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THE WAR

BY

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A SPEECH

Delivered at the London Opera House,

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PREFACE.

ONE reason why this pamphlet has been published is that it is felt to be right that women whose future liberty, no less than that of men, is at stake, shall assume such share as is justly theirs of the moral responsibility for the present war.

It is for women, too, to do their part in appealing to the national unity and love of country, that have been assailed, though, happily, not destroyed by evil and unjust laws that for the well-being of the State must, when the war ends, be swept away.

Because of the danger in which the country stands, and because of the terrible cost in suffering and in life that the war imposes, the militant women have, for the time, ceased from their warfare. They cannot, however, forget, and the public must not forget, how closely related is the question of women's vote with the war, and with the national safety. To be silent on this matter would be contrary to the national interest.

It is natural and it is right that the militant women should say: "Why were we not enfranchised even five years ago—in 1909 when, as Mr. Winston Churchill has