

friends to look upon her as a tower of strength. To know such a woman is indeed a privilege and to those of us, who only know of her, her name takes its place with those of Lucretia Mott, Lydia Maria Child, Elizabeth Fry and Dorothea Dix.

The book itself, composed chiefly of letters written by or to Mrs. Gibbons, might be criticized in one or two points.

In the first place, the editor has made the mistake of publishing too many letters. One feels that a single volume could have held all of interest to the public. In the second place, she has published a few that one is surprised her delicacy of feeling did not prompt her to suppress: letters from private correspondence and those requested by the writer to be burned. Many biographers in the past have made this latter mistake, to a much greater extent than Mrs. Emerson, but it is always a cause for regret. Prying into private affairs has become the habit of the press, and biographers have often committed grave faults in putting before the public matter which should be sacred to the families of the men and women of whom they write. Too much cannot be said against this form of pernicious literature; pernicious because it feeds an unwholesome desire in people's minds for a knowledge of matters which should not concern them.

It is said of Tennyson that before his death he burned a great many of his letters, and his son in compiling his memoirs burned a great many more, with the result that the book contains only such matter as the public will be benefitted by knowing, and such as in no way invades the sanctity of his family life. Fineness of feeling will instinctively prompt a biographer to such action. A well-written biography of a worthy subject is always a source of inspiration to its readers. One gains strength in knowing of lives well spent.

Passing over the defects of the book, we cannot fail to feel the inspiration of Mrs. Gibbons's life as depicted in this

compilation of letters; a life that was "pure in its purpose and strong in its strife," making all life "purer and stronger thereby." M. S. R.

MARRIED.

BOWERMAN — GARDNER.—On Tuesday evening, December 28th, 1897, by Friends' ceremony, at the residence of the bride's father, S. Gifford Bowerman, Farmington, N. Y., Julia L. Bowerman and Oscar B. Gardner, second son of the late Sunderland P. Gardner.

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