker to make the Chief  
Speech (a magnificent one too, from a voice like a peacock)  
boiled down & poured into tight black satin (tight to bursting point)  
& hair scragged off a hideous forehead & Miss Blackburn &  
Miss Biggs one each side the platform (Miss Biggs in grey ringlets)  
holding up a long banner with a noble sentiment on it.  
Oh! my, oh! my! That you could have been there to see - But it was a  
good & enthusiastic meeting - it must have been to have weathered such  
a sight! We laughed over it for years after, at home. How frivolous  
are the memories of the old! - with which Heaven you. May all so  
well with you, gallant as you are!

To ever  
I am to be a P.S. with friends nearby when (or if?) Met this - 7213