

IMPORTANCE OF WOMAN'S DUTIES.

It is generally assumed, and almost as generally contended, that woman's business and cares are contracted and trivial; and that the proper discharge of her duties, demands far less expansion of mind and vigour of intellect, than the pursuits of the other sex. This idea has prevailed, because women, as a mass, have never been educated with reference to their most important duties; while that portion of their employments, which is of least value, has been regarded as the chief, if not the sole, concern of a woman. The covering of the body, the conveniences of residences, and the gratification of the appetite, have been too much regarded as the sole objects on which her intellectual powers are to be exercised.

But, as society gradually shakes off the remnants of barbarism, and the intellectual and moral interests of man rise, in estimation, above the merely sensual, a truer estimate is formed of woman's duties, and of the measure of intellect requisite for the proper discharge of them. Let any man of sense and discernment, become the member of a large household, in which a well-educated and pious woman is endeavouring systematically to discharge her multifarious duties; let him fully comprehend all her cares, difficulties, and perplexities; and it is probable he would coincide in the opinion, that no statesman, at the head of a nation's affairs, had more frequent calls for wisdom, firmness, tact, discrimination, prudence, and versatility of talent, than such a woman.

She has a husband, to whose peculiar tastes and habits she must accommodate herself; she has children, whose health she must guard, whose physical constitutions she must study and develop, whose temper and habits she must regulate, whose principles she must form, whose pursuits she must direct. She has constantly changing domestics, with all varieties of temper and habits, whom she must govern, instruct, and direct; she is required to regulate the finances of the domestic state, and constantly to adapt expenditures to the means and to the relative claims of each department. She has the direction of the kitchen, where ignorance, forgetfulness, and awkwardness, are to be so regulated, that the various operations shall each start at the right time, and all be in completeness at the same given hour. She has the claims of society to meet, calls to receive and return, and the duties of hospitality to sustain. She has the poor to relieve; benevolent societies to aid; the schools of her children to enquire and decide about; the care of the sick; the nursing of infancy; and the endless miscellany of odd items, constantly recurring in a large family.

Surely, it is a pernicious and mistaken idea, that the duties, which tax a woman's mind, are petty, trivial, or unworthy of the highest grade of intellect and moral worth. Instead of allowing this feeling, every woman should imbibe, from early youth, the impression, that she is training for the discharge of the most important, the most difficult, and the most sacred and interesting duties that can possibly employ the highest intellect. She ought to feel that her station and responsibilities, in the great drama of life, are second to none, either as viewed by her Maker, or in the estimation of all minds whose judgment is most worthy of respect.—*Catherine Beecher.*

PAUL'S "FIRST ANSWER TO NERO."

Nero was a cruel prince, and the people looked on his palace much as they would have looked upon a leopard's den. An order has arrived to bring the Galilean prisoner to the emperor's judgment-hall. The apostle had just time to warn a few friends, and like enough they came and consoled with him; but they thought it prudent not to go with him into court. It might compromise their own safety, and it could do him no effectual good; and he did not urge them. The soldiers arrived, and he went away cheerily with them—the old weather-beaten man—without his cloak, for he had left it at Troas; without his friends, for he had left them behind at his own hired house—as forlorn as ever a prisoner stood before Cæsar. And how was it that the infirm old man passed with so serene a look, the clashing swords and scowling centries at the palace front. And how was it that in the dim and dangerous presence-chamber, where cruelty sat upon the throne of luxury,—how was it that, with that wolf upon the judgment-seat, and those blood-hounds all around him, with none but pagans present, and not one believing friend to bear the com-

pany—how was it, O Paul! that in such an hour of peril, instead of pleading not guilty, and falling down on suppliant knees, thou didst commit the very crime they charged against thee—the crime of loyalty to Jesus—and urge Christ's claims on Cæsar? Why, the secret of this strange courage was, "at my first answer no man stood with me, but all forsook me. Notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."—*Rev. James Hamilton.*

PRAYERS ANSWERED.

Of many of the petitions offered now we know not what becomes. Some are for places far away; some for people whom we never see again; some for blessings, which, if bestowed, we can never know it. But all these prayers are efficacious. I pray for faith, they all have prevalency. They have effected something; and they are all self-registering. They go into the book of remembrance. They keep account of themselves, or rather God keeps it, and when the great day comes round, and the throne is set and the books are opened, it will be seen how much every Christian has prayed, what were the gifts he coveted most earnestly, and what were the petitions he urged most frequently. And strange things will come to light that day. Here is one who was never known on earth; perhaps in all the right-hand company none can recollect his name. He was very poor. He had no money to give to the cause of Christ—hardly the two mites—and he was very plain, simple, and unlearned. He could not express himself. But his name is Israel. He was a Prince with God, and see how often he has prevailed. And here is another, who was bed-ridden many years, could not work, could not visit, could not write—but she could pray. And see what a benefactress she has been. See this long list of affectionate intercessions for her relatives and neighbours and friends; these many supplications for the church and the world, for the unconverted, for missions, for mourners in Zion! And see the answers! What a Dorcas she has been,—though she could make no garments for the poor! What a Phæbe,—though she could not stir a step! What a Priscilla,—though she could expound the way of God to few, for her prayers often did it all! And here is another. He had just escaped from Papal darkness, and was beginning to enlighten others, when he was put in prison, and after months of languishing he went up from Smithfield in his chariot of fire,—a martyr of Jesus Christ. He never preached. He was refused the use of ink and pen. He wrote nothing. He printed nothing. He spake to no one, for thick dungeon-walls enclosed him. But he prayed. From the height of his sanctuary the Lord looked down; he heard the groaning of this prisoner; and in the Reformation sent the answer.—*Id.*

NUTRITIVE PROPERTIES OF OATS.—Oats are undoubtedly far richer in Nitrogenous, or muscular matters, in proportion to the weight, than wheat. A comparison, according to the analysis of Professor Johnston, shows this. One hundred pounds each, of fine wheaten flour and shelled oats, contain:—

	WHEAT,	OATS,
Muscular Matter	10lb	18lb
Fat	3	7
Starch	50	65
	63	89

This may serve to give some explanation of the fact, that the muscular power of horses is greater when fed on oats, than when kept on any other food; and it serves also to lessen our wonder at the athletic feats, corporeal strength, and power of endurance, shown by the stalwart Highlander, reared on this simple but nutritious fare.—*N. E. Farmer.*

CALIFORNIA.—A large number of hardy American adventurers have made arrangements for removing to California as soon as the opening of Spring will permit. We see in the Western papers notices of two expeditions, one under Mr. Leavitt, and the other under Mr. Grayson. It is supposed that from 500 to 1000 in all, will start from Fort Smith on the 1st of April, for the purpose of establishing a colony at San Diego Bay. This bay is south of San Francisco, and situated due West of the Gulf of California. It is said to possess the greatest advantages for commerce, and to be the most favourable place in California for a new colony. Mr. Grayson, with his party, will leave Independence on the 15th of April next. The tide of emigration to that beautiful country will increase yearly with just such hardy and courageous individuals as know how to subdue the wilderness and make it bloom like the rose;