

case. Can you think, to put the matter at once, of a single case in all history in which a calamity to anyone has been precipitated, which was not caused away down at the very foundation by one of two causes: In the first place some one's greed, either for more power or more possessions (the greedy one has not always been the aggressor—sometimes he has been the holder and defender—but the result has been the same); or, in the second place, someone's excessive conservatism and intolerance, such intolerance as has not been contented to reverse the past, but has made a fetish of it, crying "No change!" when the very spirit and advancement of the time have clamored for change, an attitude to which has been due nearly all of the religious persecutions and opposition to the advancement of science in the world's history.

Surely it is time that, in the face of the Great War in Europe, people everywhere, even to the "highest" socially, should see what a sorry muddle the lust for great riches and power has brought about. Surely it is time to realize that the hour has come for beginning at the other end; for teaching service to humanity rather than domination of them; contentedness with "enough" rather than insatiable craving for more than enough; the desirability of keeping an open mind—a mind ever ready to leave the old when the better comes clearly in sight; love instead of jealousy and hate; Christianity instead of heathenism.—For it is a burning shame and disgrace to the humans of the world that they have ever needed insurrection or calamity to open their eyes or to compel them to justice,—that they have ever trampled where they should have lent the assisting shoulder. And does not this hold true in small things as well as in great?

To teach all this is a work for the preachers, and the teachers, and the parents in the homes, the three greatest powers in the world if they will but exercise their power. For these are they who mould the individuals, and the individuals make up the nations, and the nations the earth itself.

And so we come to our own day. The world has improved, that must be conceded, notwithstanding the gigantic fiasco of the Great War, but problems still stare it in the face: first and greatest the securing of world-peace, then the regulation of trusts and labor, the liquor question, and the granting of the franchise to women.

—All of which brings us back to the observation with which we set out, that calamity so often acts as a herald of advancement, for, odd as it may seem, the questions of liquor and women's franchise bid fair to be settled somewhat even because of the great horror that is now breaking the hearts of more than half of the civilized world. Russia has, as you know, by one stupendous sweep of the pen, driven vodka forever from her vast domain. Great Britain may follow in her footsteps. France has banished absinthe.

And the women's franchise question? Perhaps many would call it the least of all, trivial, and, indeed, quite unworthy to be mentioned in the same breath with other great issues, yet there are not a few who think to-day that had women a voice in the affairs of the nations, war itself, the most horrible, brutal, disgusting of all organized movements—whatever the inevitability or provocation of it—must soon become a thing of the past.

Be that as it may, this awful war-time is giving women everywhere the chance to vindicate their claim to recognition as capable humans, capable in work of all kinds, and in the sort of organization that means strong mental ability. On the very outbreak of hostilities the women of Germany at once organized to undertake the seeing through of work of all kinds that could be done at their hands. In Great Britain 1,000,000 women have been called for to do agricultural labor, and business and other positions of all kinds have been thrown open to them in order that men may be released to go to the front. And nobly everywhere, in spite of lack of training, are the burdens being shouldered. When the War is all over the women who have homes will go back to their places in them, glad that the awful time of strain and stress is past. In the meantime,

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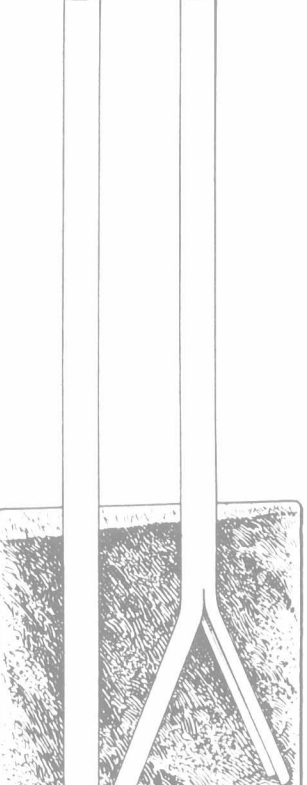
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however, they will have shown their fitness to think and to do, and it is not unthinkable that even in England that fitness will be recognized, as the claims of the Home Rule party in Ireland have been recognized, by a quiet granting of that for which, for so many years, an apparently vain clamor has been main-

tained. To-day, Mrs. Pankhurst, using her powers of eloquence in patriotic speeches in Old London, is being cheered to the echo in the very halls in which she was formerly hissed and jeered. If her methods during the militant crusade were often misplaced and ridiculous, that has been forgotten.

It is not a sign of becoming a rabid suffragette to make such observations as these. Merely one cannot but think that women, as responsible human beings, have a right to speak in regard to the laws under which they must live; and, in the face of so frightful a world-crisis as exists at the present time, one cannot but