

mother's influence by far exceeds the father's, for the reason that the child is for months nourished by her blood, and made better or worse by her state of mind. Some writers have gone so far as to maintain, that a woman, by living right during the months of pregnancy, can make the unborn child bear almost any character she pleases, and many facts bearing on this point have been adduced. Mrs. Farnham believed this, and maintained it strongly in her "Woman and her Era." "To the masculine," said this thoughtful writer, "parentage is an incident;" and then she adds, "To the feminine it is being set apart by nature to a sacred trust which can be violated only at tremendous peril; peril to the moral and physical welfare, both of herself and the coming life; peril proportioned to the awful magnitude of the responsibility, and to the divine demands it makes upon nature in whose innermost depths of soul and body, a life is deposited, to draw thence support, form, and expression." Galton has probably done more to settle this question than any other man; and, as his views are the most recent and not generally known, a brief statement of them will not be out of place. He carefully traced the biographies of a large number of illustrious men in different walks of life, and found that among judges, statesmen, commanders, men of literature, and men of science, in one hundred cases 70 of them would be found to have derived their talent mainly from their fathers, and 30 mainly from their mothers. In the case of poets and artists, the influence of the female line is enormously less than the male, being 94 to 6 in the former, and 85 to 15 in the latter. Eminent divines, however, he finds inherit their talent very largely from their mothers, the relation being 73 to 27 in their favour. Mr. Galton, however, admits that the apparent incapacity of the female line for transmitting peculiar forms of ability may be due to the fact that the daughters of eminent men do not marry so frequently as other women. He makes an exception in the case of the

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