

TELEGRAMS, ZANGWILL, EAST-PRESTON.
STATION, ANCMERING.

AL/381

Far End,
East Preston,
Worthing.

January 10th, 1908

Hon. Alys Russell,

Dear Mrs. Russell,

To accept your invitation means a deviation from all my principles. I have hitherto fobbed off the Women's Suffrage Provincial invitations which come at the rate of at least two a week by a stereotyped excuse that like the Christie Minstrels I never perform out of London. Moreover I have refused the same thing under distinguished auspices at the rival University. Why then do I succumb on this occasion and land myself in so many future complications? Pour vos beaux yeux I suppose and l'amour de Logan. For the date, February 1st seems best because it is a Saturday when I suppose you will get the largest audience, but will the undergraduates have been back long enough for the advertisement of it to have percolated to them by then? Or is it long enough ahead to give you time to work up a good meeting? On the other hand I do not want to be much later as I do not want to be tied to England from which my Jewish work may always demand my absence.

Fawcett Library
27 Wilfred Street
London S.W.1.

As regards the speech I suppose I could use up some of my old jokes as the audience will be largely new. It is not easy to invent either new jokes or new arguments on such an absurdly obvious theme. Will you also kindly give me your idea of the maximum and minimum length of the speech. I am speaking one into a phonograph by the way, next week for the Women's Freedom League, but I assume you would not accept that as a substitute for me. Mrs. Zangwill will accompany me and will be very pleased to stay the night with your mother and Logan.

On the whole I hope it will be Saturday night, February 1st, for on Sunday I could then have an informal talk with the Jewish undergraduates to convert them to my other cause.

Sincerely yours,

Israel Zangwill