

ered with the great forest primeval.

Her mother, who was born in New York State, was a woman of remarkable ability and energy. She was brought to Canada as a small child, when her maternal grandfather, a relative of the American historian Lossing, settled in the township of Norwich, but returned in her sixteenth year to the United States, to attend the "Friends' Yearly Meeting Boarding School in Rhode Island". Her school days ended, Hannah Howard came back to Norwich. Soon afterwards she married Solomon Jennings, a young settler from Vermont, and became the mother of one son, who died in infancy, and of six daughters, three of whom qualified for the medical profession. Mrs. Jennings was particularly zealous in preparing remedies for the sick from the roots and herbs to be gathered in the woods. These decoctions were too often somewhat nauseous, but no doubt her interest in the treatment of disease helped to turn the thoughts of her children towards the art of healing.

Mrs. Jennings's eldest daughter, Emily, was born about 1832 and received her early education from her mother. At the age of fifteen, this young girl became the teacher of a small country school near Norwich. Amongst her scholars were boys older than herself, and in order to keep ahead of her pupils, she used to sit up studying till long after midnight.

Eager for knowledge, she desired to enter the University of Toronto, but its doors were closed against her, as a woman. Saving money from her small salary, she resolved to take a course at the Normal School. This plan she carried out, attending the session of 1853-1854 and receiving her First-Class Teacher's certificate.

Soon afterwards she was appointed principal of the public school at Brantford, a position which she resigned in 1856, to become the wife of an Englishman, Dr. John Stowe, who was by profession a dentist. He was

"a liberal-minded man," and his brilliant wife could always count upon him for sympathy and assistance to the utmost of his power. Unfortunately, soon after their marriage, his health gave way; thus Mrs. Stowe was obliged to take what is generally felt to be the man's part and act as breadwinner for the family.

When this necessity came upon her, Mrs. Stowe returned to the profession in which she had already scored a success, and again, as in her very youthful days, took charge of a country school—this time the school at Mount Pleasant, a few miles out of Brantford.

But she was not destined to remain a teacher. About 1865, after the birth of her three children, she determined to study medicine, with a view partly to obtaining a better means of livelihood, partly to meeting that need (which she herself had felt most keenly) for women doctors to attend on women patients. Happier than many who venture from the beaten path, she had the sympathy of her own immediate relatives in her undertaking; but of course outsiders poured discouragement on her plans.

An initial difficulty was that she could not qualify for her chosen profession in Canada. Accordingly, she arranged to leave her home and her family for a time, to attend the New York Medical College for Women, which had been established a year or two earlier by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the pioneer woman-physician of the United States. Mrs. Stowe was graduated in 1868.

She might have found life easier had she remained to practise in the United States, for there other women, as mentioned above, had defied the prejudices, which cried shame on the woman doctor. Instead she went back to her own land, to break entirely new ground, and began to practise in Toronto. At that date "the fees were pitifully small," and she had to overcome numerous obstacles in the road to success.