

## Upholding the best traditions of British womanhood

Companions, I cannot close this address without referring to the part our mothers, wives, sisters, and sweethearts are playing in these trying times. They are upholding the best traditions of British womanhood. Whether we look at that noble nurse dying in Belgium by the cruel hands of those we term the foe of our Empire, or the offering up of husbands, sons and brothers, those nearest and dearest to them, or the noble labor being done in connection with hospital work, we must admire their Spartan qualities. In every hamlet, village, town, and city we find them knitting and laboring for the Red Cross Society and other noble objects. By their devotion to King and country they have won our admiration, as well as a glory for themselves that will not soon pass away. We ask, are they happy? No! They are not happy, but they are proud of what is being done by their husbands, sons and brothers in a noble cause. In our women we find:

"The uplifting faith of our greetings, bind the brotherhood from sea to sea."

### **Sources:**

Proceedings of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada at the annual convocation, 1916, address by the Grand First Principal, William S. R. Murch, February 23, 1916