

Conclusion.—In conclusion, it is important to remember that, taken as a whole, Class "D" is that section of our population upon which the social and industrial development of England largely depends, and is the one which will always exercise the most important influence in bringing about the social elevation of those in the poorer classes.

It is clear, therefore, that effort cannot be too largely directed towards the realisation in Class

practical power for steadily elevating the race which clings to it. . . . In considering the history of Mohammedanism—the contrast between the earlier glories and the later impotence and stagnation of the peoples whom it first affected, the marvellously rapid educating power that it exerts on a savage race, raising it at the first moment of conversion to a distinctly higher level of spiritual and intellectual life, and yet the following acquiescence in that level, or even the sinking again below it—even the least thoughtful observer must seek for some explanation of so remarkable a history and so extraordinary a contrast. The traveller who studies a Mohammedan people in its actual state has no difficulty in finding the explanation: he is struck with the utter want of education inside the home, and he sees that the position of the women, their utter ignorance (which is so complete that they have no subject to converse or think about except the most elementary facts of physical and family life), accounts for their general inability to entertain for themselves or to impress on their children any ideas of duty, any principles of good conduct, any desire for a higher level of life, any aspirations after any object except the most gross and vulgar, any habits of regularity, of work, of thought and meditation. He realises that a nation cannot permanently remain on a level above the level of its women, that if it rises under the immediate stimulus of a great moral idea (such as Mohammedanism was to the brutalised Arab tribes among whom it was first preached) to a higher plane of thought and life, it cannot long maintain itself on that plane unless women rise to it and kindle and foster similar ideas in the minds of succeeding generations when young. He will see that the progress of the Christian nations is founded on the keeping alive of education and thought and conscious moral purpose among their women, and that the opening to them in the Christian religion, from the first, of suitable opportunities for growing morally and intellectually is one of the necessary and primary conditions of national health. He will be slow to set in his thought any limits to the possible future development of a nation in which the women are always on the highest level of the existing generation."