

## A POSSIBLE PARTY

**I**N a certain sense it may be said with truth that the General Election of 1900 has not been a sensational one. Majorities have risen and fallen, safe seats have become rickety ones and rickety ones safer; a certain number have been lost and won: but the balance between these has been fairly even, there is little apparent change in the situation, and we have to deplore the fall of no champion of the first rank, or even of the second. And yet upon a further consideration this Election, described by one prominent politician as "inconclusive" and by another as "hollow," appears to be as remarkable in its result and likely to prove as momentous in its effects as any that have preceded it.

The result has been already dealt with statistically by innumerable pens; the figures have lost much of their significance by reason of their familiarity; but they are in fact very significant. For our present purpose we need not put them through their drill once more; it will be sufficient to point out that it is not only in their general aspect, nor in one respect alone, that they show a decisive victory and defeat. The latter word is here the better of the two, for beyond question the result has been not so much a triumph for the Government as a crushing reverse to their opponents: a reverse so thorough that we are at a loss to find a parallel to it. A law has been broken; the unnatural seems to have come about for once; we have witnessed what we thought never to