

I have mentioned before that in Germany confidence comes from above, and recognizing this fact, the noble ladies who wear our Imperial and Royal crowns have taken under their immediate patronage all efforts made in such a direction, and nothing can surpass the zealous energy, the practical labor with which these ladies follow up their high purposes. In the first line we see Her Imperial Highness the Crown Princess of Germany, your own Princess Royal, at the head of the "Lette-Vereine (Unions,") formed in order to provide such a practical education as really enables women to earn their bread honorably. When we hear the antagonists to superior education of women, the remark is generally made, and not without some foundation: let them keep to the actual women's department, which seems to consist in sewing, cooking, dressmaking, etc.; but even these departments, though considered exclusively as women's, are filled by men, who assert the superiority of their work by means of a systematic and technical training, from which women are generally debarred. The Lette Unions endeavor to give women the same privileges of training as men have hitherto had. These departments, though generally looked down upon, become, nevertheless, most interesting in our eyes, for how important to the well-being of a nation, of a family, is, for instance, the preparation of cooking based upon principles of health: how much dyspepsia and poverty of blood have their origin in bad cooking? If, therefore, cooks are such important figures in our national economy, it seems but natural that we should pay more attention to the training of our cooks, and that we give them the proper treatment and payment. The same application can be made to all the sewing and tailoring departments. How rare is a good dressmaker, and again how seldom has a dress come home without bad sewing, calling forth bitter complaints? And again, how expensive it is for a family of daughters to pay for the taste of a dressmaker, which taste the young ladies might have themselves if they would acquire the technical knowledge of dressmaking? Young ladies and young women, both, are taught at the establishments of the Lette Unions—the former so as to save their money, the latter in order to earn it. In the same manner all other sewing and all other handiwork, from the coarsest to the finest, is taught; and not only that, but an opportunity is offered to them to sell their work at a more reasonable rate, instead of its being given to the shopkeeper, who usually absorbs himself the greater part of the profit: stores are opened by these associations, and orders for work accepted and distributed by them. Registry offices are combined, providing the young women with respectable positions offered on acceptable terms. In the cooking schools the dishes prepared are sold at restaurants and by pastry cooks; orders for dinners and parties are accepted also. There is a printing school connected since some time with the Lette House in Berlin, and the young girls trained there have hitherto found ample employment; telegraphy, book-keeping for bankers and merchants is taught, and the young ladies provided with situations; girls are trained for the keeping of shops, and not only that, but, in many cases, money is given on loan, or sewing machines bought under condition of repayment, so as to assist them in an independent establishment. Moreover, every possible opportunity is given for the higher education of women. And your Princess Royal, who is the soul and the stay of all these institutions, who, apart from the manifold duties devolving upon her in her high position and as a