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27 WILFRED STREET  
10. DOV, S.W.1.

AL/19

Stratton Street

Dec. 19. 1885

Dear Mr. Fawcett

The printed letter  
you enclose from  
Miss Coche is addressed  
to me under an entire  
misapprehension,  
for which I cannot  
account. I am not,  
and I never have been  
either a member or  
a name of the Penrose  
League. Will you



Kindly explain this to  
her with my compliments.

In respect to what  
you write yourself as  
to Female Suffrage, I  
am of course, (as you  
suppose) familiar with  
all the arguments for  
and against it.

But that movement  
raises issues broader,  
deeper, and more en-  
during, than the question.  
As to its immediate  
effect upon the politics

of the moment, issues  
quite beyond the limits  
of a letter to discuss,  
even had I the ability  
and more leisure than  
I can now command.  
Therefore I can only  
briefly say in reply  
to your note, that,  
in my opinion it  
would neither benefit  
man nor woman to  
hazard the quiet but  
potent influence



for good she now ex-  
ercises in daily life,  
And to transform her  
into a political agent.

I must however  
further add, that I have  
always held it to be  
a grave error to promote  
the extension of the  
franchise for the  
momentary advantage  
of any party. The  
people at large have a  
right to claim that



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But legislation  
shall be based on  
substantial, not evan-  
-escent reasoning. We  
are on the eve of an  
election more momentous  
in its results than  
any we have had for  
years, and the one  
question of interest for  
the country, (before  
which every other fades,  
is whether the largely  
increased electorate will  
support in the main a



Reservation or a Restruc-  
-tive policy. It is im-  
-perative that this issue  
should be kept clearly  
before the minds of the  
Electors upon whose  
votes the maintenance  
of the religious character,  
the comfort and safety  
of their individual homes,  
and the general well  
being and stability of  
the country will largely  
depend. If the persons

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to whom the franchise  
has recently been extended  
are indeed so unquali-  
fied to exercise it, as  
Miss Cobbe contends, and  
are, (as I am often told)  
so uneducated and  
ignorant, it is deeply  
to be regretted that  
the privilege should  
have been intrusted  
to them. But I am not  
impressed with the  
soundness of the argument



that the injury already  
done to the State is to  
be neutralised by con-  
ferring the same privilege  
on a new body of electors,  
whose position would  
be exceptional, and  
against many of whom,  
I presume, the same  
objections may be urged.

I am, dear Mr. Fawcett

Yours sincerely

Pondett Coates