

For ringing Asquith's door-bell in London, and for heckling Cabinet Ministers in Manchester, more Suffragettes were imprisoned, amongst them Mrs. Pankhurst's youngest daughter, Adela, who did not afterwards resume her position as an elementary school teacher, becoming a W.S.P.U. organizer. In June Christabel had graduated LL.B., and left Manchester to become chief organizer of the W.S.P.U. Mrs. Pankhurst closed the dwindling Emerson's, and travelled from election to election. Her sister, Mary Clarke, whose marriage had proved unhappy, acted as deputy registrar, keeping the deserted home meagrely for the boy whose future was the subject of desultory and inconclusive debate.

In October, imposing headquarters were opened for the W.S.P.U. in Clement's Inn, Strand, where the Pethick-Lawrences had a flat. The Inn was at once a rallying-ground for women of all grades and classes, their pent desire for self-expression surging to this movement as a long needed outlet.

When Parliament reopened that autumn, Mrs. Pankhurst again appeared with her militants. She communicated with the Prime Minister, through the Chief Liberal Whip, and received the plain answer that he held out no hope for Votes for Women at any time during the Parliament. Immediately there was a demonstration of protest in the Lobby of the House itself. Woman after woman sprang to a seat and attempted to make a speech. The police hurled themselves upon them; Mrs. Pankhurst was thrown to the ground. Ten women were arrested, including her daughter Adela, Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence, and

Annie Cobden-Sanderson, daughter of Richard Cobden, the great agitator against the Corn Laws. Next day they were ordered six weeks' imprisonment in the Second Division, on refusal to enter into recognizances not to offend again. I got a fortnight in the Third Division, for attempting a speech of protest on the steps of the Court. The country was thrilled. Parliament began to be concerned about the rigours of Suffragette imprisonment. Within a week we were transferred to what was termed the First Division, though it lacked the more important privileges given to men politicals. The slogan of the militant Suffragettes was always "The Vote this year!" Even the patient, law-abiding Mrs. Fawcett was impressed by the great stir; she addressed a circular letter to the Press, containing a frank admission:

"I feel the action of the prisoners has touched the imagination of the country in a manner quieter methods did not succeed in doing."

The revolt of militant women made itself felt in the Parliamentary by-elections. The W.S.P.U. policy was simple: to urge the electors to vote against Government candidates until the Government agreed to grant the vote. When Cobden's daughter and her fellow prisoners were released, they rushed to a by-election at Huddersfield; huge audiences deserted the candidates to hear them. Though the Liberal poll was reduced, the Labour vote also fell; the Tory alone had gained. Labour organizers were dismayed; all the Suffragettes in the election were Labour women, Mrs. Pankhurst still a member of the I.L.P. Executive; yet they refused