

WOMAN'S POSITION IN THE CHURCH,—MAY SHE PREACH?

THERE has been a great clashing of tongues and pens, during the last quarter of a century, about woman's position in the world. Her "rights" and her wrongs—Social, Religious, Intellectual and Commercial—have compelled a large share of public and private attention. And now the trend of the age is to lift her from her old gew-gaws and dolls, to give her a vigorous mental training, and allow her fair play in the struggle for self-maintenance. Castles, hitherto stoutly defended as masculine strongholds, have unbarred their gates and offered to her a share of the spoils.

This same revolutionary spirit has entered the Church of Christ. Here, happily, all are agreed upon one point, viz., that woman has an important position to fill, and one for which she ought to properly qualify herself. What is this position? What fields of usefulness does it embrace? Has it any restrictions? If so, where are they imposed? It will be manifest that a proper conception of her position, as a Christian worker, is of far-reaching significance, as it must largely determine her modes of action and measure of success. Whatever it may be, it must be one which will harmonize with her constitutional peculiarities, and the Word of God. If the position, therefore, which you offer her, be in keeping with these two principles, it will be a legitimate one for her to fill; but should it be out of keeping with them, it would be outside of her mission. You cannot confer an honor upon a woman by allotting to her the place of a man, any more than you can confer honor upon a man by putting him into the place of a woman.

"Shame and disgrace from no condition rise;
Act well thy part—there all the honor lies."

There are hundreds of women, within our church, who have a great capacity for work, who feel the burden of inactivity, and who long for some employment in the Master's service. Authority and direction are what these women need, what they ask for, and what the church ought to give them. Every good woman added to our roll of membership, not only augments the force of moral beauty and attractiveness, but increases our responsibilities also. There can