

**Transcription of letter from Elizabeth Finlayson Gauld to Dr Devon,  
8<sup>th</sup> May 1914**

Inaras  
Colinton Road  
Edinburgh  
8.5.14

Dr Devon,  
Sir

Miss Arabella Scott has been released from Calton jail without being forcibly fed. This I am glad to attribute to you. It is a personal gratification to feel that I have not been wrong entirely in my estimate of a man whom for years I have held in respect as one who, altho[ugh], in immediate touch with the very rags & tatters of humanity, has kept his faith in a power which regards the criminal as a sheep gone astray, or as one mentally afflicted through force of cruel circumstances. As in the case of your treatment of Miss Moorhead I felt impelled to contribute my share of condemnation & abhorrence, so in the case of Miss Scott, I feel obliged to acknowledge the improvement.

I would ask you however to consider further whether it is not fatuous & cruel to inflict the punishment of seven days (nearly) of hunger & thirst on anyone who for a cause dearer to them than their life is willing & prepared to suffer death itself.

This is no idle statement I have spoken to these brave women again & again and believe me when I say I have cowered before the spirit of self sacrifice they have shown and the calmness with which they relate their experiences and their readiness to suffer the full penalty.

There is no whining from then. We lesser women do all that. It is a relief to our pent up feeling. This brings me to the request that you will use your influence in the quarter in which it will be most effective to impress the fact the government has not any weapon to stop the suffragette. She will continue to carry on this war whatever it may cost her. That these are hundreds of thousands of women who have never come within the hold of the law, let the government yield to them at once any measure that will remove the sex bar and the suffragette, from Mrs Pankhurst downwards, will be willing – this is my belief – to remain without a vote.

You may tell me you have already done what you can I ask you earnestly to renew your efforts. You are in a position to know this womens movement from the inside & therefore your opinion & advice are of incalculable value to the state at this time. You must know as everyone else, not politically blind must know, that votes for women must come, why then this fatuous delay?

Yours faithfully,  
El[izabeth] Finlayson Gauld

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