

well as to unoffending tradespeople's windows by militant tactics. These are defended on the ground of analogy; but I venture to say that the facts will not always bear the interpretation placed on them. For instance, the connection between the explosion at Clerkenwell prison and Home Rule has been much strained, for Gladstone always said that it merely drew attention to the subject. The potato famine may have precipitated Free Trade, but Lord John had written his famous letter before that, and Peel was more than half convinced, and if the Peterloo massacre helped on Reform, we must remember that this was enthusiastically desired, and revolution would probably have followed its denial. The weak point of the suffrage movement is that, judging from a considerable experience "on the stump" during the last two elections, there is little general interest taken in the question, and many of the rank and file of the female sex are either lukewarm or hostile. And worst of all, the militant ladies have raised up a numerous and influential band of clever and enthusiastic opponents, who lose no opportunity of preaching their creed. The original president of the hostile association was Lord Cromer, and he explained his views in this terse fashion, and excited violent indignation by doing so: "My reason for refusing the vote to women is that they are women," and there lies a good deal of sound common-sense in this. I quite admit that the militant tactics have brought the question within the range of practical politics; but they should have been allowed to remain there. Everything was going well when I left the House, and the last vote