

ameliorate, it has yet, by its indomitable courage and tireless energy compelled a reluctant admiration from an unwilling public.

Time and circumstance, in the march of events, have at length brought about a tardy recognition of its right to a place in the knotty problems which present themselves for solution to the legislators of every nation, and to-day, in all the civilized world, the names of those women who stood in the pillory of public opinion, and who bore the heat and burden of the day in their brave championship of the rights of women have acquired the hero's glory and the victor's renown.

In those days there were but seven occupations open to women; to-day they are engaged in over four hundred different lines of work. Such a thing as the higher education of women was then unknown; indeed anything beyond the very sketchiest and most superficial knowledge of the rudiments of a classical education, supplemented by a few elegant "accomplishments," was considered not only useless but positively indelicate and unwomanly. Not one of the learned professions entertained for one moment the wild idea of admitting a lady into their charmed circle. Journalism, which to-day is the chosen field of so many distinguished and talented women, was then quite outside the barriers beyond which no proper minded "female" might stray. There were then no such anomalies as "college girls," nor any institutions of a co-educational nature: the brain of woman being much inferior to that of man, could not, of course, expect to stand so severe a mental strain, even if any undertaking of so strong-minded a nature could be considered for one moment by any properly brought up young lady.

In the home, woman was the petted and cherished play thing, the meek and submissive dependent, rather than the chosen companion and intelligent comrade of the husband and father.

Within the social circle in which she moved, her friendship towards her own

sex would be warm and tender, but she had not, in those early days, realized the tie which binds her to every sister-woman. There was no such thing as the comradeship which has broken down the barriers of caste and creed among the women of to-day, and has been, and is yet to be, the most precious, as it is the most potent factor in determining the true relation of women to the land in which they live. But all this time there were some brave hearts "toiling upward in the night;" the world was moving on and by slow degrees woman hearts, good and true, were learning that "it is easier taking hold of hands," and that to accomplish the work which they now saw to be their's,—God given—in education, philanthropy and reform, they **MUST** band themselves together because of their very weakness—and ignorance. And as they have worked on together in their different enterprises, they have, one and all, at some time or another come to the point when, however distasteful the idea to conservative minds, they have found that there was, after all, a substratum of truth in the doctrine of "woman's right" to be free and equal, even as is her brother man, in order to do her work and play her part in and for humanity; and that "those dreadful women" were, after all, not half so dreadful as they had been told!

And so it came to pass that when the fortieth anniversary of the much abused "Woman's Rights" Association was to be held in Washington, D. C., and in response to an invitation sent out by these unpopular and "strong-minded" women in 1887, there assembled, march 25th, 1888, an International Council of Women representing fifty-one national organizations and seven different countries of the world.

So successful and absorbing were the deliberations of this eclectic gathering of women, and so important a bearing did the matter assume towards the national standing of these different organizations, representing as they