

Introduction

this we need only contrast the trembling uncertainty with which the first lady missionaries were sent out, with the assured welcome now awaiting them in almost every quarter of the globe; to this may be added the very nearly universal demand for female education. Happy we of the Occident who have the privilege of directing, in a measure, this new life along channels which have brought us in touch with the highest, in touch with the Christ. They, too, are inheritors of "like precious faith," and must reach it through knowledge of Him as we have done.

"Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

When the first missionaries went to foreign lands there was no place for the unmarried lady worker. A few devoted wives accompanied their husbands and shared with them untold hardships and privations, often in peril of their lives, and often obliged to flee with their little ones from wicked men.

Among the most glorious annals of our race are those that record the undying devotion, the triumphant faith—no less conspicuous in women than in men—of the early messengers of the Cross.

At that time it would have been out of the question for women to have lived alone or in community life as they are now doing with perfect safety, to have gathered young girls about them in schools and colleges, or