

For our own part, we resent theoretically at least, any specialization of "woman's position." The long history of injustice and oppression to which the female half of mankind has been subjected, has been largely due to just this process of specialization. We believe the traditional distinction between the male and female intellect is purely fanciful. Women are popularly supposed to rely principally on their intuitions and men on their reasoning faculties. Sober experience shows that the power of instantaneous apprehension of an actual state of facts is just as apt to exist in men as in women, and often to a greater degree in the former than in the latter. This is the faculty which explains the great practical success of rude and ignorant men in gigantic business enterprises. On the other hand, who has not met many apparently ill assorted couples, in which from a purely logical standpoint the grey mare was by all odds the better horse, the husband being the slave of prejudice and "intuition," and the wife capable of reasoning from known facts to their legitimate consequences? Such difference as exists between the male and female mind is not so much one of kind as of degree. The greatest achievements in all departments of human effort have as a rule been made by men, and we do not believe that the dependent and inferior position to which the female sex has been condemned in the past entirely accounts for the phenomenon. In art, in music, and in literature, women have practically stood on a fair footing of competition with men for many generations, and only in the single department of prose fiction have they produced anything of the first rank.

But the probable fact that women will not attain the highest places in the different departments of work offers not the slightest excuse for withholding from them by law equal property rights, equal political rights and an equal chance of success in any field they choose to enter. In the medical profession they have already made a decided mark largely because of the very circumstance of sex. Whether or not women are ever to be numbered among the greatest physicians and surgeons, there is no doubt but that in ordinary attendance upon females their services will often be more acceptable than those of male practitioners of equal ability. We do not anticipate anything like the same progress for women at the bar, principally on account of excessive competition. No doubt, women are mentally capable of rendering as valuable legal services as the average of male lawyers. But there are many motives outside of express talent for the law, which contribute to make our profession perhaps the most over-crowded of callings. For a woman of extraordinary legal capacity there is an opening at any time, although on account of prejudice and custom, her struggle will be a harder one than that of an equally gifted man. But the ranks of the profession are already surcharged with average ability, and from prudential motives we would counsel a woman merely bent on making a livelihood to choose some other sphere of effort.—*New York Law Journal*.