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WHERE ARE WOMEN NOW?

"Where are women now?" the editor asks the question. "Everywhere," I should answer if it is of their activities she is talking, as I suppose. "Everywhere" literally; millions in industry; in almost everyone of the five hundred and fifty trades - even to blacksmithing; a million and a half in clerical life; even at the top; bossing the boss; a million in the trades of the farm and the forest; the gardens; among them lumbermen, stock herders, fishermen; they are in the battle to stay. They are practicing with success every profession. They are making great scientists of themselves - witness Dr. Florence Sabin and Dr. Annie Jump Cannon. Everywhere and with success - even in brigandage, bootlegging and politics!

This "invasion" as it is called, built on the important and well-developed activities of pre "Industrial Revolution" days is the fruit, not of today, not of yesterday but of close to a hundred years of conscious adaptation to ~~the~~ shifting ways of doing things, ~~the~~ shifting ideas, born of the machine and of democracy.

The most significant fact today is that ~~at least~~ certain things seem to be settled:-

1) The right and desirability of a trade or profession for all women - for a double reason - that she may have a channel of self-expression; something in which she can lose herself and that she may feel sure of an independent income.
2) The recognition by women that an activity elected requires training and apprenticeship - that it must be looked on with

a professional, not an amateur eye if it is to do for her what she believes she wants, that is, independent work and income.

3) The recognition in the industrial, professional and educational world that women should be given opportunity for their training and apprenticeship.

4) A growing conviction that the "career" as women like to speak of their trade or profession should not be allowed to interfere with marriage - that a man or woman who does not built a family lives a lop-sided and incomplete life - misses a chief reason for productive activity.

5) This conviction general and deep is forcing efforts to develop a practical technique for what still is regarded as a double life. The machine which is so largely responsible for the necessity of developing this technique is aiding the woman almost magically in this task.

~~This then is where she seems to me to be at least in theory.~~ The number of those who are at once fine industrial business or professional women and fine heads of families are sufficient to show that the attempt is not quixotic if painful. Women do not lack courage when they see the thing necessary for the preservation of themselves and those they love. These are the things on which women who are forced or have elected to shape their own lives, seem to me to be agreed. They concern largely the mechanics of life.

As for her steady growth in wisdom in inner serenity that marvelous something that she did so often attain under the old system - well that is another question.

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