

Dear Dr. Russell -

My daughter May is a political prisoner in Holloway Gaol. She declared in Court that - she intended to hunger strike as a protest against imprisonment of any kind for women who are only ~~admitted~~ for justice & I feel sure she will not be shaken in her resolution. This almost-certain that unless urgent protest be made, forcible feeding will be ~~used~~ resorted to & I am much apprehensive of the most serious results in her case should this be so. I want to ask ^{if you will be so good as} you ~~to write~~ at once to the doctor of the prison and ^{medical attendant} make a very strong protest as ^{our} for although you have not actually attended May. I think the history of her case will convince you that such a physical and mental torture as resisted forcible feeding would have the same effect upon her highly strung ^{nerves} ~~nature~~ as it had upon Lady Constance Lytton which was to paralyse the whole

of her body. It was when ^{May} she was five months old in her first bathing attack, that - May's whole body was suddenly paralyzed & it was several years before she entirely regained the use of her hands & arms. During that time she was treated by Sir Samuel Wiles, Sir Thomas Barclay, Dr. Chapman of Paris & many medical specialists. All said the same thing that her nervous system was most peculiar & unusual.

In early womanhood her throat became paralyzed & for 12 months, liquid when she drank, the liquid would flow thro' her nose instead of going down her throat.

I think no doctor, knowing her history, would take such a responsibility upon him as to use force which would probably leave her a helpless invalid for the rest of her life whatever a brutal House

Secretary may be willing to do.

I am sending the paper which will give ~~to the~~ account of the trial & its ways defence which is withheld in the garbled accounts given in other papers & which I thought would interest you.

P. S. We have just had a letter
from the Prison Secretary ~~urging~~ of the
W. P. F. U. urging us to get a doctor who
knows about Mary's case to write both
to the Governor at Holloway & to Mr
McKenno as ~~let~~ such letters are the
only thing which carry weight with
them against the friable feeding.
Mary has not been ~~personally~~ attended
by any doctor since we left Dr Roper
and we cannot ask him to write.