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THE AMERICAN WOMAN TAKES AN INVENTORY

The end of a period, whether it is a year,
a decade, a century, calls for ~~X~~^{fe} balancing of accounts.
How much of what we set out to do in ~~a particular undertaking~~
have we done, we ask. The American woman for example has
been very busy in the last few months ~~estimating~~^{rolling} her gains
and losses in two particular periods:- The first - the twenty
years since the granting of suffrage; the second - the hundred
years, roughly speaking, since she set out consciously and
with determination to secure for herself a free entrance into
what she called "the man's world", a free entrance with train-
ing and use of all his tools.

The outcome of this balancing of her budget
gives two striking results:- First, the enormous numerical
strides that women have made in the rank and file of all of
man's activities; Second, the numerically poor showing that
she makes at the top of these activities, the points of creative
leadership. ~~It should be said~~ ~~at the top~~ ~~are relatively few~~
~~that if the number of women at the top are relatively few~~
~~there is no comparison of them to men's activity~~
~~to go when she wants to go~~
~~Conrad~~ ~~Wants to go~~
~~done~~

Take the world of arts and sciences. ^{by} Compare ^{they} what ^{they} women are doing there today with what ^{they} women were doing when they first announced their program of rights. One finds authoritative material for comparison in Dr. E. F. Fish's "The Rise of the Common Man", an analysis of American life from 1830 to 1850, the period of the rise of the women's rights movement. Dr. Fish reviews among other things the status of American art, science and literature and tabulates the leading figures. He mentions no woman painter. He finds no woman worthy to name in sculpture or in music.

In his tabulation of scientists he does recognize Maria Mitchell; in literature Margaret Fuller Ossoli.

When it comes to leaders in reforms a much more impressive case is made out for women. A fine list of names - Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Julia Ward Howe, Lydia Signourney, Dorothea Lynde Dix.

Compare this showing, even if ~~it were stretched~~ as it well might be, and ~~you have a meagre result indeed compared~~ with what the hundred years has brought. List the women who today are active in art, science and literature and you have literally thousands of names - some of distinguished achievement. Sculpture was not supposed to be woman's field, but eight years ago when the Field Museum of Chicago sought a group of sculptors to make a series of studies of the types of men now inhabiting the globe the choice fell on a woman - Malvina Hoffman - not for a part but for the whole. Malvina Hoffman is but one of a group of distinguished women sculptors.

In the field of journalism two of the wisest and most influential of the present race of editorial commentators are women - Dorothy Thompson and Anne O'Hare McCormick.

In the field of business ~~women~~ ^{they have made} including selling, clerking and clerical work ~~there is a~~ ^{they have made} spectacular increase, ~~There are more women at desks than at machines and they have~~ ^{my} planted themselves firmly in ~~every pursuit related to business:-~~ finance, management, administration, merchandising, distribution, but it is ⁱⁿ the rank and file not at the top that this striking growth has been made. ~~These~~ ^{There is no in fact that} women have reached all sorts of advanced posts in the business army ⁱⁿ / larger numbers ^{probably} than in any other field. This is to be expected since they bring to the new system of production a traditional training in executive work. Under the old order the great majority of women managed big or little households, some of them very big indeed. House-keeping was conducted on principles very like those of modern business. An inherited executive quality shows itself frequently when a woman takes hold of a job the public believed only men could handle. The newspapers recently tell of a woman chosen over several male competitors to be a buyer for a big industrial combination. Promptly and without noise she brought in an order running into six figures. ~~Thompson~~ ^{see copy in 10.A - an} in the world of politics when the 19th Amendment was declared ratified on August 26th, 1920, a great body of women felt genuinely that a ~~new world had been born.~~ ^{they were} One of my ardent suffrage friends told

There is a still more striking display when it is going on the cotton & the life

Women have penetrated every department of government service. Of the four million in that service at least a million are women. Mayor La Guardia recently said that as efficient servants as the city had were women and he only wished there were more of them around.

Women may have penetrated everywhere but they are not holding in the second decade since the granting of suffrage the top position they won in the first. Ten years ago according to the National League of Women Voters there were nine women in Congress, today there are five. There is a falling off, too, in the number of women in State Legislatures. Can it be that women themselves are discovering that this is not what they want? see 13
A

~~of the political~~ The brilliant numerical showing in the rank and file, the comparatively poor numerical showing at the top, the indifference to the top which great masses of the rank and file show, the failure when they have reached the top in politics, particularly, to make ^a really creative contribution is causing not a few women who have proved themselves equal of any man in their various fields to doubt the importance of the emancipation women have achieved, to ask if it is what it ^{was} has been cracked up to be.

A forthright challenge of ~~the American Women's~~ achievements came a few months ago from one of the most distinguished of our women writers, honored not only for her

There are other reasons. One is that of the lady who could place an order in six figures, but ^{declared that} as soon as she was able to get her house in the country she was done with business. Women as a class are not adventurers, do not want change. By necessity they must conserve the essential social unit, the family, and to do that they cannot be running around the globe exploring; they cannot be trying out machines which upset things. They must hold steady the great conservative forces of the world. They do not get to the top faster because the lower positions give them the economic assistance they want in holding together what they regard as more important and desirable things in their lives. Feeling in this way they only occasionally give that creative force which is necessary if they are to get to the top. They give that force to continuing life on the earth, shaping it in its established and most plastic stages.

The sorriest disappointment in woman's public life has been her seeming impotence in strangling wars. Go back to 1919 and in all the plans for permanent peace the part women would play stands out. The suffrage was given her in England and in the United States so promptly after the war, largely because she had cooperated so finely with men in carrying it on. Great numbers of men declared, "give woman the tools and she will put an end to war." She complacently thought so herself. And now, twenty years after, see what we have.

reach to

¹⁶
~~We adopted~~ all man's peace implements, propaganda, organiza-
 tion, petitioning, talks, ^{she has} ~~we~~ walked by his side in parades and sat in
 conventions made after his pattern, and doing what he has
 always done come out where he has always come - another war.

I do not mean to intimate that all this
 petitioning and organizing and agitation ~~we have been doing~~
 has meant nothing. As a matter of fact I believe that it is
 largely responsible for the present insistent and widespread
 demand for peaceful settlement of international problems. But
 the demand is hazy, trusts too much to words. It has little
 of the scientific persistent effort that men give to preparing
 for war. *We must have training in peace - as for war.*

Has woman nothing of her own to offer? One
 woman at least has recently offered something worth the
 gravest consideration, something which brushing aside all the
 political and mechanistic contrivances for ending war lays
 bare its roots. This is Virginia Woolf in her essay, "Three
 Guineas."

Miss Woolf is answering the man's demand that
 women help him put an end to war. Putting an end to war, she
 agrees, is one of the three great aims of the educated woman.
 It is essential to achieving her first and second aims.

1) Freedom of movement in the _____

world. 2) The right and power to earn her living. You must have a peaceful world to do this properly.

But what does the educated woman find when she goes into professions to earn her living? She finds the men in the professions greedy, jealous, pugnacious, positive ~~part~~ as to the verdicts of law, God, nature, property. But these are the fundamental causes of war. How can you expect to eradicate them from national life, asks Miss Woolf, if you cultivate them in daily professional life? How can women enter the professions and yet remain a civilized human being, that is a human being who would outlaw war?

Her answer to man is, "We can best help you to prevent war, not by repeating your words and following your methods, but by finding new words and creating new methods."

Here are the methods she proposes, *for the educated woman whom she speaks of.*

First, if a self-supporting woman ~~really wants~~ to do something to end war she must strike out of the practice of her profession all those motives which are back of war.

She must agree to a restricted independence as far as money goes, be willing to earn only enough to buy a modicum of health, leisure, knowledge, not ^{to} earn more than she needs.

(1) thus cutting out that greed which underlies strife.

She must refuse to sell her brains for money.

(2) practice her profession for the sake of research, experiment, art, teaching, and end it there.

(3)
~~She must~~ eschew root and branch all publicity,
 badges, honors, degrees. ~~"Throw them back in the giver's~~
 face! They are signs of the rivalry which feeds the
 militant spirit ~~in men and must be cut out of the women's~~
 life.

(1)
 She must cut herself off from "unreal
 loyalties", ~~such as~~ national pride - religious pride -
 college pride - school pride - family pride - sex pride -
 all prides!

But if war comes - what then? What about
 those women (if it turns out there are any!) who have
 followed her advice? Miss Woolf would have them pledge
 themselves not to go into munition factories, not to knit
 socks, not to serve as nurses. She goes so far as to say
 that they should refuse to look at military parades, applaud
 a father or brother or son who goes to war. She would have
 them cut themselves off from all war's doings, turn their
 backs on it, ostracize it, treat it, as she says, with utter
 indifference. What she asks of ^{women} us is to become pillar
 Saints - modern Simeon Stylites.

That is a way - no doubt. And there is perhaps
 an occasional woman who would be able ^{within} so to cut herself off
 from other human beings in their misery. But I do not see
 many women separating themselves from their kind in the
 extremity of war. Women go with all those who suffer,

*If you want to end war in W. Europe
 you must destroy the ~~canon~~ the ~~desertion~~ ~~must~~ ~~you~~
 at home with ~~yourself~~ ~~more~~ ~~greed~~ ~~making~~ ~~and~~*

whatever sins may be behind the sufferers. They instinctively seek to soften wretchedness. It is one of their most precious natural attributes.

Why can they do this?
Nevertheless, Miss Woolf has reached the roots

built at for
of the trouble and what she counsels is the only sure way to reach permanent peace. But it is ^{in a} the way that the women who

in the masculine world
aspire to leadership struggle for the top are not likely to adopt. Miss Woolf is right *when she decides that* they are reaching the top today are

by following men's ways, not as she counsels by finding new ways and creating new methods. *f* It is in the rank and file of

women whether they are counted among those in gainful occupations or not, that there ^{has} is the most hope of any such radical character-building as is insisted upon by Virginia Woolf. *program for* In

this rank and file women are, generally speaking, accepting and preferring the obligation that nature and society have put upon them, the obligation of creating and holding together that

foundation of the unit of civilization - the family. *This* *there the*

woman holds a strategic position in the task of creating *the*

civilized human beings that we must have if we are to have a

decent civilization, if we are to have human beings who are self-

respected, disciplined, reasonable, considerate of others, and

the woman who heads a family knows that the happiness and serenity of her little world depends upon these things, and that her great task as a creative leader ^{is} is to do her utmost to develop these

them things. *She understands the man*

very rarely

the only reason why
can be depended upon
to approach 2 mil
for 1000000000

What is needed for the success of Miss Woolf's program is a more general realization of the extreme importance of the daily relations of life. ^{superior} ~~that the must be kept~~

It is the intuition that her great chance of contributing to a better world ^{lies} ~~lies~~ in family leadership.

that her contribution to the permanent peace of the world

~~must be made there.~~ This is what is keeping women in the

rank and file of business, of commerce, arts, professional life, politics. It is not an inability to reach the top.

The few who do it have demonstrated in the last hundred years

fully enough that woman has the capacity to lead in all these

fields ^{just what} ~~just~~ what she wants to do. ^{And} It is not what the majority

want to do. ^{They} ~~she~~ instinctively sees a greater field, that of

creating and upbuilding a type of human being which alone

will make a civilization peaceful and happy.

*It is a dim consciousness that demand
on her that keeps the army of women in
the ranks of grateful and spiritless
leadership, a sort of economic - i.e. social
murder*

*After pube-
escence in that
big life*