

## CHAPTER II

### REVOLT IN THE SUBURBS

#### I. *The Eclipse of the Black Coat.*

NOTHING manifests more clearly the fact that there is a new condition of England than the changes wrought during recent years in the suburbs. From the mass to the middle classes—those of the lower and the higher degrees—is a simple and natural step in the process of discussing the many changes in our national life which are now occurring, for the suburbans, too, are in revolt. It is but one more evidence of the social upheaval of the age. To-day the rebellion of the suburbans, like that in other classes, has become definitely articulate, and their respective cries indicate that this universal discontent has a common *raison d'être*. It is a material revolt—anything less substantial has almost ceased to concern the men and women of the twentieth century—and it is undoubtedly the outcome of those economic changes during the past ten years or more to which attention has already been directed. The revolt of the rich, we learn, is against taxation, which limits their luxuries, and which, we are asked to believe, is ushering in an era of ruin and decay. In direct contrast to this cry is the rebellion of the mass, the nature and