

young Party around him! Sir William Mather, the retiring Liberal Member for Gorton, urged his supporters to vote for Dr. Pankhurst, as a man who, above all Party considerations, would be a notable asset to the House of Commons. The President of the local Liberal Association withdrew in his favour; but the Liberal Association, unable to strike a bargain by securing the withdrawal of an I.L.P. candidate in a neighbouring constituency, sent out its fiat against the Doctor. In vain Mrs. Pankhurst, with tears in her voice, appealed at the street corners: "You put me at the top of the poll; will you not vote for the man who has taught me all I know?" In vain she dashed up to Liverpool to plead with T. P. O'Connor for the Irish vote; he answered: "We have nothing but admiration for your husband, but we cannot support the people he is mixed up with!" "When Keir Hardie stood up in the House of Commons for the people with a faithful, earnest, manly appeal, he stood alone. . . . Are you not going to send other men to support him?" Dr. Pankhurst asked. The voters answered: Hatch 5,865, Pankhurst 4,261; the expenses were: Hatch £1,375, Pankhurst £342.

Next day, Mrs. Pankhurst, bravely overcoming disappointment, hired a trap and drove off alone to the Colne Valley to help the I.L.P. candidate there. Returning through Gorton after another defeat, she was recognized and stoned by a crowd of roughs, who had celebrated the Tory victory in free beer.

The I.L.P. maintained a vigorous outdoor propaganda; to check it, the Parks Committee, whose Chairman had been opposed by an I.L.P. candidate, John

Harker, prohibited the I.L.P. meetings in Boggart Hole Clough, an uncultivated open space. The meetings continued despite the prohibition; Harker was fined. Dr. Pankhurst, defending him, gave notice of appeal. Mrs. Pankhurst and others kept up the meetings and were proceeded against in their turn. The men were fined, and refusing to pay, were soon in jail; the case against her was dismissed, though she clearly stated her intention to repeat her offence as long as she were permitted to be at large. Sunday after Sunday she took the chair at the Clough meetings now of enormous size, her pink straw bonnet a tiny rallying point in the great concourse, grouped on the slopes of that natural amphitheatre. All her old diffidence disappeared, her mellow, effortless tones carrying far beyond the shouts of excited men. She challenged the Court to imprison her, but her case was continually adjourned. Others were proceeded against; they could not be imprisoned because she was not.

The Town Clerk, the Chairman of the Parks Committee and the Lord Mayor himself had gone to see the meetings; they were compelled to appear, obliged to deny the words of their own Counsel. Keir Hardie and the best-known speakers of the I.L.P. got themselves arrested. Great crowds assembled outside the Court to cheer the defence. The City Council passed a new by-law prohibiting all meetings in the Manchester parks except by special authorization of the Parks Committee, making it clear that no I.L.P. meetings would be sanctioned. The Home Secretary compelled the Council to revise the by-law, and give him an undertaking that no reasonable application