

May 24.
1900

AL 1555

32 ADDISON ROAD,

KENSINGTON, W.

My dear Mrs Fawcett -
Did you ever know such a
place as the House! I have
always deprecated this office
as bad policy, & gave no en-
couragement. When I got
back, the W. d. G. sd you had
encouraged them to ask me
to attend to the matter, & I did
so to this extent. I wrote a
covering letter to a fair-
sized mem. fr. S. Keenington
to Arthur. sd, mem. a success
largely due to the odd little
Jenner. Then I revised an

excellent letter written of
me by Hill Joz & Leigh
Broune shortened it, chiefly,
signed it (at their request) &
sent it with a private appeal
of a hearing to Buckle, & he
stuck it in his Political
Notes, ~~in~~ & I got great credit
of a good manifesto! I asked
Sir Robert Filmer to abide by
his speech of last year, & he
did he much vote agt. us.
That is literally all I did.
This time, I write no private
letters, & used no influence.
I knew an objectionable Pro

testant, Drice followed us on
Wed. That the Church Party, wd
see that the women wd occupy
the whole P. M. of week, to the
tune, with no expectation, & I
fear no great interest. All the
speeches of us were good, notably
Haldane's & Tritton, opposition
very bad. Bryce good, but I
think the clinching speech was
Courtney, annoying T. W.
The Lab. ranted & talked too
much about his own views, &
lectured ~~the~~ ^{the House} John Talbot
a new ally, talking a little
to spend time, but a genuine
believer, much impressed
the House, old C. at his best,
straight forward, not extreme
& full of the tactics of the

nam. Still looking down
of sd, "we lose". Sir Dennis M^r.
I've told me about 4. P. M.
it was "win".

I had a fit of real Celtic
blues, partly low health. The
old arguments, the sense of dis-
gust remembering Lab. Year's
history in the doods. The Lab.
vote my father gave there was
that division, & he voted for
us. There were a lot of family
troubles also, & when Sir Robert
came up to me at 5.15, & pos-
sible thinking of me said ~~the~~ he
^{had concluded it} was not his duty to vote at
all, & that he wd abstain, &
sd "then let us go to your room
& do the business we have
to do." There, I was thro the

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whole division, & so certain
it was against us, I never
even asked what had happen-
ed before 'of all the horse!
my fish news ^{of it} was a letter
fr. Mrs Courtney asking if
the Government wd not give
special facilities.

I had one bit of luck. Hicks
Beach wanted the Attor. Gen.
to ~~take~~ ^{speak up} the Bill, as it was
concerning a franchise. He
(in fear of the Dow!) sd, no.
He wd have managed it better
agst us, than T. W. did.
The Gov. advised it being
thrown out, but did not lead

but they will marvel as much
as anyone at the majority. I
shall hear more when I go
down to the House again. I
see the Standard says early
election. Still, it means this
to us, "keep pegging away."
I don't think the Gov^t will do
anything. I see the Lords in
the background are such a trial.
I do think the Radicals if they
came in, wd mend it our
way. I was glad to see Arthur
did not vote. I am going
to see the P. M. tomorrow.
Hugh was ready to speak on

either side of an hour, to keep
the Mr. Bice off. His cousin
Lucy Cecil our great opponent
came up to me in the gallery.
sure of victory!

Yours affly
Rance Balfour