

only take the trouble to study in brief outline the history of the evolution of humanity in Europe and America for the last 2,500 years, they would discover that the woman's movement is only a part of the great liberation and democratic movement of the Western world, and that, having such an impetus behind it, it can no more be stopped than the sea can be stopped from climbing up the shore when once the tide has begun to flow. And on the other hand, if those who are working for the emancipation of woman could see their movement as part of a great world-movement; could feel, as a study of the past would justify them in feeling, that their craving for greater independence is not a mere personal whim of a few bold women in the present time, but a growing instinct in all humanity, a deep need of the human constitution, an inevitable outgrowth from the spiritual life which lifts humanity above the lower animals, they would, perhaps, be more calm and hopeful for the future of their movement than they sometimes are. Every great movement has its roots in the past, and can be understood and estimated rightly only in the light of its whole history.

It is simply impossible for any man, saturated with democratic sentiments and ideals, to survey the history of woman's status in the world without a sense of humiliation and shame for his own sex. In every sphere of life woman has been compelled to occupy an inferior position. In the family, *e.g.*, where her functions are so important, what status has she held? Until recent times she has never been regarded as the companion and equal of her husband. She has been his subordinate, his plaything, his drudge. At certain periods of history