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EDITORIAL.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE SUN.

The war has "turned the world upside-down" in more ways than one. When the war first broke out, the Nursing forces, like the Military forces, were immediately mobilised. Nursing was in fact the chief, and almost the only direct contribution, in work, that the women were able to offer. Very soon, however, as men joined the army in their tens of thousands, their places had—of dire necessity—to be taken by the women; and so, gradually, imperceptibly, almost instinctively—before anyone was hardly aware of it—a peaceful revolution had taken place. No one opposed it, every one welcomed it!

And now, at the present time, women are engaged in all kinds of work, which in pre-war time were considered fit only for men. That they are doing their unaccustomed work as well—and in some cases better—than men, has elicited no surprise. Their male employers take it all as a matter of course, just as if they had known of women's powers all along.

They have not known of woman's versatility before, because they have not taken the trouble to make the discovery. It is quite certain that woman has not been endowed with new and remarkable gifts since the war set the world ablaze; she has always had them; they have been dormant for want of opportunity to liberate them, that is all.

So it has come to pass, that the Country's extremity has been woman's opportunity. The civilized world—or rather the male portion of it—is learning, for the first time, the full extent of woman's powers. Nevertheless, she is now—in the fullest and broadest sense—just what she was created to be, namely, a *helpmate for man, his*

equal. This implies democracy of the finest order. "The proper study of mankind is Man" and it really is very interesting and edifying to ponder over the great and wonderful change that has taken place in the domain of thought.

We would remind our brother man, that history is merely repeating itself. If he turns back its pages, he will find that it was not the woman who learnt from the man, but the man who learnt from the woman—when the world was young.

It was primitive woman who invented the arts of agriculture, and so made civilization possible. She is said to have been the inventor of pottery, and to have been the first weaver and tailor in the early world. In short, she was the inventor of all the domestic arts. She was the founder and keeper of the home. Men were well aware of the powers and value of women in those remote times. Between those primitive days and the present time, however, lie many centuries, during which women were of very little account. It is one of the curious paradoxes of life, that civilizations have been founded by war and usurpation. War is cruel and devastating, and yet out of it have sprung many good things. At the present time, we hear the praises of women sung *ad nauseam*, but what we most want to know is, how deep is the sincerity of the songsters? In view of the fact that the services of women during this war have been indispensable, undeniably great, and manifold—is the status of women going to be raised at the conclusion of peace? Our demand is that it shall be raised all round—politically, socially, industrially, economically. This must be one of the good things to arise out of the war. The rights of women are the rights of Society, the rights of the Nation as a whole, the rights of the children born and unborn. The new era must inaugurate a

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