

drives us away from her hearth by her sharp temper and twaddle about servants and management. Pause, ye who sit in condemnation, it is no trifle to do more than one thing well; is not society unjust in demanding so much from a young girl, and making so few provisions for educating her? Parliaments and Municipalities legislate for the education of boys; public opinion controls its application, and the subject is thought worthy of discussion by all; but what hearty universal attempt is made to bring the female mind up to the same standard? Will there be any real equality between them when they have reached maturity? Beauty and sprightliness will always have power to captivate, but will the charm last when sickness or age has dimmed the beauty, and sorrow or care has quenched the vivacity? Then, oh! then will woman need the resources of a well cultivated and well stored mind to fall back upon for her own comfort, to cheer and support her husband, to guide, and train her children.

Before we consider what education should be to form the "perfect lady," let me suggest a few ideas on the true meaning of the much abused word. I regard it as one of comprehensive signification; deficiency in one department is as detrimental to a claimant for the title as exclusive excellence in another. Should we see a person ignorant of the common usages of polite society, we should condemn her at once as unladylike, and justly; but would the individual who could pay and receive visits without any breaches of good manners be more entitled to the name if she occasionally tripped in her grammar and was incapable of making a single intellectual remark on the topics or questions of the day? The old proverb says, "Manners make the man," and the present age seems inclined to apply this in its most restricted sense to woman; yet, logically, the assertion will not stand. There are ladies and gentlemen, who are deficient in elegance, and there are men and women of great polish, who cannot justly claim the epithet. For instance, an anecdote went the round of the papers of a noble Lord who was frequently taken for a waiter, on account of his clownish manners and plebeian appearance. A certain King of the House of Brunswick was particularly homely and plain in his style of behavior, and picked his bones at dinner, holding them in his fingers. One of the Dukes of Somerset was so awkward he did not know what to do with his hands, and generally kept them in his pockets; these persons were gentlemen by birth we must acknowledge, if not by breeding. Many ladies of the highest rank are ungraceful and plain, and we have seen *parvenus* assume with regal ease their new honors. The Empress Josephine was more queenly than born queens, and if rumor is to be believed Eugenie bears herself more majestically than Victoria, although *her* royal blood is inherited from Egbert, the progenitor of the Great Alfred. Aptitude to acquire polished easy manners is a natural gift, and arises from a combination of faculties, without which success is unattainable. But the highest surface polish, the strictest adherence to rules, the best models for imitation, will fail to produce the perfect Lady if the foundation is not laid in the heart. George 4th was the most polished gentleman in Europe, does that commendation spare him the scorn of history? Beau Brummell was a model of elegance, but that did not save him from the contempt of the good and great.