

as created for *him*, his passions fostered by unrestricted indulgence, confirmed by legal enactments and social customs, pandered to by huge vested interests, whose ever active servants, with devilish ingenuity constantly devise new temptations and allurements for men, and compass the moral downfall of thousands of women.

In view of this phalanx of hostile forces the attack of a small band of reformers, and in my country almost exclusively women, might have seemed absolutely hopeless, had they not known of similar struggles in other countries, notably of the work and success of Mrs. Butler in England, who has been an inspiring example to many.

The conditions under which the struggle has to be carried on in Germany differ materially from those which surrounded Mrs. Butler in England. She raised the standard of revolt against an *innovation* which deprived a class of persons of their constitutional rights, and ratified by statute the iniquitous proposition, that women exist for men, some to honour, others to dishonour. Her call to arms was in the name of justice, and as a free English woman and a citizen she appealed to English men not to brook an attack on the chartered liberties of their country, and gave them to consider that an attempt now applied to the weakest and most forlorn, to deprive them of their rights, might, if unchallenged, be tried against themselves.

The struggle in England, therefore, was political and concentrated on *one* point: the repeal of certain laws. The battle was won, but the fighting organization was kept up to watch against any attempt to re-introduce these Acts, to agitate against them in the Colonies, and to assist the Abolitionists on the Continent.

The International Abolitionist Federation had been founded by Mrs. Butler in 1875. She had proclaimed as its basis the principle of the unity of the moral law, which is equally binding on men and women. The practical aim was the abolition of all State-regulated vice, because this violates the principle of equality and oppresses women in the interests of men. The scope of the Federation has been called narrow and its aims negative, but on no other basis could an international organization have been kept up. The positive work and the methods of working had to be left to each country, the Federation only watching that its vital principles are not disregarded.

For reasons that cannot be discussed now Germany had kept aloof when Mrs. Butler in her crusade had called on men and women of all countries to join her. Only ten years ago, in 1899, were the first branches formed in Berlin, Hamburg and Dresden and affiliated to the International Federation. A few years later, when branch associations increased, it was found necessary to establish a connection amongst them in order to facilitate work, to have one representative head who might keep more easily in touch with the International Executive in Geneva. The German branch was formed in 1904 with Frau Scheven of Dresden as its President, which office she still holds.