

51832

Price, 10c per 50; 20c per 100; \$1.50 per 1,000

Christian religion, 'Love thy neighbor as thyself.' In broad, liberal principles the suffrage association should be the leader of thought for women, and not narrow its platform, from year to year, to one idea, rejecting all relative ideas as side issues.

"Progress is the victory of a new thought over old superstitions!"—Socialist Woman.

THE SOCIALIST WOMAN

is the brightest paper that has ever been published for women in America. It is a magazine for the women who work and think. The question of how to emancipate womankind is intelligently and fearlessly presented in its columns. No woman or man can afford to miss this paper should she or he want to know something about this most vital question of the age.

Yearly, 50 cents. In clubs of four or more 25 cents each. Send for samples.

THE SOCIALIST WOMAN

GIRARD, KANSAS



ELIZABETH CADY STANTON ON SOCIALISM.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was invited by Susan B. Anthony to send to the Woman's Suffrage Conference, held in Rochester, just prior to our war with Spain, a letter on "Woman and the War." Following is Mrs. Stanton's reply to Miss Anthony, which will be interesting to many who had never learned of this grand old woman's development out of the conservative suffrage movement, into the recognition and acceptance of a broader need for the votes of men and women—that is, a need of economic freedom for all. She says:

"You ask me to send a letter as to woman's position in regard to the war. Many women with whom I talk feel aggrieved that they have no voice in declaring war with Spain, or in protesting against it. The vast majority of men are in the same position. Why care for a voice in an event that may happen once in a lifetime more than in those of far greater importance continually before us? Why groan over the horrors of war when the tragedies of peace are forever before us? Our boys in blue, well fed and clothed, in camp and hospital, are better off than our boys in rags, overworked in mines, in factories, in prison-houses and in bare, dingy dwellings called homes, where the family meet at scanty meals working ten hours to talk over their hopeless situation in the despair of poverty.

"A friend of mine visited the bleach- ing department in one of our New Eng-

land factories, where naked boys, oiled from head to foot, are used to tramp pieces of shirting in a large vat. The chemicals necessary for bleaching are so strong as to eat the skin unless well oiled. In time they affect the eyes and lungs. There these boys, in relays, tramp all day, but not to music, or inspired with the love of country. In England they have machinery for such work, but in the land of the Puritans, boys are cheaper than machinery.

"On a platform of one idea mothers cannot discuss these wrongs. We may talk of the cruelties in Cuba now, on any platform, but not of the outrages of rich manufacturers of Massachusetts. Under the present competitive system existence is continual war; the law is each for himself, starvation and death for the hindmost. My message today to our coadjutors is that we have a higher duty than the demand for suffrage. We must now, at the end of fifty years of faithful service, broaden our platform and consider the next step in progress, to which the signs of the times clearly point—namely, co-operation, a new principle in industrial economics. We see that the right of suffrage avails nothing for the masses in competition with the wealthy classes and, worse still, with each other. Women all over the country are working earnestly in many fragmentary reforms, each believing that her own, if achieved, would usher in a new day of peace and plenty. With woman suffrage, temperance, social purity, rigid Sunday laws and physical culture, could any, or all, be successful, we should see no changes in the condition of the masses. We need all these

reforms and many more to make existence endurable. What is life today, to the prisoner in his cell, to the feeble hands that keep time with machinery in all our marts of trade, to those that have no abiding place, no title to one foot of land on this green earth? Such are the fruits of competition. Our next experiment is to be made on the broad principle of co-operation. At the end of fifty years, whose achievements we celebrate here today, let us reason together as to the wisdom of laying some new plank in our platform.

"The co-operative idea will remodel codes and constitutions, creeds and catechisms, social customs and conventionalisms, the curriculum of schools and colleges. It will give a new sense of justice, liberty and equality in all the relations of life. Those who have eyes to see recognize the fact that the period for all the fragmentary reforms is ended. Agitation of the broader questions of philosophical Socialism is now in order. This next step in progress has been foreshadowed by our own seers and prophets, and is now being agitated by all the thinkers and writers of all civilized countries.

"The few have no right to the luxuries of life while the many are denied its necessities. This motto is the natural outgrowth of the one so familiar on our platform and our official paper. 'Equal rights for all.' It is impossible to have 'equal rights for all' under our present competitive system. 'All men are born free, with an equal right to life, liberty and happiness.' The natural outgrowth of this sentiment is the vital principles of the