

On the other hand, let us remember that "topping off" has its dangers. In some cases it shows itself in affectation of pronunciation—a Lord Dundreary broadening of the vowels, and silly imitation of faulty English: as, "Let me paws," "Beg pawdon." "Topping off" in some cases consists in breeding caste pride, social self-conceit, and an intolerant exclusiveness, which is a curse to any country, home, or church. "Topping off" in some cases lays the foundation for the love of French opera, late dances, bridge whist, insipidity in conversation, and soul shallowness. "Topping off" in some cases means a superficial education in external deportment. There is no greater social affliction than a woman who has nothing but deportment.

Now, there is no more serious question before the Victoria Women's Educational Society than the proper education of our girls. Shall we place the burden on others of educating that portion of our population who are to become wives and mothers, whose slightest word in the sitting-room, at table, by the cradle, at breakfast, at bedtime, in the sick-room, is more potent than any sermon, than any law?

The girl is the mother of the woman just as the acorn determines the oak. Is there vice in politics? The tap-root is in the home in false ideals. Is there vice in commerce? The tap-root is in the home in false ethics. Is there superstition in Ireland? It is because the mother early becomes the tool of the priest.

Was there heroism in Sparta? It was because mothers sang war-songs by the cradle. Was Wesley a power? It was because of his mother very largely.

The race has attained its best estate from its trained womanhood, and educated motherhood which grows out of trained girlhood. Must Methodism in a city like Toronto leave this training, which is being done outside of our common schools, to her sister churches, and thus shirk her share of the burden and reward?