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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—EASTERN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Smith's Falls, 1918.

As I look around this building I am reminded of the last time that our Convention met in this city some years ago—of the splendid meetings, delightful fellowship and spiritual uplift of those sessions, when the presence of some five foreign missionaries, who found themselves in the neighborhood, added not a little to the general interest.

It is indeed a privilege to attend these Conventions—but, we must not forget that we, as delegates, have a duty to perform to those who remain at home. Let us harness up the power which we receive in these sessions, so that it may count not only for all that is best and noblest in our own lives, but that we carry home with us to our communities the inspiration of what we have received. So often we have such wonderful experiences at these meetings that we would fain, like impetuous Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration, remain on the mountain forever.

It is far easier for us to sit here and listen to the splendid reports and be thrilled by our speakers than to go home and face the hard and rather discouraging task of trying to instill some of our mountain-top experiences. We must not be discouraged or unduly cast down when, instead of the open arms for which we crave, our Convention echoes receive a chilly welcome. Rather let us turn our vision into actual, every-day, loving service to our Lord and Master, by giving ourselves unreservedly to Him.

There is enough power in a Convention like this to enthuse our whole constituency. We speak regretfully of the indifferent women, and wonder how to interest them. To whom does the task belong to lead them out of the valleys into the mountain-top, if not to us, the women who have had these experiences? Who are to be the leaders, if not the women whose privilege it has been to see the vision of the compelling task of the whole world to be made one in Christ Jesus?

Great tasks await the womanhood of to-day. Captain Stratford, one of our Montreal chaplains, now in France, put this very strongly in an address on "Women and the War." He said:—

"You women are entering into a responsibility which will have no equal in all history, for the war will end this old age, and usher in a new age, and women will enter into an unrivalled heritage. There never was a time in which it was better to be alive than in this year 1918. You stand at the parting of the ways—a road unbroken by the footprints of humanity, an opportunity of which the women of the past never dreamed. It is your task to reconstruct the shattered ideals. We have been building wrongly, and haven't begun to express Christianity in the world. We have been building on creeds instead of a Life. The only thing you can depend on is character, and only when we make the Life of Christ the ideal can we have something to build on. It is the women who are responsible for the religious ideals of a nation."

Women outside the Church are doing wonderful things to help the world along economic, social and political lines, but no matter how much of our time and thoughts may be taken up with these, our chief concern must be with the work of the Church, if we are to meet the challenge of the hour.