

MacDonald and Henderson, essentially Party men, their proffered support, entailing no obligation, was gladly accepted. Never a Socialist, Mrs. Fawcett was thus drawing towards the Labour Party from which Mrs. Pankhurst receded! The Labour Party never worked for Votes for Women with the energy Mrs. Pankhurst desired; Keir Hardie, Snowden and Lansbury were never satisfied that its action in Parliament was fully to be depended upon; yet it steadily advanced to the position of being the only political Party officially supporting Votes for Women on any terms obtainable, and preferably the broadest.

The Pethick-Lawrences had barely set sail when greater militancy began. Traces of attempted arson were discovered in the Home Office. Two Suffragettes, with incendiary material and house-breaking implements, were surprised in the night outside Nuneham House, the residence of Lewis Harcourt, said to be the main Cabinet obstacle to the fulfilment of Asquith's pledge. When Asquith visited Dublin, Mary Leigh dropped a confectioner's toffee hatchet into his carriage, and with Gladys Evans raised spectacular fires in the Theatre Royal, where he was to speak. They were sentenced to five years' penal servitude, but won their freedom by the hunger-strike.

The Reform Bill had been introduced on June 17th. Arthur Henderson announced that if women were not included by Amendment, he would vote against the Bill on Third Reading. F. E. Smith (Lord Birkenhead) asked him if this were the official decision of the Labour Party, but he answered: "I have had no instructions from my leader," and advised a question

to Ramsay MacDonald, by this time Chairman of the Party. MacDonald made no response; when questioned outside Parliament, his replies were ambiguous and accompanied by bitter denunciations of the Suffragettes. In July, the Reform Bill came up for Second Reading. Asquith had hardened his heart; he said callously:

"This Bill does not propose to confer the franchise upon women. . . . The House, at an earlier stage of the Session, rejected with, I think, sufficient decisiveness, the proposal to confer the franchise upon women!"

"We told you so!" retorted Mrs. Pankhurst. The constitutional Suffragists addressed a remonstrance to him; he still insisted his pledge would be honourably kept.

The militants had notice to leave Clement's Inn to make way for the offices of the Public Trustee. Mrs. Pankhurst rented Lincoln's Inn House, a big new building in Kingsway, strong as a fortress. The Pethick-Lawrences were returning from Canada in October. The Government had already put the bailiffs in their country house at Holmwood to recover the costs of the conspiracy trial, Mrs. Pankhurst having no assets which could be seized. The Pethick-Lawrences discussed the future with Mrs. Pankhurst; found their plans still sharply opposed. They had insisted in 1907 that she must be the autocrat; in 1912 she was taking them at their word. She required them to leave the Union. Mrs. Tuke, Annie Kenney, above all Christabel, who had been dearest to them, supported