

In the meantime, whilst the strife continues, instead of speculating, we must turn to the immediate duty. What is that duty? Older and younger women alike are day by day playing a noble part and showing intense power of self-sacrifice. Husbands, lovers, and sons go from them, and instead of weakening their hands or giving way to grief, they work feverishly at Red Cross supplies from early dawn till night. There was a time when women seemed to be drifting into pleasure and amusement, but before the war came they were already righting themselves and giving their strength to Missionary, Settlement, Social, and Religious work. Then when the war clouds gathered, they drew shudderingly together and worked as one hand, one heart, one soul. The war over, this truest of sisterhoods will continue, and the new-found energy be turned to the incoming responsibilities, to helping strangers newly landed on the shore, and guiding younger women on the discovery of paths of self-supporting usefulness. Thus linking themselves together they will:

“Steel their souls against the lust of ease,
And find their welfare in the general good;
Will hold together, merging all degrees
In one wide sisterhood;

and keep unharmed for God and for their country “the house their fathers built so fair,” finding:

“The secret of the word that saith,
Service is sweet, for all true life is death.”