

lately to halt along in the march of progress, deprived of half of the most precious endowments showered by heaven upon the earth. In conclusion, the sum of the whole matter is that the highest possible culture for women is necessary if we would be more than half civilized. If the education of men were carried to the highest perfection, and that of women neglected, we should have only a half culture, and this deteriorated by the absence of the reaction and stimulus which would spring from educated women; and by the vanity and frivolity flowing from the influence of those whose minds have been left uncultivated.

Thus whatever functions in society the educated woman may be called on to fill, she must be an important factor in the higher civilization and in the progress of humanity, and her precise relation to the various avocations of life will develop itself as higher education becomes more and more general. Permit me to close with two historical pictures of educated and talented Englishwomen, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. The former, placed at the helm in a great and terrible crisis of the history of our country, had loneliness forced upon her by the necessities of her position. She must employ and govern all sorts of men but could mate with none. This was her God-given mission, which she performed heroically at whatever sacrifice of her own feelings and affections. The latter, a loving wife and mother, guiding with gentle hand at once her own family affairs and those of the state, suffering the sorrows and trials incident to domestic life; yet a firm, wise and benevolent ruler, but not like the other doomed to dwell apart and alone. Both women present an example of greatness and goodness in the highest sphere of public activity, yet how different in their history and surroundings. Every educated and intellectual woman must be a queen in her own sphere, whether small or great. She may be an Elizabeth or a Victoria. She cannot be both. The question of which may not depend altogether on herself; but with God's grace she may play well either part.