

glorious by the life begun and ended there; it is an humble brown cottage with no outward adorning but the clinging ivy and the fragrant honey-suckle. Here, with all nature to inspire her with noble thoughts, Mary Lyon spent the first years of her life. Her parents did not know, but God foreknew how much she would need a constitution that could bear great responsibility, and a temperament so buoyant and cheerful that it could furnish its own sunshine, when clouds should veil the skies. For this purpose, in His kindness, He assigned to her childhood its rural home, in a kind of sacred retirement, sheltered from the evil influences of luxury and sloth. She early conceived the idea of a thorough education. But how could it be obtained? There were in the land one hundred and twenty colleges for boys, but not one founded distinctly for girls. Academies and private schools abounded—she could attend these and did. God endowed her with a vigorous intellect, keen penetration, and sound judgment; an intense energy pervaded her whole nature—she knew no such thing as failure in any undertaking.

To reach the heights of truth she sacrificed social advantages, and even refused herself sufficient time for rest—four hours' sleep in twenty-four is short measure, and it made the last long sleep come so much the sooner. She accomplished her object, finished her course at the Academy, made great proficiency in the Sciences, Mathematics, and Latin, and was ready for her life-work—teaching! She saw her brothers go to Amherst and Harvard Universities to complete a four years' course of study—her own mind longed for such an opportunity for development, but there was none. Not a college then opened wide its doors to admit ladies to its higher courses of study. The cultivation of the mind of woman was not *then* regarded as being of equal importance with that of the mind of man.

On this subject Miss Lyon took a decided position, not as