

enfeebled by fasting, palpitating with distress, the shortened breath, the hot and cold shivers down the spine, the trembling of the limbs. She leapt from the bed where she had lain for days; set her back against the wall, determined to resist. . . . The door was flung open, the doctors were on the threshold, behind them a group of wardresses. "Mrs. Pankhurst, I have orders . . ." began the doctor. Desperately, she seized the heavy toilet ewer: "If any of you dare take a step inside this cell, I shall defend myself!" The doctor retreated, muttering that to-morrow morning would do as well. The door closed. She had triumphed! Ringing imperiously, she demanded to be taken to Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, whom she found in a state of collapse. The two were released next day without another attempt to feed them. Mr. Pethick-Lawrence was forcibly fed in Pentonville, but released after five days. The leaders set free, the height of agitation passed, though their followers were retained in torment.

Mrs. Pankhurst slipped away unobserved to Christabel in Paris, to concert more drastic schemes. The Pethick-Lawrences were presently in France for a secret meeting. Their plans were totally opposed to those of Mrs. Pankhurst. They desired that before any further militancy were attempted, the hunger-strike and forcible feeding of the leaders should be used to the full, as a propaganda asset in a great spectacular campaign, whilst trusted friends of the cause explored the possibilities of negotiation. Mrs. Pankhurst was not dismayed by their refusal to accept her policy. On the contrary, she was relieved. The wealth of

Mr. Pethick-Lawrence, once a great asset to the Union, had become a disability in her eyes; the Government must not be allowed to secure compensation for Suffragette damage from that source. Moreover, she was unwilling to face the embarrassment of seeing him rendered penniless. Recognizant of the Lawrences' great services to herself and to the militant Union, she was not, like Christabel, bound to them by close ties of daily affectionate intercourse. In a burst of excitement, she flashed out: "If you do not support Christabel's policy, we shall smash you!" The policy in question, however much her daughter wished it, was desperately her own! The fissure was temporarily bridged. The Pethick-Lawrences accepted her proposal that they should depart till the autumn on a lecturing tour in Canada. Their departure left the Union to her control, as it had never been since its headquarters were moved to London.

The elections, hitherto regarded as essentially Mrs. Pankhurst's field, were left to others now. Her withdrawal coincided with an almost revolutionary change in the election policy of Mrs. Fawcett's non-militants; they, too, were now attacking Government candidates, and supporting the Labour Party, a move which, coming as it did from women hitherto mainly on the Liberal side, was bound to do the Government much damage. Its weakness was that the Labour Party had neither made itself responsible for a Bill nor pledged itself to action of any sort. When the non-militants asked Keir Hardie his opinion, he pointed this out to them, and advised them to keep their funds and maintain an independent policy; but when they turned to