

AL/2502

WHITTINGHAME,
PRESTONKIRK, N.B.

STA: EAST LINTON, N.B.R.
TEL: STENTON.

Oct 30/03

My dear Mrs Fawcett -
I had some talk with Lady
Gwendolen Cecil who is
with us here, about the whole
situation. She is against
Chamberlain, & is full of anx-
iety about two of her brothers,
who are ardent members
of the Free Food League. She
has the strongest of views
than the P. M. sh. be support-
ed in his Sheffield speech
(as Sir M. H. B. is doing) &

that our safety against Joe,
is supporting the government
in its present attitude. I don't
feel so strongly as she
does, & I have never quite
liked the position wh. the P. M.
has taken up, or into wh. he
has been driven. At the same
time I think no part of the
Free Trade party, or do any
thing to leave him alone. I
read yr letter to dad & given-
dolen, & she at once exclaim-
ed against the policy, & the

exact truth of beginning by
putting Joe & the P. M. to-
gether in their utterances.
As Joe makes speech on
speech, he gets more & more a
pure Protectionist, whereas
the P. M. steadily calls him-
self a Free Trader. I write this
to you, just as if I had not
got your telegram, & as if the
policy of the letter was the
only one. I don't demur to
the calling of the Council,
but I think we shall not
carry it with us, and then
we shall have to secede

4 we must write some such
letter, as I am now consider-
ing, & it sh. be given to the
press. In its ~~intention~~ concep-
tion, I agree with the letter,
only I would not sign it
if Joe & the P.M. were put
together. It is really only the
alteration of the phrasing, I
woud, I am sure we help
the cause if we claim the
P.M. as ours, even if we
think he (as I do) writes a
clear note.

We can go on, I consider
the Colonial Sec. went in

AL/2502 cont

WHITTINGHAME,
PRESTONKIRK, N.B.

STA: EAST LINTON, N.B.R.
TEL: STENTON.

+ pure Protection, (two of
our most prominent members
worked for him. I think if we
publish such a letter ~~as a~~
~~new edition (having copied it)~~
we shall help the tree fodder,
& give a line (not of the fish
line!) to the men's association.
I agree with yr letter, that Coun-
cil or no Council, we must
go. When is the Council? I am
rather in a difficulty about my
plans. The P.M. & Min. Bal-
four leave early next week

WHITTINGHAM
PRESTONKIRK, N.B.
STATE PRINTING OFFICE
EDINBURGH

This leaves Lady Betty & myself here with our combined young children, (Gerald) still in a very unsatisfactory state of health. About the middle of the month, I am expecting my daughter's confinement, & I ought to be in town for it, and yet I don't want to leave here before I am more at ease about Gerald, & feel that Lady Betty is more secure again

anxiety. I am at remaining here till about the 12th, but on the other hand the Council is so important, & I wd need to make it a real duty to attend.

I think the Fiscal argument excellent. I go in the hands of the Free Traders

Francis Balfour