

should the women's cause be defeated—a foretaste of the militant policies to come! Like all the Suffragists of her period, Ursula Bright feared to alienate friends by demanding anything drastic; she wrote to Mrs. Pankhurst: "Remember they unfortunately lose nothing by voting against us, except their self-respect, which is only a trifle!" Emmeline Pankhurst was of more impetuous temper!

Happily, the Act of 1894 went through with all Local Government franchises secured to women, married or unmarried, on the same terms as men. The last blow at Coverture had been struck! Bills to enfranchise widows and spinsters only were now discarded for ever! The Women's Franchise had achieved its purpose. Emmeline Pankhurst rejoiced greatly; it was the first great legislative success for women in which she had taken a vital part.

## CHAPTER IV

### SOCIALIST AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

1894-1900

SINCE the eighteen-seventies, when she took her husband's part in his discussions with her father, Emmeline Pankhurst had counted herself a Socialist. The Doctor and she had been early members of the Fabian Society. They would have joined the Social Democratic Federation, but the personality of H. M. Hyndman and his anti-feminist attitude repelled them. They met Keir Hardie at the International Socialist Congress of 1888, rejoiced at his return to Parliament for West Ham in 1892, and his brave stand for the unemployed. When, in 1894, the Independent Labour Party he had formed the previous year engaged in its first Parliamentary contest at Attercliffe, they went down to help. Of all the people she knew in politics, of all the men who came into Emmeline Pankhurst's life, the one, after her husband, who meant most to her was undoubtedly Keir Hardie.

Dr. Pankhurst's adhesion to the I.L.P. aroused excitement in Manchester. The Party was being assailed