

joy there must be as the members meet together over the wonderful success of the woman suffrage movement in Great Britain and the United States and Canada. They will be able to sing to-day as never before the triumphant refrain of Mrs. Howe's battle hymn, "Our God is Marching On!"

It is not so much as an advocate of woman suffrage, successful as she was in popularizing this reform, as the author of the "Battle Hymn" that Mrs. Howe has found a place amongst the world's immortals. Wherever English songs are sung this hymn has gone with its heavenly inspiration and hopeful outlook. During the late war some of the largest Canadian audiences were thrilled by these words, and the Chancellor of one of the Toronto universities, a few days ago, in addressing a large congregation, quoted one verse of this song with telling effect.

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was  
born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that trans-  
figures you and me;  
As He died to make men holy, let us die  
to make men free,  
While God is marching on!"

The story of the writing of this hymn is told at length by Mrs. Howe's daughters in the illuminating biography of their mother, recently published. A little company of Boston people, including Mrs. Howe and her husband, and the celebrated Dr. James Freeman Clarke, visited Washington during the early days of the Civil War. They drove out of the city to witness a review of the troops. On their way back they were delayed by the soldiers who had possession of the street. As they waited in their carriage they sang that most popular war-song of that time, "John Brown's Body", the soldiers joining in tumultuously in the chorus as they marched along.

On the way home Dr. Clarke asked Mrs. Howe why she did not write some better words for that popular

air. The next morning, when the day began to break, the words of the "Battle Hymn" came to her like an inspiration, and rising hastily she committed them to paper. The poem was published in *The Atlantic Monthly*, and soon the whole nation was singing it.

It was this hymn which Abraham Lincoln, with tears rolling down his face, asked a great audience in Washington, which had just sung the song with thrilling effect, to sing it again. It was this hymn which General Pershing's American soldiers in France sang so lustily as they marched away to join the French and English at the battle front. The following additional stanza has been written by Dr. Henry Van Dyke:

"We have heard the cry of anguish from  
the victims of the Hun,  
And we know our country's peril if the  
war-lords' will is done  
We will fight for world-wide freedom till  
the victory is won,  
For God is marching on!"

Mrs. Howe's daughters, who wrote their mother's biography, are greatly incensed against Dr. Van Dyke for what he has done. They have likened his attempt to "making an annex to Lincoln's Gettysburg speech, or to Hamlet's soliloquy". They think it very foolish to try to "gild refined gold, and paint the lily, and throw a perfume of the violet"; but at that awful crisis in the history of the world anything which brought our national songs to tell more effectively against the enemy was not unwelcome.

Although Mrs. Howe was a great lover of peace, she fully realized that there are times when we must fight in order to enjoy this blessing. At a great Peace Congress, where war was being denounced as evil and only evil and evil continually, Mrs. Howe felt compelled to do what she could to set the Congress right. She said: "Assembled in the blessed cause of peace, let me remind you that there is one word even more holy than peace,