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11th March, 1912.

Dear Mr. Smithies Taylor,

I have read your letter of March 8th with interest on account not only of our previous friendship but of the great admiration I have held for your abilities. This time, however, I fear I cannot agree with your opinions. What I complain of with regard to the militant suffragettes is that they are either sincere and misguided, or insincere and despicable. Many, I have no doubt, have hitherto really and conscientiously believed that militant methods are calculated to advance the cause of Woman Suffrage. But if they do not realise that, whatever may be said about the early efforts of the suffragettes, their continued and increasingly provocative methods are to-day in a fair way to ruin it, they are blind to the most obvious facts. Advertise by all means; but in a matter such as this, offensive advertisement can be overdone, and I can

assure you that I am in the utmost earnest when I say that, to my mind, the first question which must be present to any true advocate of the suffragist cause, is how to stop the outrages which are day by day diminishing the prospect of any attainment of Woman Suffrage during this Parliament. What I myself am doing, I am doing with the aim of either stopping the militant methods, or of getting them publicly disclaimed and reprobated by every possible suffrage Society. I only wish I could persuade those who have recently provoked such a storm of protest against their own action and ^{such} antagonism to the suffrage cause that every violence committed, far from helping their cause, further retards it. That is the truth. In default of this, the only course is to get the militants repudiated so openly and generally that the bulk of sober suffragist opinion does not suffer for their acts.

I think you know me well enough to realise that I write thus frankly, not with any idea of mere argument, but because it seems to me the best and most honest course to tell you exactly what I feel. As to my own part in helping forward this reform, about which you ask me, I have not only spoken all over the Kingdom in support of Woman's Suffrage, and hitherto voted in favour of it on every possible occasion, but I have introduced a Bill

myself on behalf of the People's Suffrage Federation.
I, indeed, am under no misapprehension as to the greatness of the cause. It is only the blindness of some of its supporters and the calamitous result of their action that I condemn.

Yours sincerely

E. Crawshaw Williams