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THE MOON-LOVER.

'Twas a cloudless, fairy-like summer night,
And the fair moon floated above,
While a happy brook, with his face alight,
Sang her a song of love.

There went a murmur of joy 'mong the trees,
And the tall reeds drowsily stirred,
Soft strains from the harp of the evening breeze
Came forth as the song was heard.

His song to a whispering note he hushed
When the alders hid him a space,
Then wild and free the melody gushed
At sight of the fair moon's face.

He sang to the mournful strains of the wind
That came from the pine trees tall ;
He sang every word that love might find.
But the moon would not list to his call.

No warmth of love in her steadfast gleam :
Complacent her haughty look.
For the moon has a lover in many a stream—
But "There's only one moon for the brook."

WILLIAM P. MCKENZIE.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE.

A glance at the whole field of literature immediately reveals one fact regarding the comparative literary position of woman. She has written less than man. Always potent as an inspiration, it is only in the last few centuries that she has often shown herself inspired. Although from earliest times there have been instances, as the songs of Hannah and Mary, of Sappho and Erinna bear witness, that poetic feeling of a lofty kind was by no means the property of one sex alone ; yet by far the greater bulk of literature is from the pens of men and only in this century is there any rivalry as to quantity. Taking four books of poems by chance, I find in Palgrave's Golden Treasury of Songs and Lyrics, out of 288 selections, four written by women. In Sonnets of This Century there are 33 out of 270. In Bell's Standard Reciter, about 50 out of about 520. In Elfin Music, Canterbury Edition, 10 out of 50. This is about 10 per cent. by women in all except the first.

Now, in view of nineteenth century facts, we are warranted in saying that the past barrenness in this field has not been due to poor soil, but rather lack of cultivation. The person who recognizes the fateful influence that comes from surrounding circumstances will see how social environments, which shut out an extended view ; subordination of position, which prevented independent thought ; and such lack of educational advantages as aggravated both these evils and gave chance for the mental faculties becoming effective instruments, must all have dearth of literary effort as their result. So, then, no general comparison as of two things on an equal

plane can be made before we reach the 19th century, if even now. For it is not so long ago since a very learned man suggested certain branches of learning as being appropriate for a woman who felt a wish to cultivate her mind and yet had common sense enough to wish to avoid chances of being called a blue-stocking ; and the educational theory of Mrs. Malaprop was well-nigh universal in Sheridan's time. With what calm and amused superiority must we look back on an age having this as a true though ridiculously put version of its theory : "I would by no means wish a daughter of mine to be a progeny of learning. I would never let her meddle with Greek, or Hebrew, or Algebra, or Simony, or Paradoxes, or such inflammatory branches of learning ; but, Sir Anthony, I would send her at nine years old to a boarding-school in order to learn a little ingenuity and artifice. Then, sir, she should have a supercilious knowledge in accounts ; and as she grew up, I would have her instructed in geometry, that she might know something of the contagious countries. Above all, she should be taught orthodoxy. This, Sir Anthony, is what I would have a woman know, and I don't think there is a superstitious article in it."

But now that time has swept away Mrs. Malaprop's system, along with others wiser and more foolish, and an ever-advancing wave of progress is making mental culture of an advanced kind, just as accessible to woman as man what do we find to be her way of making use of it ? What are the results of the new opportunities ?

Recognized differences between woman and man there always have been. And whether as the slave of the Eastern or the honoured companion of the Teuton, a certain difference of moral and physical fibre has always been recognized. A glance at the commercial departments of human industry will here be useful. The qualities shown by woman in this new field are said to be superior fineness of manipulation and often a more conscientious thoroughness. But in most cases this has been the result, when acting under orders, and though she has sometimes ably filled a position of superintendent, the rank of general has yet to be won by the sex.

Now, in literature, perhaps, the same thing holds. Spite of amazons, the position of literary warrior and pioneer yet remains a masculine one. But in the elaboration and collocation of known truths, in the perception of hidden differences and subtle connections, in the more delicate thought processes where intuition must largely supplement logical reasoning—in all these spheres woman has at once recognized and taken possession of her distinctive field.

After all, we find the root of the difference either in the 2nd chapter of Genesis or in the etymology of the words "Lord" and "Lady"—woman "a help meet for" man, or "Lord" the bread winner, "Lady" the bread dispenser.

In the department of poetry woman has taken as her more particular sphere the poems of the sentiments and affections, handling these themes with a tenderer touch and a more delicate perception of artistic effect. Of this Mrs. Browning, Mrs. Hemans and Jean Ingelow are examples.

In novels—and here we at once think of Charlotte Brontë's touching "Jane Eyre," of all the noble titles of George Eliot's masterful books ; of Miss Yonge, with her sweet, wholesome, refined and happy English homes ; of Jane Austen and her patient synthesis of delineation, of Miss Mitford and the lovely simplicity of her village tales ; of Maria Edgeworth and the brilliant, learned and refined society to which she introduces us, immediately arraying themselves in all their intellectual court dress to honour the royal presence of a