Autobiography: War and Peace and Women's Relations

I think my chief reaction in writing the Life of Lincoln was a strong wish that I had lived consciously through the Civil War. I have told how little impact that made on me. The European Wars, the Boer War, Spanish-American War had not touched me, but when I began to study Lincoln (had I finished the book or not before the Spanish-America War? Yes) there was always the wish that I had lived through it, seeing Lincoln as a citizen how would I have reacted.

I was in Washington in those hectic days when McKinley deciding war or no war with Spain and I remember night after night I sat on the steps on 9th Street and heard the story of what happened in the Senate from Senator Hoar's Secretary - Will Garland, and how I felt that it might have been avoided and the fact that it had intensified my contemptuous estimate of McKinley based on his tariff stand largely, and modified by a great pity for his personal difficulty. That coming of War and my reactions - Theodore - General Miles. How little that effected me in my attitude towards war. That is, it aroused no militant feeling in me that I must do something about it.

~~There was my experience~~ One thing that I was interested in was the campaign of the Republicans - Root, T.R.- Taft - for some kind of a Inter-national set-up. How gallant was Taft's fight - that long lecture tour - how it impressed me.

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Story of my Chautauqua director who in 1919 jeered at me for getting paid for what he years before had done voluntarily at the campaign for the League of Nations. He hexhausted all his resources in doing it. He resented my $500.00 a week or whatever it was. Well he might.

What did it mean to me the coming of the Great War? What was happening in Europe had not penetrated at all. I had come to believe that it would not be (Dr. Gordon, my acquaintance with him) My feeling of the wrong that was done him by making him almost an outcast during the war, about which I did nothing. ~~I was amused.~~

The announcement of war, the effect on people, the Lusitania - that we must now go in.

Take out of Atlantic article the story of the coming of our war with Mexico.

I began to pick up my observations, put them into a fiction-like form. This was not until after my Washington experience.

Story of the Women's Committee of National Defense - putting my experiences together in The Rising of the Tide. Going to the end of the War.

Into the story I must probably incorporate interviews with Ford in 1916. ~~Here is a market~~ we ought to go in, we could clear it up." Experience with Jane Addams and Ford about the Peace Ship. How different it would have been if she had gone along. I think this is the real point. Ford unable to ~~push over~~ meet the of Madam Shrimer.

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The Peace Conference as I saw it. Here should be the story put in, and I must get this from Robert Bliss, of the understanding that I was to be put on the Peace Legation. Where this originated, etc.

Fatalistic attitude towards war accounts for something. There was no quick methods but that we had to learn how to negotiate. The methods of the Women's Peace organizations did not appeal to me. Here I think probably I am wrong. It is the compounds that arouses history. The militant hateful attitude antagonized me. It began so easily and I did not see it by cultivating hate, and I did not see it done by letting the beligerents alone.

I remember at Tucson ~~knock~~ Jane Addams illustration of the rattle snake. It coiled and let alone finally went away and when her friend Miss Smith reminded her to come back another day and perhaps that time it would get its victim.

My feeling after the Peace Conference - went to bed crying the night after it was signed. Will White and I.

The rush of amateur Internationalists discouraged me. Colonel House said to me once, "We want you at Geneva." But I said quite promptly, "No. I must attend to my knitting." I didn't see peace made by running away from home, and there was enough to do at home. I would have given a great deal to have been there as an observer.

What I staked my faith on was the power to correct anything that proved unworkable, as I still stake my faith on the

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Constitution in its arrangements for releiving strains, [redacted] taking care of events prove must be taken care of. Not an inflexible document - neither of them.

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