The Emancipation of Women and Its Probable Consequences

Crepaz Adele
Title: The Emancipation of Women and Its Probable Consequences

Author: Crepaz Adele

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.
THE
EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN
AND
ITS PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES
BY
ADELE CREPAZ
"Tr. by Ellis Wright (pseud. of Mrs. Ellen Waugh)"
WITH A LETTER TO THE AUTHORESS BY
THE RIGHT HON. W. E. GLADSTONE, M.P.

LONDON
SWAN SONNENSCHEIN & CO.
NEW YORK: CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
1893
Madam,

I recently found that I had had the honour to receive, possibly from yourself, your tract on the Frauen-Emancipation. The German type is somewhat trying to my failing eye-sight, but I could not resist at once reading it. And, having read it, I cannot resist offering you more than a merely formal acknowledgment. And this is not merely because my mind inclines strongly to agree in your foundation-arguments: but because, apart from mere concurrence in this or that special remark, it seems to me by far the most comprehensive, luminous and penetrating work on this question that I have yet met with. My great grief is this, speaking for my own country only: that, while the subject is alike vast and profound, it is commonly treated in the slightest and most superficial, as well as sometimes in
the most passionate manner. In such a region it is far better, as between opposite risks, to postpone a right measure than to commit ourselves to a wrong one. To save us from this danger what we want is thorough treatment, and you have given it the most thorough treatment which I have yet seen applied to it. You have opened up many new thoughts in my own mind, but I cannot follow them out. I only wish the treatise had been open to my countrymen and countrywomen in their own tongue.

I remain, Madam,

With high consideration,

Your faithful servant,

W. E. Gladstone.

P.S.—For this as well as for other subjects, I deeply regret the death of J. S. Mill: he had perhaps the most open mind of his generation.

* * * This Letter is published by special permission of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.
TRANSLATOR’S

PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION.

In order to avoid the possibility of misconception on the part of English readers of the following essay, it seems well to point out that, although written principally with a view to considering the movement in its effects upon Germany and Austro-Hungary, the authoress has carefully studied and taken into account the conditions existing in other countries of Europe. Whilst, however, acknowledging most fully the benefit accruing to the women of Great Britain from increased facilities for self-support, it is against their claim to equal political and social rights with men that Frau Crepaz would earnestly protest, convinced that therein lies much danger to the welfare of humanity.
PREFACE.

The recognition accorded to her views by England’s Prime Minister is some indication that they are not without supporters in this country.

ELLIS WRIGHT.

LONDON, January 1893.
THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN.

It is no light task, at the present juncture, to discuss the dangers of a movement of which the fruitful seeds are rapidly spreading throughout the whole world. A new era of justice and humanity seems about to dawn upon mankind, and with it the morning glow of promise of freedom from narrowing restraints and prejudices. In every quarter of the world the banner of "Women's Rights" is being waved, the movement, taking ever deeper
and deeper root in the Western Hemisphere, penetrating even to the remote East, until the tranquil life of the Hindoo woman is stirred with its vibration. On all sides we witness spirited women gathering round the standard, attesting by their energy and ability that they are worthy representatives of their views. Furthered and supported by men of mark, the question of the Emancipation of Women has attained to results which some fifty years ago would have been looked upon as simply impossible; indeed those results are now reaching far beyond their primary intention, they are shooting beyond the goal. While, however, these successes are being welcomed by thousands and thousands of the sex with acclamation, and fresh exertions are being made to exact new rights, it is well to
pause a while, as by a sign-post set up to tell the way-farer the road he has come and whither it leads. The torrent rushes unhindered from the steep mountain heights to the valley beneath—who may stem its course? A great movement spreads ever wider and wider—who shall bid it stop? It is beyond the power of the individual. Perhaps some great event of universal import may bring about a truce, perhaps the coming century may bring its solution to the much-vexed question, perhaps women themselves, warned by hard-won experience, may be willing to desist from wresting those rights which, while they hold out to them freedom and independence, turn them from what ensures not only their own happiness and well-being, but also from that upon which the welfare of the whole
human race is grounded. To point this out is the object of this treatise.

The emancipation of women, their deliverance from early prejudices and unnatural trammels, was a necessity which the development of culture and the altered condition of industrial relations was bound, by degrees, to bring about. The progress resulting from it, conducing to the well-being of thousands, cannot be denied, and demands the fullest recognition. It has opened up new possibilities of employment to women, and by thus relieving them from the burden of empty conventional prejudices, has given work to thousands of willing hands, and afforded scope for much latent intellectual power. Work, which in former times was looked upon as a degradation to ladies of position, is