

W O M A N .

From the lips of woman, every infant hears the first accents of affection, and receives the first lessons of duty in tenderness and love. For the approbation of woman, the grown-up youth will undertake the boldest enterprise and brave every difficulty of study, danger, and even death itself. To the happiness of woman, the man of maturer years will devote the best energies of his mind and body; and from the soothing and affectionate regards of woman, the man who is become venerable by years, derives his chief consolation in life's decline. Who, then, shall say that the one-half of the human race, and they confessedly the most virtuous and the most amiable, may not be entrusted with an intelligence and an influence equal to our own? To them, when sorrow afflicts us, we consign half our sufferings, and they cheerfully relieve us by lightening them. When joy delights, we give them half of our pleasures, and they as readily consent to share them. They lessen, by their sympathy, the pangs of all our privations, and they increase, by their participation, the ecstasy of all our delights. They deserve, therefore, the full enjoyment of every privilege that it is in our power to confer on them.

LETTERS FROM A MOTHER TO HER DAUGHTERS

Written many years ago by the Wife of a Wesleyan Minister.

LETTER V.

ON FEMALE RESERVE.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

This subject is so nearly allied to a previous one namely, modesty of behaviour, that it is difficult to make a distinction; and yet there are, without doubt, two distinct virtues. Perhaps the reserve we refer to may be termed the habit of the mind whence flows an outward modesty of conduct. There is a certain natural reserve of temper which is not particularly connected with any feminine grace, but possessed indiscriminately by men and women, showing itself in great shyness and distance, particularly to strangers, and in a particular caution of word and look, even to acquaintances, which seems to imply a fear of being imposed upon by those with whom we are in company, and lest we should by any means put ourselves in their power. It is not this kind of reserve of which I now wish to speak.