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Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>  
13 Highburg & Zernae

Dearest Muddy Lumps  
I did not have time to write  
yesterday as I worked till after  
six and then brought 2 hrs  
up here till Monday as the  
house is still in rather a mess.

But the meeting on Friday  
night was very successful. I  
have not read any thing about  
it in the Herald so I may  
be repeating. I met Florence  
Robinson just inside the door. I  
sent her one of Aunt Nigts.  
tickets as Aunt Nigt. could not  
go. He went in to the sound  
of the organ, cat-calls &  
loud whistles. The Hall was

packed but we found a few of  
 the reserved seats empty and  
 sat in the middle of the area  
 about 12 seats from the front -  
 quite a nice place. At first  
 we found ourselves close beside  
 the small gathering of students  
 with their whistles so we moved  
 further along & I landed next  
 Miss Nelson - who was there with  
 her father - She was most excited  
 & clapped like a windmill. I  
 saw Middle. Zeccaldi looking  
 over the balcony beside us & Dr.  
 Hart behind her & Miss Cranston  
 a little further along with a hat  
 that seats mine  like that.

There were very long queues<sup>(?)</sup>  
 waiting outside in Berkeley Street

when I went in at about 2 min.  
 to & at Kent Road - & I don't  
 think those people can have got  
 in at all for the Hall seemed  
 quite full. When the Platform  
 walked in there was tremendous  
 cheering & whistling. Mr. Hunter  
 Mr. B. Gies, Mr. Parkhurst, D.  
 Hunter, Tom Jones, Miss Allan  
 Mr. Despard - one or two gents  
 and the Bishop <sup>from</sup> of New Zealand  
 were in the front row. I saw Mr.  
 Burnett's head in the second row  
 but could not see the rest. Tom  
 Jones D. Hunter rose first &  
 said something that no one heard  
 because of the row. Then Tom  
 Jones rose and spoke 20 times  
 louder and read apologies.



Then Dr. Hunter rose, and got  
 a tremendous reception. He began  
 "W<sup>o</sup> Chairman - ladies - & gentlemen."  
 & then remembered that he was the  
 Chairman & corrected himself. He  
 spoke splendidly and seemed  
 rather to enjoy it. He looked quite  
 jolly in spite of interruptions.  
 He repeated himself always when  
 interruptions came - which was a  
 good thing. In spite of occasional  
 roars & whistles they gave him a  
 very good hearing - better, I think,  
 than they would have done to any  
 one else - because the students  
 have a great respect for him. He  
 said it was thirty years since  
 he had first stood on a platform  
 speaking for Women's Suffrage.  
 He said the meeting tonight  
 was to let people of all shades

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of opinion speak on this subject. He showed - how right & good a just-  
 a cause it was but urged that we  
 should have patience with those that  
 looked at it in a different light.

I don't know that that would quite  
 please the suffragettes but he spoke  
 so splendidly in favour of it that he  
 carried the hall with him. Near  
 the end, when he had been saying  
 something about "letting the women  
 vote" - one of the students called out -

"Let the women speak Johnnie!  
 Give the women a chance!" Mr. ~~Despard~~  
 Despard got up next - and moved  
 a resolution that this meeting  
 censured the <sup>late</sup> action of the Liberal  
 Government and petitioned that  
 they should at once - meet together  
 to discuss what can be done  
 - or something like that. She

did not keep to her point-at-all-  
 The description of her is quite  
 good in the Citizen but the rest  
 of the Citizen report is drivel.  
 I had imagined her little & stout  
 but she was tall & a little like  
 Mr. Gillies - the widow. She had  
 a delightful voice - though the students  
 mimicked her - and she talked said  
 that in her quiet time she had  
 had lately she had come to the  
 conclusion that the question of  
 Women's Suffrage was part of the  
 great struggle between Right &  
 Wrong that was always going on in  
 the world - She was dramatic - &  
 seemed an interesting old lady but  
 would not have been at all  
 convincing - by herself.

Then Mrs. Gray got up & was  
 received with a tremendous ovation



She was tremendously on the spot and had dates & numbers at the tips of her fingers. She attacked the House of Commons - and said that this question had been up thirty one times - & each time had been blocked or talked out that once the Raisins & Currants bill had been taken ~~of~~ before it & left no time for it - That once when they had a majority (I think for the second reading) Mr. Gladstone had said that if they brought this question forward at all that he would throw out the whole Reform Bill - for Agricultural Labourers voting - rather than give it to women - and one hundred & forty Liberal members had who had gone up to vote for it walked into the 'No' Lobby. She said that it was not fair

play - do treat the bill in such an insulting manner. She called the Present House his honourable. Then she said that for forty years they ~~the~~ had behaved in a conventional & lady like manner - but this was the only result - and now they wanted to wake up the sleepy British Public. So they had had processions & demonstrations & what was the result - Why a meeting like this! Fifteen months ago you would not have come to this meeting - You would not have been interested! "

And you know it is quite true. Of course a lot of people that thoroughly disapproved of them went to the meeting to see them. Whenever a murmur of question came from the audience, she



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hit on the man at once - and she was quite brilliant in her remarks and always - "scored" - as W. L. says would call it. I only heard the end of a speech of hers before & had no idea she could speak so well.

~~It~~ She called on all those in favour to come out & help us, & to those who are not in favour I would say - we are working for a cause of truth & freedom & we ask you to - stand out of the way!"

Mrs. Parkhurst - was more serious & tragic - she talked of women in a way that made you rather hot - & of how much women are needed in framing laws for themselves & of how unfair the laws are that men make for them - unconsciously so

perhaps. She spoke of laws they were going to make - to stop mothers working while they were having children. She said they must first make a law that the husbands must give a certain amount of their income for the wives & children - or else the mothers must be looked after by the State. She said marriage laws too, in England were so bad - They were all very emphatic that before any more laws were made by the country at all - that women should be allowed a voice <sup>in them</sup> that it was the most important question there was to be settled.

Then the Bishop - a man like an automatic toy - got up - & threw his arms jerkily about. His voice jerked out firmly too - & he was same for the students - He only said a few words - that the vote had

been a great success in New Zealand  
and that there was a good time  
coming - He was most optimistic  
& seemed to enjoy being whistled  
down. Then D. Hunter put the  
motion to the meeting - I think  
the people at the back did not  
hear - but there was a very good  
show of hands. The students.

Who were a small body - only  
about 20 I should think - shouted  
"Count! count!" and D. Hunter  
asked those against to hold up  
their hands - Only two in the middle  
of the Hall did and about six  
students.

Then two questions were taken up  
by two students - One to Mrs  
Billington Gieg - asking her if it



was not true that 22 000 ~~women~~ <sup>women</sup> did not want it. She said that as long as one woman did - she ought to get it - & said that out of 20 000 000 women there might be 1000 000 who did not. She gave numbers of women who did when the students called for numbers - & said that in one of the guilds alone - there were 96 000 who wanted it & all the guilds of workers had petitioned for it.

The question to Mrs. Pankhurst was <sup>that women cd. not fight in</sup> ~~on the~~ <sup>1</sup> Army & Navy. She said that to become a soldier prevented a man from voting. But she went on to say that when men fought for their freedom & votes - women had always

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fought with them. In the Boer  
war the Boer women fought with  
the men - & yet the men were  
to be given the vote & not the  
women. She said that women  
performed as ~~strong~~ profitable  
services for their country as men  
& that as many women died  
in child-birth as men upon the  
field of battle.

The audience was tremendously  
enthusiastic all through <sup>the meeting</sup> & was  
always bursting into applause.  
At the end the students crowded  
on to the platform to shake hands  
with the speakers & gave cheers  
for them all & sang for her a jolly  
good fellow. So it had a happy  
ending & I think the speakers must

have been pleased with <sup>the</sup> evening -  
They said nothing silly & did not  
Suggest revolutionary programmes  
& I think - as they are working for  
exactly the same cause as your  
association at present you should  
all join together & if you find their  
prog programme afterwards offensive -  
You need not go further with them.

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Aunt Margaret is better again.  
Ehna enjoyed Fortingall very much.  
My bronze of Erasmus got spoilt in  
the casting. He is going to try again.  
but I don't think I'll have anything  
for the academy at all - as G. Smart's  
head has not been waxed very well  
& I never counted much on their taking  
him in. Please refuse the  
wedding for Ehna & He.



I got my photos back from the  
Art Journal - they say that those  
photos.

1 Suitable for their purpose of  
applied sculpture are not good  
enough for reproduction & that if  
ever I have good photos of medallions  
or cups they would be glad to see  
them.

The figures are very slow. No one  
who has seen them likes them except  
Gordon & Winnie Hamilton. I mean  
the others (Lattie - B. Smart & Mr  
Coulson) did not fall flat before  
them & worship and rub their faces  
in the clay or the floor - as I  
like people to do when they see a  
new thing of mine for the first time.

I want to get away for a weekend  
at the end of this month before I  
begin the next two figures. Perhaps  
Cathie & Gordon & Etha & I will go to  
Broodich.

I think you should write here only  
once a week - & to Bob once & Cor  
once. Otherwise you will be  
writing all the time you are away.  
If you like we can send on your  
letters to Bob - you can put  
orders on separate sheets - & then  
you need only write two letters  
altogether. Give us Coris &  
Bob's news. Much love to you  
all & your loving Phyl.

Pouring day !! Awful showers -  
don't think I'll have time to write again  
till next Sunday.