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5th. February. 1908.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of yours of the 4th. inst. drawing my attention to the treatment meted out to a number of women who were arrested for brawling. I quite agree with you that it is a mistake to treat them as ordinary prisoners, and you will, no doubt, have noticed that on the day that they were sentenced a member of our Party called the attention of the Home Secretary to the matter, and re-

-ceived a reply which made it perfectly evident that Mr. Gladstone was to take no action. I am bound to say that whilst I have not a particle of sympathy with the methods of these women, and whilst I am of opinion that the effect of their work has been to delay the aims they have in view, I cannot understand the folly of the Home Office in regarding them as being anything but political prisoners, and, therefore, entitled to treatment in the first division.

Yours faithfully,

J. Ramsay MacDonald

T. Smithies Taylor. Esq.,
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