

this time of writing, various newspapers, and as the modern newspaper is not only the powerful engine which moulds, but also the exponent which expresses the life around us, it may be well to examine what part of the contents of these is especially devoted, and supposed to be matter of greatest interest to the female portion of their readers.

First on the list is a page entitled "Work of Women," containing five paragraphs, "The Fashions," "The Work Table," "The Household,"—this latter being the recipe for four puddings—"Rag Carpets," and "The Care of Gloves." Following this is "Woman's Kingdom," with "Society," another "Work table," "Fashion Notes from Paris," "Gossip for Girls,"—this consisting of instructions how to dress on a small amount of pin money—and "The Cuisine," to this article are added, however, some notes on art, literature and the stage. A step higher comes "Woman's Empire," which we find to be "Society Notes," "Diamonds at Washington," and "He Proposed at Dinner." Lastly spreads before us "Woman's World," comprising "Silver Toilette Articles," "Wonderful Things in Bonnets," "Complexion Pottery," which being interpreted means enamelling of the skin—and "An Inaudible Laugh," this being directions for studying becoming smiles before the looking-glass according as the teeth will or will not bear inspection. From the far Pacific Coast I glean an article "For the Ladies," on "The Beauty of Auburn Hair," and "Smuggling for Amusement;" while a paragraph from a Chicago paper descriptive of the various pursuits carried on by women in that wonderful centre of the continent under one vast roof—pursuits ranging from faith-healing and the teaching of Volapuk to the curing of corns—carries like the wasp a sting in its tail in the following closing words, "As one might easily suppose, from the number of women who frequent the building there are also a millinery store, a candy shop, an embroidery bazaar, and a photograph gallery." I have no present means of access to the papers of Tartary or the Fiji Islands, but doubtless we should find their feminine articles devoted to the latest thing in shark's tooth necklaces, or a debate as to whether or not a sheep skin ulster was a necessary article in a bride's trousseau.

Now let us glance at the reverse of the picture. "Over 5,000 women," says the Philadelphia *Times*, "have obtained employment in this city in the last five years in branches hitherto filled by men alone. It is not only in the mills, factories, stores, telegraph offices and such places, where they are to be found at the loom, shuttle, counter and tray, that they are working, but in bankers', brokers', lawyers' and other professional men's offices. As stenographers, type-writers, book-keepers and cashiers they are gradually and largely encroaching upon the occupations previously almost entirely monopolized by men. The newspaper offices also recognize their value, and in the composing room they may be found with the rule and stick."

"Women, with the aid of machinery," said Mrs. Barry in one of her eloquent lectures to the Knights of Labor recently delivered in Toronto, "were driving men out of the labor market. Men talked about industrial depression and overlooked the cause." Nor is it only as laborers or assistants that women have come to the front; they aim to be principals, and often succeed in their aim. As doctors they no longer excite even a passing surprise or comment; and we gather from the reports of the late International Council of Women held at Washington that the other liberal professions are if not so plentifully at least adequately represented. We know that already more than one lady has been admitted to the American Bar, and we know that Mrs. Ada Bitlenbender read a paper on "Woman-in-Law," and that Rev. Ada C. Bowles spoke of "Woman in the Ministry." Other pursuits are not neglected; one lady took for her subject "Woman in the Hospital," another "Women as Farmers," and yet a third spoke on "Prison Reform." As if this were not a sufficiently wide range, Mrs. Laura McNerr, the President of the "Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic"—whoever they may be—read a paper on the "Limits of Woman's Influence," and doubtless she stretched those limits tolerably wide. We do not find that the sailors were represented at the Council; but we know that a lady runs a steamboat on the Lower Mississippi, having on the death of her husband taken out her certificate and being appointed to his command, and we may possibly hear yet of women going aloft to reef "when the stormy winds do blow."

Labor, law, physic, religion, agriculture, navigation and the army—one thing remains, and we find it in a western town. Mrs. Belva Lockwood has, as we know, twice asserted her right to be elected President of the United States—so far in vain; but where she has failed some of her more fortunate sisters have triumphed, according to the following telegraphic despatch received from Oskaloosa, Kansas, not long since:—"A city ticket composed of women for the Council and a woman for mayor was elected here to-day by 66 majority."

These extreme cases can not, of course, be taken as a just representation of the women of our day; but it must be admitted that extremes may be found. Between the woman who shrieks at a spider and Madame Lactitia, the mother of the Great Napoleon, who uttered no groan in her travail-pangs in order that, in accordance with a popular belief, her child if a boy might be born a warrior—between the girl practising her smile of lip or eye before the mirror and Caroline Herschel or Mrs. Somerville calculating the courses of comet and star—between the votary of fashion whose severest exercise is waltz or carriage drive and the Mexican cow-girl who, astride of her mustang and lasso in hand, joins in the wild sport and labor of the round-up—between the woman who flies from infection and shrinks from a cut finger and Florence Nightingale, whose shadow on the