

ate obstacles in the way of its enjoyment to a large portion of the community. Such obstacles exist on every hand. Not only as the instruments of oppression employed by the wealthy and well-born towards the poor and lonely, but by man towards woman. Society is beginning to see that its best interests will be most effectually promoted by its offering to all its members the most encouragements and the fewest hindrances to advancement: and that woman, equally with man, should enjoy the right to learn, to speak, to write, to work as God has given her ability, and to receive equal and just reward for what she accomplishes. De Toqueville says, that, during the last 700 years there has been scarcely any great event which has not tended to equalise the conditions of life. He refers as proof to the Crusades, the wars between England and France and their own civil conflicts, which each and all impoverished the nobility and compelled them to divide and diminish by sale their immense estates. This and the growth of commerce created a middle class. The invention of firearms equalised the noble and serf upon the field of battle. The discovery of America, the invention of printing, the teachings of Protestantism, the French Revolution, cheap literature, Postal arrangements, and the discovery of Californian and Australian Gold fields have all had the same equalising tendency. "The gradual removal of artificial distinctions and the developement of the equality of conditions of life is therefore a providential fact and possesses all the characteristics of a divine decree. It is universal and durable. It constantly eludes all human interference and all events as well as men are contributing to its progress."

3. DIMINISHED DEPENDENCE UPON BRUTE FORCE.

Most of the great things accomplished in former times owed their performance to a small amount of mind directing a large amount of brute force. So ancient empires were founded and governed, battles fought, victories won, cities built and monuments erected. Machinery has taken the place of bodily labor in doing the largest part of the work now done in the world. All the men and women on earth have not sufficient muscular power to do the work performed in England alone by steam engines. The history of almost every production of the day, from a pocket