

"Women only keep those secrets which they don't know."

"Trust no woman, even were she dead."

"If you are too happy, take a wife."

Even in England, woman's position has until recently been one of degrading inferiority. The sense of proprietorship of the husband in the wife has entered very largely into the Anglo-Saxon ideal of woman's sphere. "My wife is mine" has been the argument of the husband, "and I have a right to do what I choose with my own." His "my own" was spelt with very large letters. "I may beat her if I wish, and sell her when I tire of her," was the husband's recognized right. The London *Times*, only a century ago, gave as evidence to prove that civilization was advancing the fact that wives brought better prices than formerly when sold by public auction. It is not to be understood that the majority of Englishmen beat their wives, when beating was permitted, "so long as the husband did not use a rod thicker than his finger," or that many Englishmen sold their wives; but these facts are stated as extreme results of the almost universal feeling that wives belonged to their husbands. This degrading ideal is now rapidly passing away among educated classes, but there are thousands of English-speaking people who are not yet rid of this low conception in regard to their wives. Some of them live in America. In the matter of education women have passed through centuries of the grossest injustice. They were denied the right of being educated in colleges until the present century, and the first women admitted to universities are still in the prime of life. Women have been kept out of the schools and denied the culture of public life, and the very men who have tried by every means in their power to keep women weak and ignorant have sneered contemptuously at them for being weak and ignorant. There are yet living some masculine boors who, as John Stuart Mill said, "think it a clever thing to insult women for being what they made them." Compayre, in his "History of Pedagogy," states that as late as the seventeenth century "Woman was still regarded as the inferior of man, in the lower classes as a drudge, in the higher as an ornament. In her case intellectual culture was regarded as either useless or dangerous, and the education that