

AL/1132

WHITTINGEHAME,
PRESTONKIRK,
SCOTLAND.

STA: EAST LINTON, N.B.R.

Jan 3. 11

My dear Mrs Fawcett.

I have been having some correspondence with Lord Balfour of Burleigh. We have had some dealings over my dist^o of Aberdeen, & as I was writing of thought I 'wd write a little on the franchise Bill, & try to see if my pig headed 'countryman' see reason. We are intimate friends, here is what he says in answer to a letter full of as good argument as if I were dealing with the fossils in their own place

WHITTINGHAM
PRESBYTERIAN
SCOTLAND
EAST LINDSAY

Of course you must make no use of it save in talk with Mrs Stachey.

"Now the other thing - current politics. I will be quite candid. To some extent I have changed my view & I think also the dice are loaded against those of us who even yet must trust the change! The latter consideration makes me resolved to put up the best fight possible. Now to be quite candid I cannot & never will forgive those who burnt our churches

and buildings & did all the other things. I do not think this Parliament is morally entitled to make this tremendous change behind the backs of everyone. M.P's are afraid to vote against the possible new voters. I greatly doubt if the majority of women want it (Noah, as he left the ark) I still more gravely doubt if the Bill as it stands will really enfranchise those who have so to speak earned it.

Now please this is private. I have refused to move the rejection of the clause. I need not go into reasons but to save my conscience I think I shall go for a

Referendum on it. (a sentence
I can't read) then - but many
more who dislike the new fran-
chise do not like a Referendum
any more. Then he goes on
he is keen of women's influence
in local affairs.

I have also all this. The riders
of 1832 were forgiven, & B. of 1832's
descendants may say "Unless
women showed their determination"
granted. he gets his Ref. & it is
a bare majority either side, what
does he propose to do? Told him
we are all organised for further
fighting, & that the popular fa-
vor is now with us, and he had
better be wiser than his forebears.
Signed "Yes of the Bill, the whole
Bill nothing but the Bill."

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I think myself he has
moved and, that protesting
he will not be a Dictator
in the matter. This needs no
answer but in showing it to
anyone note its privacy.

Yrs affly

Francis Balfour