

Swry Lodge. March. 8th 05.

AL/1840

Dear Mr. Fawcett. Many thanks for your letter & for letting me see the one from Lady Frances Balfour, which I now return. — I must own that this disappointed me, having always had such a high opinion of her, & thought her so fair minded & large hearted. Now in this she seems to have allowed others to prejudice her against Miss W., & nothing we say seems to make any difference, though you & I have known Swanley for over 12 years, & we have known Miss W. nearly as long. Of course Lady Frances might not take my word, but she knows that you would not be one to give such evidence without being quite sure of your ground & facts.

Whilst these others seem to have very seldom been down to the College & then only an hour or so visit. —

As to some of Lady F. B.'s criticisms, she writes "The accounts are wrongly kept" that is a serious charge, but I believe they are kept as arranged by our Chartered Accountant

are under his constant supervision,
they used to be so kept & Miss W. will tell
you if the old arrangement has been
altered in any way? —

"There is waste & mismanagement
of the garden & live stock." This
Miss Thick Beach may be most "gifted"
but really she ought to be a clairvoyante
to be able to ascertain these things in
so short a time as her visit, & it does
not speak well for her fairness,
that she should give such a severe
judgement of an important piece
of work after so cursory an overlook.
Another thing she writes "The high fees
paid, the Students did not get their
money's worth." — Did this lady know
that the fees include Board & Lodging?
as well as Education? Has she any
experience of the cost of all these?
on which to base her judgements.

Some people are very clever &
fond of giving their opinion on
various subjects, of which they
have no practical knowledge,
especially when they have none
of their own money in the concern
to lose! —

If Lady Frances objects to meeting
without Sir John why not have him
also? — I sent you an answer by
Telegram immediately this morning.

Yours in great haste.

Emma Cou.

Excuse hurried scrawl with my
Rheumatic hand. —