

[FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.]

THOUGHTS ON AN IDEAL COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

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BY

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MISS CAMERON AND LADIES :—

In response to your kind invitation to deliver this annual lecture, I have thought it proper to direct your attention to some points in the past, the present, and the future, which appear to be important in connection with this great work of the higher education of women in which we are all so deeply interested.

About 1294 B.C. or 3188 years ago, was produced the earliest known literary composition which we can refer to a woman's pen. It is a lyrical poem of one hundred lines, written by a Hebrew prophetess who dwelt under a palm tree on Mt. Ephraim, and ruled Israel in her day. As transmitted to our time in the book of Judges, it has continued to be read and to attract earnest attention, and has had a host of commentators and translators in modern times. It is now almost universally admitted to be of the antiquity it claims, and as entitled to take its place in the front rank of Hebrew song. One of its most learned students has said of this song of Deborah that "her strains are bold, varied and sublime. She is everywhere full of abrupt and impassioned appeals and personifications. She bursts away from earth to heaven and again returns to human things. She touches now upon the present, now dwells