

live out our brief lives in a time of such abounding opportunity as the present. Do we not feel God who knew the end from the beginning, could just as well have fixed my lot hundreds of years ago, but has appointed the bounds and time of my habitation here in England *now*, because He has a special work for me, a special piece, perhaps only a very little one, in that grand mosaic, the Christian work of the nineteenth century, this century of unexampled progress in all arts and works, and not least of all the work of extending the kingdom of Christ at home and abroad, and of bringing in that glorious time when the Lord shall be king over all the earth, and it shall be said to all nations, "Come ye and walk in the light of the Lord." We have come to Christ's kingdom for such a time as this, and we thank God for the privilege of living at the close of the nineteenth century. Let us then rise to our full privilege and responsibility. Let us afresh consecrate ourselves body, soul, and spirit, to the great work. Let us ask for the sanctified wisdom which understands what the will of the Lord is. Let us seek the humble and teachable spirit which asks daily, hourly, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" and then having sat at His feet, and in the secret of His presence learnt of His will, let us buckle on our armor, and "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might," let us go forth to fight God's battles against all the principalities and powers of evil, whether it be in the hospital or the slums, or in the wider sphere of the mission field itself.

And now to consider the subject of the development of women's work in the last years of the century. Where shall we place ourselves? Of how large or how small a portion of this rapidly vanishing century shall we take a review? For the past forty years we might say, this most remarkable development has been going on. It may be convenient to take April, 1880, as our starting point, and in reviewing the past nineteen years, classify our remarks under four heads.

1. Evangelistic work, home and foreign.
2. Educational and training work.
3. Medical and nursing work.
4. Deputational and secretarial work.

In each of these even the cursory view that our time permits will show what a far wider field woman occupies now to what she did even twenty years ago.

I. EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Many of us who are still a long way off from the allotted three score years and ten, can remember how in our young days, district visiting and Sunday school teaching was the only home line for woman as an evangelist,

while the honor of foreign service was one no woman could hope to attain, unless she became the wife of a missionary. In those days there was many a young heart on fire with love to the souls of the perishing heathen, longing to carry the Gospel message to them, who yet had to satisfy their desire for missionary work by making clothing for the Indians of Red River, or the children in the mission schools of West Africa. Then even missionary sales were unknown, and that fruitful labor of those who are obliged from health and other circumstances to tarry at home, had found no outlet.

How changed is it now, and since the day when the Indian Female Normal School Society, now known as the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission, and the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society became separate agencies, the number of consecrated women in the mission field has gone forward by leaps and bounds. Then in 1880 the two societies numbered between them, European 82, Eurasian V Na, 196. Now the muster roll of the former is European 91, Eura V Na 306, of the latter upwards of 1,100, including many native agents, or more than eight times as many.

Then the C.M.S. had not inaugurated its grand policy of faith which has borne such splendid fruit, one of which has been the employment in the mission field of a great many women workers, drawn from all ranks of society. This leads me to notice one of the most remarkable features of our end of the century evangelization, that of not restricting the candidature for the mission field solely to women of gentle birth and high class education. The mission army of to-day includes within its ranks consecrated sisters, who have before their call been in quite the humbler walks of life, dressmakers, factory girls, and domestic servants, some of whom have done distinguished service abroad, and most have shown a capacity for evangelizing not inferior to that of their higher born and cultured sisters.

Such of course are not suitable for every post, and their fields of labor have to be carefully selected, but it is now a firmly established principle, that no young woman with love to God, and to the souls of the heathen, who has sound health, and has received what to sanctified judgment appears a distinct call to the mission field, need sit down in disappointment saying, "It is not for me."

Of course in the missionary, as in the commercial world, it is very much a case of demand creating the supply, and it is because of the altered conditions of the mission field itself that the demand is now so great. The supply of men has been for many years inadequate, and of late a new demand has arisen, which men, were they ever so numerous, could not meet. Owing to the rigid customs of centuries