

of consecrated women. Among them are some who, with large mental and spiritual gifts, were yet fully competent to all the simplest duties of a woman's life. There are others, with fewer opportunities or powers for intellectual advancement, who were equally honourable and devoted in the sphere which they were called to fill. We believe that all of them (whether highly or fairly educated, or with almost no mental cultivation) show forth the refining, elevating power of Divine grace not only on heart and soul, but on the intellect also. For the consecrated woman who does her woman's work in close communion with the Lord Jesus, and with a single eye to God's guidance and glory, develops in heart and soul and mind. She is sister or mother or daughter to all within her reach; and with her heart all broken up with tenderness, and with that quick intuition which God has given her, energized and sanctified by her faith, she sees the need of each and can often devise a remedy; with her hands she brings help and soothing, or out of her storehouse of experience gems of comfort and counsel. Her life is penetrated by her humbleness and gentleness, and by her own nobility. To her is the description of the wise king applicable: "Strength and honour are her clothing. . . . She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and in her tongue is the law of kindness." Such women are found in all ranks of society and in all spheres, and their "price is far above rubies."

There is one lesson which we read in most of these life stories, that to the soul that seeks after God, and after Him only, a way is made to carry out her convictions of duty, however strange and impracticable they may have appeared at first sight. In many cases the "mountains are made a way," hard things are made easy, and crooked things straight. We may also believe that all of these devoted women were dis