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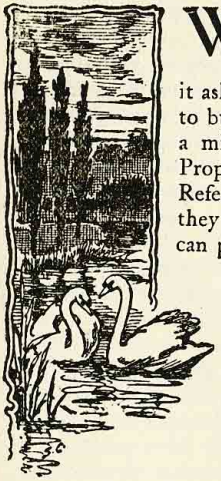
Should Women Have the Parliamentary Vote?

SOME REASONS WHY THEY SHOULD NOT.

THE ALTERNATIVE.

By JACOBUS.



WOMEN cannot be given the Parliamentary franchise merely or chiefly because they are violent. If every section of the community is to have what it asks because it destroys letters in pillar boxes, sets fire to buildings, or uses bombs, then a handful of bimetallists, a minority of tariff-riggers, the people who believe in Proportional Representation, or the Initiative and the Referendum, may each and all have what they want if they are only frenzied enough and have the leisure and can procure the means to make themselves a public nuisance and a public danger. Militant tactics, instead of showing that women ought to have the Parliamentary vote, show the unfitness of the militants at least to have that responsibility. The attempt of a numerically despicable minority to impose its will upon the majority of the nation by what is intended for terrorism is sheer tyranny, and when we know that these women want votes so that they may play checkmate to the Labour members, as Mrs. Pankhurst declared at a fashionable meeting, with Dr. Garrett Anderson in the chair, it is marvellous to find men like Mr. Philip Snowden and Mr. Arthur Henderson espousing Women Suffrage as they do.

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What is Required.

What is wanted, and what is sadly to seek, is proof that women are capable of turning the Parliamentary franchise to good account. That is just precisely what they have not done. For many years they have had all the franchises