

THE WAR SPIRIT IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE

But their possession of it in such a case does not make for human progress.

It may perhaps seem ungenerous even to refer to militant tactics at a time when, under the stress of a great national call, they have been suspended. The writer of this paper hopes indeed that they may never again, even in appearance, be needed. If the nation continues in its present mood, it is unthinkable that one half of the nation should continue to refuse to the other half an act of justice that is felt to be long overdue. But it remains a matter of real moment that we should, in the light of the war now raging, estimate rightly the real moral character of militant methods.

It continues to be one of the convictions of many men and women that Woman's true greatness lies in the direction of spiritual authority, and that she can use spiritual methods to accomplish results which can come about in no other way. When even a few women publicly repudiate that method, and instead acclaim the methods of warfare, the nation at once suffers spiritual loss. May one be allowed to express the hope that at least this lesson of the war will not be lost?

It is the war spirit in all its forms that is the essential enemy of our progress, and while we stand before a Europe made desolate, we surely need to repeat again and again that the conquest of the war spirit must be a spiritual triumph. Out of our own hearts it must be cast first, and the call to that humbling discipline is loud to-day. Secondly, it must be exorcized from our internal life, from our society, our industry, and our commerce. And only when that has been accomplished may we hope to possess the moral authority to prevent military strife,