

“The Backwoods of Canada.” They helped our literature, and did much to make our country known in the land from which they came. They, too, bear witness to the industry and kindness of our women. Let us not forget, as we recall the memories of the dying past, the tribute due to the living present. History is repeating itself before our eyes. The Doukhobortsi, now making homes for themselves and their children on the prairies of the great North-West, may show the same gratitude to the friends who brought them across the seas, as did the Huguenots and the homeless sufferers of the Palatine. Their women, who, yoked together, with relieving ranks, turned the sod of the fertile prairies, are also training their sons and daughters to be our helpers and defenders in the years to come.

On every hand women are working in the “strife for truths which men believe not now.” Through many difficulties and much opposition women can now enter the open doors of the University and Colleges to that higher education which men and women alike need. Both have a common interest in the great questions of the day. An intelligent comprehension of these questions is not above woman’s capabilities, nor are they unneeding of her help. Women rise or fall as they understand the duties which the age brings upon them. While they choose their vocation in life they should remember with gratitude the patient years of study, the unobtrusive and undaunted courage, with which Miss Martin has won this right for herself and others.

The story of Laura Secord is again presented to the public with the knowledge that there has been erected a monument worthy of the courage and patriotism represented by her. But for Mrs. Curzon Mrs. Secord’s name would have only been a foot-note in history. In rescuing her name from oblivion she gave an inspiration which it is our duty to perpetuate.