Baroness Bertha von Suttner
BY FREDERIC PASSY

[It is scarcely necessary for us to tell our readers—for he has contributed several times to our pages—that the author of this little biographical notice is the veteran French peace leader, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, who, tho now in his eighty-third year, is still an active worker.—EDITOR.]

WITH Baroness von Suttner the Nobel Peace Prize is given to a woman for the first time; and it is not the men who have labored with her in the same cause nor her male competitors for the honor who will be the slowest to approve of the action of the distinguished Christiania committee. No one, in fact, among those early workers for peace and arbitration, who did not wait before giving their time and strength to the welfare of humanity till a royal recompense could some day award their efforts, has served this cause with greater zeal, talent and success than this valiant Austrian lady, whom I named, some ten years ago at Budapest, our commander-in-chief.

Her contribution to this agitation has not been limited to the publication of an admirable book—"Lay Down Your Arms"—which, translated into all the principal tongues, has had the rare merit and good fortune to popularize a horror of the useless and evil slaughter occasioned by war. Baroness von Suttner has also labored as a lecturer, has journeyed far and wide, has written in the periodic press, has made personal appeals in the very highest quarters, aided, until his death three years ago, by a worthy husband who shared all her views. Thus, this descendant of a noble military family—her father was Field-Marshal Count Franz von Kinsky—showing due respect for all the glories of the past, but filled with an enthusiasm for a century of labor and liberty, has carried on for years, and is still carrying on, filled with hope and energy, an ardent campaign in favor of the ideas of peace and arbitration.

Baroness von Suttner has been seen at all our congresses. She was conspicuous at The Hague during the celebrated Peace Conference of 1899, and in her drawing-room was exerted an influence that aided not a little in the good work accomplished at the Dutch capital. She was at St. Louis and Washington in 1904, and I feel sure that President Roosevelt did not consider the time lost that he spent in conversation with her. And at this very moment she is completing a hard round of lectures, during which she has visited not less than twenty-six different German cities, having been received everywhere in a most cordial manner, thanks to her remarkable oratorical gifts, her charms of manner, and her lofty and liberal mental and intellectual capacities.

It was this apostolate, as benevolent as it was disinterested, that attracted the attention of the Swedish philanthropist, Nobel; and it is an admirable act that she who, without ever thinking of herself, decided him to institute such a prize, should to-day be the laureate of this grand foundation.

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