

explanation is always the same : a husband and perhaps children. With the exception of Mrs. Pankhurst, Mrs. Drummond, and Miss Kenney, the *personnel* of the militants changes from year to year. Miss Gawthorpe, Miss Moloney, Miss Collins, where are they during these forays ? If militancy is so "grand" as Mrs. Drummond says, why is there so little of it ? A single spiteful splutter, which happily almost always miscarries, by a woman here and there, does not carry conviction either as to the deep sincerity of the splutterer or of the movement as a whole. If the women want to "stagger humanity" they have a farcically ineffective way of going about it. To throw a book at a magistrate, and at six feet distance to miss him, is not an impressive contribution even from one weak woman. A hundred outrages every morning for a week, in widely sundered parts of the country, would show a diffused passion about votes ; but the fact is, the suffragettes who are prepared for violence are very much of a stage army. Of course it is very much better so. The march of the Mænads to Versailles was impressive, unforgettable ; but "Fiasco" is writ large over all that the suffragettes attempt.

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What Would they do with It ?

After a rather extensive acquaintance with the militants, one cannot help being a trifle scornful over the frenzy displayed in order to get the Parliamentary vote as distinguished from any use to which it is to be put when, and if, they do get it. Mr. Bradlaugh made a tremendous furore about getting into Parliament without taking the oath, and when he got there he did nothing. Mr. John Burns was a strike-leader, mob-queller, "man with the Red Flag" till he got into Parliament, and then—long before he went to the Local Government Board—he was pretty much of an extinct volcano, though I believe he is a more useful man now than ever he was. If people want to do useful public work there is more of it than they can hold their heads to, vote or no vote. I have not exercised the franchise, Parliamentary or any other, for many years, though I have been a householder and a rent and rate payer all the time. This owing to several changes of abode. But I have addressed scores of election meetings, both municipal and Parliamentary, and have written leagues of political comment during that time. If anybody were to tell me that I had exercised no political power during those years I should tell her that she was much mistaken, and would express the hope that she had exercised half as much. The militants do not intervene in municipal elections advising women to make good use of the votes they already possess, though there is nothing they could do that is of half so much importance, both as regards the immediate results and in reference to securing the Parliamentary vote later on. There must be thousands of active politicians who have become perverts on the subject of "Votes for Women" from sheer disgust at the way in which women vote in municipal elections now.

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The Alternative.

Here, indeed, is the line of true political evolution. Let women make