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I. "Stumbling upon" her calling at a "mature age"

a. From "How I wrote 'Lay Down Your Arms!'" (1906)

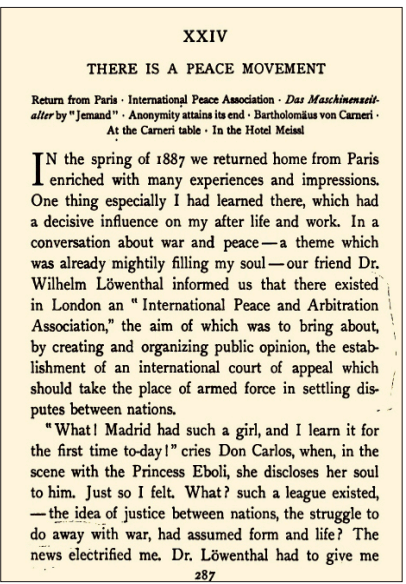
It was toward the end of the year 1880, when I had already reached a mature age and was in the midst of zealous studies in science, philosophy and history, that the idea dawned on me and soon became a deep-set conviction, that war was an institution handed down to us by the barbarians, and to be removed by civilization. At this same moment I learned by accident a society existed in England based on this same idea and aiming to influence public opinion in favor of the creation of a court of arbitration. So I hastened to write to this "Peace and Arbitration Association" and asked for information.

b. From her *Memoirs* (Volume 2, pg. 287) (1908/1910 English Translation)

THERE IS A PEACE MOVEMENT

In the Spring of 1887 we returned home from Paris enriched with many experiences and Impressions. One thing especially I had learned then which had a decisive influence on my life and work. In a conversation about war and peace – a thee which was already mightily filling my soul –our friend Dr. Wilhelm Löwenthal informed us that there existed in London an "International Peace and Arbitration Association," the aim of which was to bring about, by creating and organizing public opinion, the establishment of an international court of appeal which should take the place of armed force in settling disputes between nations.

What! Madrid had such a girl, and I learn it for the first time today!" cries Don Carlos, when in the scene with Princess Eboli, she discloses her soul to him. Just so I felt. What? Such a league existed, – the idea of justice between nations, the struggle to do away with war, had assumed form and life? The news electrified me.



II. A focus on the future

* These quotes are from Chapter 9 of *Das Maschinenzeitalter* (DMA) (an English translation of which is being prepared). Suttner published this book in German in 1889, under a pseudonym, Jemand ("someone"). revealed herself as author in the 3d edition published in 1898.

a. The forward thinkers looked trustingly to the future. In the surrounding fog of the unknown they saw a glimmer of dawn. (DMA, ch. 9)

b. Yes, a few saw the "end of the pilgrimage"; but they also knew that they personally – in the short lifespan that they'd been given – would never reach it. They worked as once the pious did for the beyond – but not the beyond the earth, but the beyond the living generation. All noble striving still aimed for salvation, however not for heavenly joys for oneself, but for the earthly joys for coming generations. (DMA, ch. 9)

c. Allow me to raise a toast for that which will be, for that which will come. (DMA, ch. 9)

d. Yes, the ridicule, that was one of the worst forms of resistance which the status quo, the mighty status quo, blessed by tradition, always offered against progress. Only the view to the future – one that one would not live to see – was that, which gave the sowers of the seeds of ideas the necessary stamina. (DMA, ch. 9)



III. Progress is Not Linear !

a) "What fails in the first attempt – succeeds in the second – or third. That an attempt has even been made into a certain direction – that is the deciding factor."

(From her 1899 Hague Peace Conference Diary, 5/25/1899)

b) All the pacifists were troubled and indignant over this turn of affairs; but none was disheartened. It is well known that the line of progress often runs back a little in order later to advance with accelerated rapidity. (From *Memoirs*, v. 2, p. 348)

