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Extracts of a Letter from an Indian Lady. Showing the Increasing Desire for Education Among the Women of India.

"I HOULD I say a few words to you on a very important subject, will my brothers condescend to spare me a few minutes? It is evident that the subject of female education is one that has a very important bearing on the future of India. Great progress has been made in the education of the men in our country, and the education of our women should have followed as a natural consequence. Is it right to selfishly limit the advantages of education to the men alone? Is it right to go on sinning against woman from her birth nearly to her death, to think her no better than 'household stuff, live chattels, laughing stocks of time, forever slaves at home and fools abroad?'

In ancient India, the position of Hindu women was far different to what it is now. It was a most honorable, nay, exalted one, for they appear to have been on a footing of perfect equality with their husbands. Without any social restrictions on their actions, they were allowed to do much as they pleased, to appear unreservedly in public, and even to choose their husbands from many suitors. The same education which was given to the men was given to them; and very often mention is made of women who were Rishis like the men, who composed hymns and took part in public discussions. Such was the honorable position of women in ancient times, but what a terrible falling-off from this high standpoint is presented by their condition now! Perhaps you will say the conditions are changed, and are no longer such as will make such relations between men and women possible. True, they have changed; but the worst was over long ago, and they are changing again now, but for the better. The old prejudice against female education has given way before the example of the Europeans and the philanthropic exertions of the Christian missionaries.

True education only expands and refines the intellect and gives a wider and a higher idea of life and its duties. This view has now gained general acceptance, and in accordance with it many public schools for girls have come into existence.

Of course it can be urged that one of the chief reasons for the low state of women in India is the want of co-operation from themselves. This is quite true, and we have ourselves to blame for it; but there are many other reasons for this deplorable state of things. And it cannot be denied that where the men have allowed them the women have taken the best advantage of their opportunities.

Help us then to fulfil our lives. Do not shut us out of the light of knowledge; do not dwarf our intellects; do not limit our mental scope; give us, in very justice, some of the privileges at least that you enjoy; and we will repay you to the full, by making your lives happier and more useful, your homes brighter and greater centres of light and influence."

SATYAVATI.—*In the Indian Ladies Mag.*

OWING to our change of publishers we regretted the unavoidable delay in our April issue; also the necessity for printing a new mailing list. If any mistakes have occurred we shall be glad to be informed of them.—*Editor.*

In our pages this month, we are giving considerable space to the life and work of that remarkable Hindu woman, Ramabai, of whom it might truly be said, "Thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." With a faith as strong as Muller's, she is carrying on as great a work in India as his in Bristol, presenting a convincing object-lesson of the love and power of the God whom she worships to those whose gods are only wood and stone. The book, "Ramabai, the Story of Her Life," can be obtained from Mrs. Dancy, Secretary of the Bureau of Literature, 159 Robert street, Toronto.