

Christianity was especially the gospel of women, but its progress was arrested by the ambition of men and the growth of ecclesiasticism, the inroads of barbarians and the wars and desolations succeeding the downfall of the Roman Empire, while the chivalry of the middle ages did little except for a privileged class. The world has yet to see the full blessings of the ministry of educated christian women, which may perhaps not be realised before that Saviour who, as he was called a friend of publicans and sinners, has also been sneered at as too womanly in his teaching, shall return in power to reign.

In the midst of present controversies one can at least see two professions, both intimately connected with the family, and both very near to the mission of the primitive widows and ministers of the Apostolic Church. The first of these is teaching, a profession most suited in every way to woman; and the arrangements whereby young women trained in our Normal Schools have in the United States and Canada almost engrossed to themselves the work of instruction, especially in the elementary schools, constitute one of the best and highest features of our educational system. Our Normal Schools are now to a great extent professional colleges for women, and they should be developed still further in this direction, more especially since the profession to which they lead is one which does not in any way interfere with the true functions and duties of woman. Another profession almost equally important is that of the trained and scientific nurse, that higher kind of medical nurse who is so much required to supplement the comparatively scanty attentions of the physician, and to govern and instruct or to replace altogether less competent attendants on the sick. That the medical profession itself, more especially in so far as female patients are concerned, should be open to women, I do not doubt is a possible feature of that higher civilization to which the world may one day reach; but in the meantime there can be no question as to the claims and position of the educated nurse. Beyond this I would go one step further. Great mental endowments and special genius, those grand and direct gifts of God, are not limited by sex; they belong to the world, and must not be repressed by neglect or prejudice. Those women who in the course of their education, show pre-eminent gifts in literature, in art, in science, or in philosophy, should be trained for their special fields, and the highest places in public and educational institutions should be open to them equally with men, otherwise mankind must continue