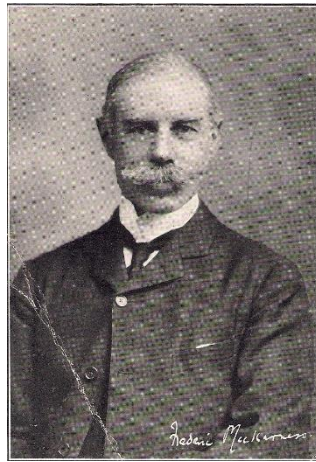
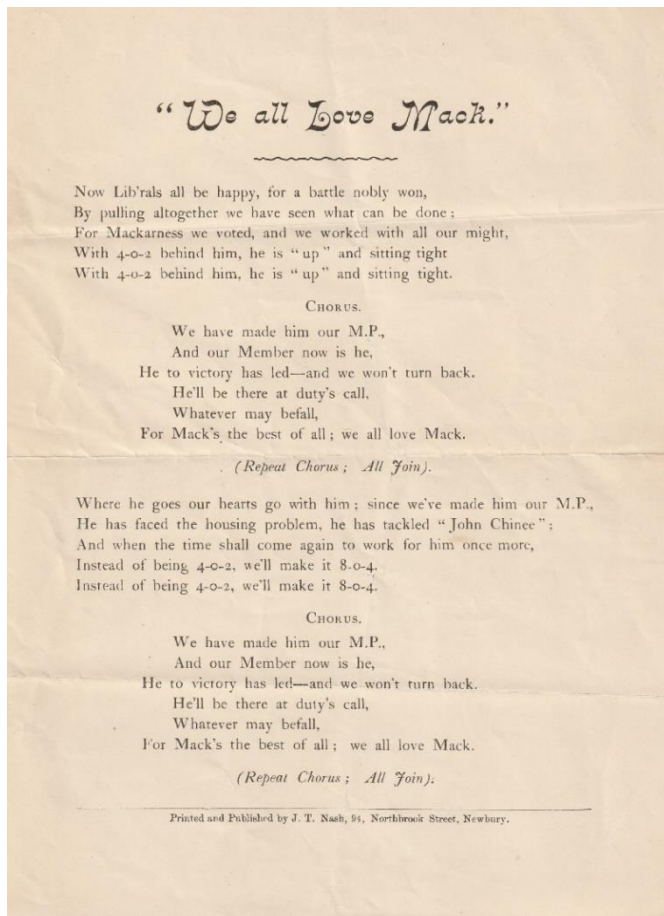


FREDERIC MACKARNESS (1854-1920)

Campaigning Liberal politician and judge



Frederic Michael Coleridge Mackarness, second son of Bishop John Fielder Mackarness of Oxford, was Liberal member of Parliament for Newbury from 1906 to 1909. Championing a number of controversial causes, he served on the anti-war South African Conciliation Committee, was a supporter of Irish Home Rule and of the civil rights of Indians under British rule. More details about FCM's life and work can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Coleridge_Mackarness



Left: the text of 'We All Love Mack', a song for the candidate's supporters.

Next pages: letters to Frederic from two well-known personalities of the day: the novelist 'Ouida' and Louis Botha

Letter from Ouida to Frederic Mackarness

This letter, undated and written in purple ink, was sent to Frederic by 'Ouida' (pen name of novelist Maria Louise Ramé 1839-1908). She was living in Italy, FM in London. References to the South Africa Conciliation Committee, on which FM served, and to Queen Victoria, suggest the letter was written around 1900.

6 March

Dear Sir -

I did not mean my writing to the newspapers. These few who are not sold to the financiers are too timid to say anything worth saying. I thought yr. Committee might publish something. If I may say so without offence yr. Literature Committee is not strong; & I cannot imagine why it is entirely feminine.

Surely 'Conciliation' is no longer to be dreamed of; who can reconcile the tiger & the dog? What Joe Chamberlain has always intended is to steal the Orange State & Transvaal for some of their riches; and the general moral obliquity of the nation, from the Queen downward through all classes, makes this act not only permitted but applauded.

*This is the kind of thing which needs to be said. Allow me to ask you if you be a grandson of my unforgotten friend dear old Planché?**

Allow me to remain faithfully yours

Ouida

* 'dear old Planché' – presumably either Matilda Ann Mackarness née Planché 1825-1881, a famous children's author and wife of Frederic's uncle Henry Smith Mackarness, or Matilda's father James, 1796-1880. Neither was Frederic's blood relative.

Images of the envelope, and part of the letter, are below.

bellarek.

Dear Sir; —

I did not mean my
writing to the News
papers. There are few
who are not sold

1 of L'Espresso

Inglaterra

Federico Marchionni & Co

Talbat House

Strand St. Strand

W.C. London

Letter from Louis Botha, Prime Minister of South Africa, to Frederic Mackarness MP

**Prime Minister's Office,
Pretoria.**

22nd July 1907

My dear Mackarness,

I was very glad to get your letter of the 15th June, and was pleased to hear from you that our action in regard to the Chinese has been so much appreciated by our friends in England. The Opposition here naturally been very angry with us, and the fact of the Imperial Government having guaranteed our Loan has not improved their tempers, as they were hoping to get us into a corner financially.

The outlook here is, I think, much brighter and I am very hopeful of being able to replace every Chinaman by adequate Native Labour. The strike of the white miners was unfortunate but the government has been endeavouring to do the best for both parties with good results.

I trust Mrs Mackarness and yourself are very well. My sister and daughter join with me in kindest regards to you both.

Believe me

Sincerely yours

Louis Botha

