

tainty—and refuse to listen. You are like the Catholic priest who says, "We have the Truth Absolute," and so refuses so much as to reason on things. In fact, beyond certainty one cannot go.'

'That is so. Some things are certain—for instance, the relations of the Woman to the Man.'

'You make it still harder for me to confess—or to explain—my position. However, you know how a girl of our People is brought up. When she is born there are no rejoicings. No one hopes or expects anything of her. She steals into the world in silence. When her brother is born there are great rejoicings, even in the poorest house. When the boy arrives at thirteen years and a half he is called a Son of the Commandment, and is required to observe the six hundred and thirteen precepts which form the Law. What has the girl to learn?'

'She learns to bless the Sabbath bread; she lights the candles on the eve of the Sabbath, and repeats the prayer. These are all her duties.'

'This is the Divine Order, in short—that the men shall learn everything, do everything, and be responsible. For the woman——'

'There is obedience. This is the whole of the Law for Woman.'

'So I was brought up—I, with my intellect, my gifts—the heiress of this great fortune. I saw, being a girl of perception, that everything desirable goes to Man—the wealth, the honours, the position, the authority, the learning. At first I acquiesced. My women told me that it was so, and could not be otherwise. If things cannot be otherwise, it is foolish to repine. I saw from my infancy all the women submissive and unquestioning—all meek and obedient servants to the men. It could not be otherwise, of course. To be the slaves of such men as one sees—oh!—horrible! So, I say, I made no inquiry into the matter at all. Among our People religion orders this submission. Presently, I went into the outer world, where there was a freer air. I heard things said which made me think. There were girls who proposed independence as their right; there were some who had gained their independence. There were whispers, murmurs; at last voices with clear utterances. And I found that there had been women—were still women—who could do all