

of that kind and loving ministry of women, which renders life sweet and mitigates its pains and sorrows, and which is to be found not solely among the educated and refined, but among the simplest and least cultured,—a true instinct of goodness, needing direction, but native to the heart of woman, in all climes and all states of civilization. Yet it is sad to think how much of this holy instinct is lost and wasted through want of knowledge and thought. How often labour and self-sacrifice become worse than useless, because not guided by intelligence; how often an influence that would be omnipotent for good becomes vitiated and debased into a power that enervates and enfeebles the better resolutions of men, and involves them and their purposes in its own inanity and frivolity. No influence is so powerful for good over young men as that of educated female society. Nothing is so strong to uphold the energies or to guide the decisions of the greatest and most useful men, as the sympathy and advice of her who can look at affairs without, from the quiet sanctuary of home, and can bring to bear on them the quick tact and ready resources of a cultivated woman's mind. In this, the loftier sphere of domestic duty, in her companionship and true co-partnership with man, woman requires high culture quite as much as if she had alone and unshielded to fight the battle of life.

It may be said that, after all, the intelligence of the average woman is quite equal to that of the average man, and that highly educated women would not be appreciated by the half-educated men who perform most of the work of the world. Granting this, it by no means follows that the necessity for the education of women is diminished. Every Xantippe cannot have a Socrates; but every wise and learned woman can find scope for her energies and abilities. If need be, she may make something even of a very commonplace man. She can greatly improve even a fool, and can vastly enhance the happiness and usefulness of a good man, should she be so fortunate as to find one.

But it is in the maternal relation that the importance of the education of women appears most clearly. It requires no very extensive study of biography to learn that it is of less consequence to any one what sort of father he may have had than what sort of mother. It is indeed a popular impression that the children of clever fathers are likely to exhibit the opposite quality. This I do not believe, except in so far as it results from the fact that men in public positions or immersed in business are apt to neglect the oversight of their children. But it is a noteworthy fact that eminent qualities in men may almost always be traced to similar qualities in their mothers. Knowledge, it is true, is not hereditary, but training and culture and high mental qualities are so, and I believe that the transmission is chiefly through the mother's side. Farther, it is often to the girls rather than to the boys, and it frequently happens that if a selection were to be made as to the members of a family most deserving of an elaborate and costly education, the young women would be chosen