

wash, how to make clothes, will never lack work. In the whole world—though not always in any particular part of it—there will be always more work of this kind than there are workers to do it.

Occupations which minister to luxury are less useful, and therefore less satisfying to the inner consciousness. They are less reliable, too, being apt to fluctuate with taste or wealth, and being all more or less under the fickle rule of fashion. Employments which are altogether at the mercy of mere "fashion" are best avoided. They involve feverish overwork and extravagance, heartbreaking depression and demoralization. The skill which time and practice bring to other pursuits cannot be gained in them, and the worker's prospects darken rapidly as life advances.

It is best that men should take to callings in which the great mass of womankind will never compete with them. There may be exceptional women who will do anything from coal mining to navigation, but they are few and will not disturb the labor market. So women, again, are wisest, as a rule, to occupy those fields which are all their own, and in which they do not have to compete with men.

In our own day we have seen one field of labor rapidly change hands. Women are driving men out of counting-house and office. It often comes hard on the men, and one hears a good deal of pity for them, which sometimes seems inclined to ignore that women have an equal right to live! The true pity of it is that in such fields the women really have to do as much work as the men, at far lower rates of pay; and while it must not be forgotten that in many instances the man has his family to maintain, while the woman has only herself to keep and remains

one of a home, still it is not always so, and anyhow, that is no just standard for the value of work. Yet women would do better to confine themselves more to those avocations which are all their own. If the sister earns ten shillings a week by doing work for which the brother used to receive a pound, while he now sits idle, the household is no gainer by the exchange; and possibly she might have found better paid work for herself which would have left him at his desk.

The work of counting-house and office may be, perhaps, quite as suitable for a woman as for a man; perhaps even more so. It will be an unalloyed blessing if the present sharp competition between the sexes reduces the fancied advantages of this kind of work to a vanishing-point. It has too long been rushed upon because of the snobbish idea that it is "gentlemanly," and the young man, in a black coat, making entries in a ledger, has been apt to think himself infinitely superior to the working men whose productive labors and transactions he merely records. As a matter of fact, few occupations offer less stimulus to the mind or development of the physical frame. It is one of the terrible mistakes of fond parents that it is sometimes put a clever, thinking boy into this sort of work, because they imagine it is above manual labor, and more in line with his studious or artistic turn. A great mistake. Nothing can be worse, more trying, more destroying to the higher mental faculties than the constant working of the mere mechanical part of the mind. The balance can be kept only by the wise use of leisure. If anybody thinks himself or herself a genius let them throw gentility to the winds and straightway apply themselves to some of the plain ways of labor,