

andolence or direction have, we believe, ever appeared! Already there are a goodly array of feminine names in literature, art, social science, philanthropy, with which our reverential admiration has never associated the least shade of pity. They stand alone, indeed, by their own choice (whether sorrow or struggle attended that choice we presume not to inquire); and they have strength so to stand. We do not lament, rather we glory in their independent attitude, and should probably feel some tincture of regret if names, that have so often "helped us in our daily need," were to be exchanged for any others.

Meanwhile, though we believe that there will be increasingly less and less general reference to it needed, we are quite justified in drawing an argument from the comparative blankness and desolation of many an individual unmarried lot. There are fervent spirits, whose only satisfaction lies in the exercise of their affections. Their intellect is valueless to them, unless as the handmaid of their heart. Material comforts are not even recognized as compensations. The one luxury of their nature is to spend and be spent for another. Now let none of these blame themselves for their intense yearning after a fuller life, or starve their souls by an attempt to persist upon small interests and personal pleasures, because these satisfy the majority of their friends and acquaintance. Not for *this* have they been "chosen in the furnace of affliction." They are the very women to "minister with their substance," their time, their energy, their culture to the poor, the ignorant, the sick, and the criminal. The strong sympathy of their nature that tortures them now unbestowed, will incalculably promote their success in all such undertakings. The "loving much" that has made them weak hitherto, will be their strength in this new career. Not one craving, one pang that will have been wasted, since each has added to the keenness of their insight, and the tenderness of their toleration. Of these, too, in their measure, we may venture to pronounce it true, that inasmuch as they have suffered, being tempted, they shall be able to succor them that are tempted."

We will not attempt to indicate here the numerous calls upon unmarried women of this stamp. We would not say, Do not fear to accept the life which your whole nature yearns. Do not let any make you despondent or discouraged by suggesting that you want this occupation of systematic beneficence for your own sakes; not purely out of pity for the poor, but love for Christ. Sometimes we meet a spiritual over-refinement of this kind, which makes sad very unnecessarily. "The labourer is worthy of his hire," of increased personal happiness, and we need not fear to find a motive in the Divine appointment, "He that watereth shall himself be watered."

It may, too, be worth remarking, that whenever a woman of this peculiar temperament takes a decided step, and makes for herself a life purpose, a *profession*, as it were, of some department or other of the charitable effort of our day, she does good not only directly to herself, and to the cause in which she enlists herself, but indirect good to that other large class of unmarried women who have no special vocation. She leaves them their scope in a different and lowlier sphere. For there are, and always will be, characters of less energy, or quite different energy,—satisfied with mental culture, social enjoyments, domestic avocations, or, at least, sufficiently satisfied not to look beyond these, confining their highest aspirations,