

Suffragette activities, the anti-Government election policy appealed most to Mrs. Pankhurst. She lauded it as the policy of Charles Stewart Parnell, the great Irish leader; but Parnell's task was easy—he had only to induce the men of his Party to follow his bidding; she had to persuade men to vote against their Party for women's sake. If any woman could appeal thus successfully, certainly it was she. Every newspaper in the country declared that she turned large numbers of votes against the Government.

For the opening of the Parliamentary Session of 1907, on February 13th, the W.S.P.U. advertised a "Women's Parliament," openly appealing for "prison volunteers." The Square was thronged by spectators, the House guarded by an army of police. It is indeed extraordinary to recall that literally thousands of police on horse and foot were, time and again, turned out to repel a few hundred women. The Caxton and Essex Halls were both packed with the militants, who punctuated fiery appeals to womanly valour from the platform by cries of "Rise up, women!" and answering shouts of "Now!" Then, hour after hour, repeatedly we sallied forth. Mounted police, caricatured by the *Daily Chronicle* next day as "London Cossacks," reared their horses over us. Foot police gripped us, rushed us along at arm's length, beating us with clenched fist between the shoulders, bumping us in the back with practised knees. At last fifty-four men and women had been taken to Cannon Row Police Station. The aged Mrs. Despard, General French's sister, Christabel and I were among the prisoners. Our punishment ranged from ten shil-

lings or seven days to thirty shillings or three weeks.

For the first time in the long history of the movement, the Member who drew first place in the ballot, a Liberal, W. H. Dickinson, gave his place for women. The Prime Minister had promised the Suffrage Society of his constituency: "I will with much pleasure give my support to Mr. Dickinson's Bill," but when it came before the House, he decried it as applicable only to "a small minority of well-to-do women." Finally a Liberal, J. D. Rees, talked the measure out, the Speaker having refused to permit the closure. There was no protest from the Ladies' Gallery; it had been closed for the day! Rees was rewarded with a knighthood!

On March 20th, another "Women's Parliament" met in the Caxton Hall and sent processions out to Parliament. Seventy-five women were arrested, one of them a portrait-painter of Rome, another an author of Norway.

The ceaseless contest with colleagues out of sympathy with his policy bore heavily on Keir Hardie. That April he suffered a sudden breakdown. He was removed from his solitary rooms to St. Thomas's Home, but after some weeks there, left for his home in Cumnock still gravely ill. I feared he was dying and wrote so to my mother. She left Manchester immediately, arriving in time only to speak to him for an instant on the station platform. He was deeply moved that she had journeyed thus to greet him, and she to find him broken as an old man, unable to stand without support.