

18
FAWCETT LIBRARY
27 WILFRED STREET
10 D'ALMEIDA S.W.1.

AL/4

Aignon
Oct. 7. 1869

Dear Mr Fawcett

Mr William Wood, a working man in the Potteries, who has long been a correspondent of mine, and is one of the most thoughtful and sensible working men with whom I have ever been in communication, is of opinion that a public meeting on Women's Suffrage might usefully be held, or at the least a lecture delivered, in the borough of Stoke on Trent, and offers to take upon himself the work of making the necessary arrangements, provided that one of the leaders of the movement is able to be present, and especially if, as he says, "one at least of the ladies who are the glory and no small part of the strength of the movement be present to speak to us in its advocacy." This last he considers of primary importance. He will write further on the details of arrangement if I can tell him that you and Mrs Fawcett would be able and willing to take part. Mr Wood was the first to broach the subject in the local press, and has ascertained by a successful personal canvass for signatures to a petition.

that "there is really a large body of people in the
"borough who are favourable to the movement, and
"who with a little organisation, would be willing to
"give an active support to it." He adds "I have a ^{number}
"of assistance in any future action in the matter from
"many of the most active and intelligent politicians
"amongst my own class, and also from some of the few
"with whom I come in contact of the wealthier classes
"in the borough." A ~~for~~ meeting, therefore, under your and
Mrs Fawcett's auspices, would not be likely to be a
failure, and might tend to promote the movement among
the working classes in general; and Mr Wood thinks
that the presence of a lady among its advocates might
encourage ladies in the locality to join. It seems a pity
that such favourable promise should not be taken advantage
of. Next to a meeting, a lecture by Mrs Fawcett
would be most useful, and the same lecture might
afterwards be delivered in other places. If you and
Mrs Fawcett look favourably on the proposal, I think
you will find Mr Wood capable of fulfilling all the
promises. His address is 6 Hawkesmore Street,
Hanley, Stoke on Trent.

The cause seems to be prospering everywhere.

There are responses to my little book in almost all
parts of Europe. It is being translated into Polish;
I have had three proposals for translating it into Russian
and a greater number than I can remember into
German. The reviews of it, whether favourable or
hostile, are in general very encouraging.

The Land Association also has got together a
great number of very good adherents. I only hope it
will be possible to keep adherents together who differ
so much in the length they intend to go. This can only
be done by leaving many important points as open
questions for discussion within the Association itself.
My daughter sends her kindest regards to Mrs
Fawcett, and I am.

Dear Mr Fawcett

Yours truly

J. J. Mill

Professor Fawcett M. P.