

“Woman, whatever are her relations in life, is necessarily the guardian of the nursery, the companion of childhood, and the constant model of imitation. It is her hand that first stamps impressions on the immortal spirit, that must remain for ever. And what demands such discretion, such energy, such patience, such tenderness, love and wisdom, such perspicacity to discern, such versatility to mollify, such efficiency to execute, such firmness to persevere, as the government and education of all the various characters and tempers that meet in the nursery and school room? Woman also is the presiding genius who must regulate all the thousand minutiae of domestic business that demand habits of industry, order, neatness, punctuality and constant care. And it is for such varied duties that woman is to be trained. For this, her warm sympathies, her lively imagination, her ready invention, her quick perception, all need to be cherished and improved; while at the same time, those more foreign habits of patient attention, calm judgment, steady efficiency, and habitual self controul, must be induced and sustained.”

258. The sound and practical observations of Mrs. Beecher, should be read attentively, read over and meditated upon by parents, teachers and members of the community in general. The basis of a religious, moral and physical education for females hereafter coming under the operation of this or some other system of Elementary and Practical Education, must first be laid in the Normal Schools, where it is likely to be better understood. From the Normal, the influence of such wholesome management, will soon extend to the Model, and thence be powerfully communicated to the Common Schools.

259. I need not add any more on this important subject, I have sufficiently, I hope, directed the public mind to considerations which must have some weight with most people, who will at once, I have no doubt, see their practical bearing; and convinced as all must be, that the true interests of the community, are materially affected by the influence of good or bad exercised by women, they, in all probability, will give the subject their best care and attention.

260. I therefore anticipate results of the most consoling nature, if female education is stamped in its infancy, with the lasting impressions of religion, virtue and order. With the Superintendent to conceive and lay down regulations, and all the other departments of the school system, rigidly to conform thereto, I dismiss this part of the subject.

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#### LETTER XLVII.

261. There remains but little to be said, to complete the outlines of the system of Elementary and Practical Education, which I have submitted to the consideration of the public. Indeed I may well use the word outlines, for had I attempted to inquire into all the details of such a system, I would fall short of many very interesting and useful suggestions, in thus closing my letters.