

society, while the young women of those social levels rarely aspire to similar advantages. On the other hand, while numbers of young men of wealthy families are sent into business with a merely commercial education at a very early age, their sisters are occupied with the pursuit of accomplishments of which their more practical brothers never dream. When to all this is added the frequency and rapidity in this country of changes in social standing, it is easy to see that an educational chaos must result, most amusing to any one who can philosophically contemplate it as an outsider, but most bewildering to all who have any practical concern with it; and more especially, I should suppose, to careful and thoughtful mothers, whose minds are occupied with the connections which their daughters may form, and the positions which they may fill in society.

The educational problem which these facts present admits, I believe, of but two general solutions. If we could involve women in the same necessities for independent exertion and professional work with men, I have no doubt that in the struggle for existence they would secure to themselves an equal, perhaps greater share of the more solid kinds of the higher education. Some strong-minded women and chivalrous men in our day favour this solution, which has, it must be confessed, more show of reason in older countries where, from unhealthy social conditions, great numbers of unmarried women have to contend for their own subsistence. But it is opposed by all the healthier instincts of our humanity; and in countries like this where very few women remain unmarried, it would be simply impracticable. A better solution would be to separate in the case of both sexes professional from general education, and to secure a large amount of the former of a solid and practical character for both sexes, for its own sake, and because of its beneficial results in the promotion of our well-being considered as individuals, as well as in our family, social and professional relations. This solution also has its difficulties, and it cannot, I fear, ever be fully worked out, until either a higher intellectual and moral tone be reached in society, or until nations visit with proper penalties the failure, on the part of those who have the means, to give to their children the highest attainable education, and with this also provide the funds for educating all those who, in the lower schools, prove themselves to be possessed of eminent abilities. It may be long before such laws can be instituted, even in the more educated communities; and in the mean time in aid of that higher appreciation of the benefits of education which may supply a better if necessarily less effectual stimulus, I desire to direct your attention to a few considerations which show that young women, viewed not as future lawyers, physicians, politicians, or even teachers, but as future wives and mothers, should enjoy a high and liberal culture, and which may help us to understand the nature and means of such culture.

The first thought that arises on this branch of the subject, is that woman was intended as the help-meet of man. And here I need not speak