A WOMAN'S WONDERFUL BOOK.

THE STORY THAT MOVED THE Czar TO PLEAD FOR PEACE.

At the present time, when all civilized mankind is anxiously watching the noble efforts of the Czar of Russia for the promotion of peace throughout the world, it is interesting to remember that it was a lady—the Baroness von Suttner—who originally moved the Czar to the action he has taken.

This German lady is an author, and it was mainly through reading one of her books, entitled "Lay Down your Arms," that the Czar was led to issue his famous peace rescript. The book is not a new one—it was published ten years ago in Germany, though it has only quite recently found a publisher in this country. But its influence has been enormous; and it is a proud thought for women that a woman's work has done so much to promote the world's peace.

The book is a wonderfully realistic story of war in its most terrible aspects. We have no space to speak of it in detail, but our readers may be able to form some idea of its power from the fact that the Minister of Finance in the Austrian Chamber of Deputies recently referred to it and its author in the following glowing terms:

"A German lady," he said, "in a work of fiction has drawn such a picture of war as must send a shudder through every reader. If anyone, after devoting a few hours to the book, still retains a passion for war, I can only sincerely pity him."

The Baroness, whose portrait we have pleasure in presenting to our readers, lives in Vienna. She is a pleasant-faced woman in the prime of life. She edits a monthly paper, and is president of many societies.

The ultimate result of the movement, which may fairly be said to have had its origin in her book, no man can foretell; but there can be no doubt whatever that through its medium its gifted author has exercised an immense influence over those with whom, humbly speaking, it rests to make war to cease in all the earth.