

## INTRODUCTION

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**I**F a combined history of the Women's Missionary Societies of all the Churches throughout the world were written, it would be found to contain, not merely an epitome of effort made, and work accomplished by a department of the Church, but a revelation of the new life, the expanding vision that came to Christian womanhood during the latter decades of the nineteenth century.

Since the organization of the first Society in America, in 1861, which was quickly followed by many others, the women of Christendom have come into great possessions. Their ideals have changed; individual responsibility for the betterment of the world, both at home and abroad, has been borne in upon them, and the growing power of being able to bring things to pass, of planning and of being responsible for the carrying of such plans to successful completion, has given to them an added dignity, a new courage, a more intelligent devotion, and a deeper spiritual life.

The women of the Orient are also entering into their inheritance. To be convinced of