

head of a great procession to a public welcome breakfast.

Disturbances in the House by women who chained themselves to the hated grille of the "Ladies' Gallery," and were hauled out with its dismembered sections, and by men supporters in the "Strangers' Gallery," caused the closing of both galleries for six months. The so-called "Brawling" Act was passed to punish "strangers for disorderly conduct in the House." A vain attempt was made to check Suffragette heckling of Cabinet Ministers by the Public Meeting Act, which imposed penalties for disturbance up to £5 or a month's imprisonment.

Women's Parliaments were held on February 24th and March 30th, 1909. Another was called for June 29th, when an attempt, more spectacular than before, was to be made to insist on the ancient right of Petition. Mrs. Pankhurst was resolved to resort to the hunger-strike in prison, nominally to secure political treatment, actually as a spur to the struggle for the vote itself. A week before, an artist, Marion Wallace Dunlop, visited Parliament and printed on the walls of St. Stephen's Hall an extract from the Bill of Rights of 1569, passed on the accession of William and Mary as a guarantee of British Liberties:

#### WOMEN'S DEPUTATION

*June 29th*

#### BILL OF RIGHTS

"It is the right of the subject to petition the King, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal."

Ordered a month in prison, she bravely put the hunger-strike to the test. The Governor told her that she would on no account be released, but she was freed after ninety-two hours.

Whilst Keir Hardie urged their admission, and Hugh Law moved the adjournment of other business by way of protest, Mrs. Pankhurst went up to the House with old Mrs. Saul Solomon, widow of a South African Prime Minister, frail little Miss Neligan, aged seventy-six, for nearly thirty years headmistress of Croydon Girls' High School, Mrs. Mansell Moullin, wife of the well-known surgeon, and four others, mostly elderly. The drum and fife band of young Suffragettes played them out of the Caxton Hall to the Marseillaise. They were allowed to reach the Strangers' Entrance. Superintendent Scantlebury there handed Mrs. Pankhurst Asquith's refusal. She replied: "I am firmly resolved to stand here till I am received." Inspector Jarvis ordered her to go. She declared her refusal; he laid hands on her with obvious reluctance, the long buffeting which preceded arrest was about to begin. To save the old ladies from it, she struck the Inspector lightly on the cheek. "I know why you did that," he told her quietly, but the buffeting began. "Must I do it again?" she asked him softly. He assented. She struck him on the other cheek; and he called to his subordinates: "Take them in." Other deputations came up; the old struggle continued. Laurence Housman, the author, raised a cry in the Lobby: "The women of England are clamouring outside!" As a protest against the brutal treatment of women before arrest, the W.S.P.U. had officially