

Avignon.

Dec 7. 1868

AL/2337

Dear Mr Fawcett,

You will, I am sure, understand that my not having acknowledged your letter of Nov. 20. until after I have nearly brought up the arrears of my correspondence, was not because I felt little, but because you do not need any fresh assurance to know how much I do feel. I am not the less touched at the regrets of my friends because I myself have no need of consolation. On the contrary, we are in the first flush of ~~enjoy~~ enjoyment of our recovered freedom, and in better cue than we have been a long while for working hard & efficiently for our opinions. The elections, though so unfavourable to candidates of advanced opinions, have given us a House ~~f~~ capable of the immediate work it had to do, viz; to make Gladstone minister and disestablish the Irish Church.

Between this and the next General Election, the working classes will have time to organize their political action, and to insist upon having an equal share of influence in the choice of candidates; and it is then, and not before, that Chadwicks will prevail over Bouveries, and Odgers over Henry Hoares. Meanwhile it is a great satisfaction to me that you are still in the House to assert great principles, and that you are as unlikely a man as any one there to be easily discouraged. I need hardly say that I am always at your command for any help I can give you out of the House, & that not meeting you here, I shall hope to see you ~~often~~ oftener at Blackheath.

Mrs Fawcett's article has given us as much pleasure in the Fortnightly as it did when we first had the opportunity of reading it. Pray give her Helen's & my kind regards. I am, Dear Mr Fawcett

H. Fawcett. Esq. M. P. Ever yours truly,  
J. S. Mill.