

## ADVICE TO FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.

I again take up my pen in continuation of the matters on which I last talked to you. I wish to give you a few notions on the education, I think most necessary for young ladies,—the effect it should have on the character, or rather the character it should form. If I were to ask you, who of your acquaintances are well educated, you would perhaps specify some whom you consider to be perfectly so. You will say such a one is pleasant and graceful in her manners, sings, plays, and dances in the most approved and newest style,—speaks French, draws, paints, and needle-works to perfection, tells of Botany, Chemistry and Philosophy,—knows all the new fashions, beaux, and talks to them without the least bashfulness, or blushing. No doubt many of those accomplishments are pleasant and agreeable; and you will perhaps think me disposed to find fault when I tell you a woman may be possessed of them, and even more than you mention, and still, in my opinion, be entirely deficient in true and correct education.

If you enquire in what good education does consist? I answer, that it is not that course of study alone, that enables a woman to count up her accomplishments, and display them on every possible occasion; but it is that training which improves the heart as well as the mind and manners; in a word, that tends to perfection of character, moral, physical, and intellectual. An education that does less than this, is not correct education; it is oftener mis-education. Of what avail are all the accomplishments of earth; if our sex do not with them also possess those gentle and affectionate dispositions, that so much promote the happiness of those with whom they are connected. Do you think it affords much pleasure to a husband that his wife can at times, send forth notes of witching melody, while at others, when no stranger is near to listen, she can address him in the rough tones of anger and contempt? No, her music will never give happiness to his heart, it will never cause it to vibrate with pleasure or tenderness—he listens not to the song of the charmer, charm she never so wisely. Better had it been for her to tune her heart to the soft notes of constant affection, than for her voice to be skilled in the magic notes of song—sweet though they may be.

Then it is one of the most important parts of education that woman learn to govern her temper, to subdue every incorrect feeling and habit, and thus accomplish her heart, at the same time, she is improving the mind; and let me say in passing, that by cherishing amiable dispositions the countenance is also greatly beautified, and the voice made better. A soft, low voice, coming from a heart full of kindness, is a lovely thing in woman. Let me say to you, that if you have no rule over your spirit, if you cannot school it to bear patiently the ills of life, you are indeed uneducated, even though you may have passed through the whole circle of science. Cleopatra the ill-fated Queen of Egypt, early applied herself to the acquisition of knowledge, she spoke nine or ten different lan-

guages, and possessed every accomplishment in perfection; still she was far from being educated—she could not control her furious and headstrong passions—she could no more rule her spirit, than she could still the ocean's wild flood. Are you not acquainted with some whom you consider educated, who are too useless to attend to the every day duties of life, even if by so doing, they could relieve the cares of a sick or weary mother; you know some, who hate to go about and do good, who take no pleasure in helping a sick neighbour, or in alleviating the sorrows of the afflicted. If a woman's heart prompt her not to do all in her power to soothe the sufferings of her fellow-creatures, the first part of her character is uneducated—the affections are untrained, uneducated. True education, then, according to my notion, is that training which teaches us to do our duty in life. It teaches to be meek, humble, and useful—never puffs up its possessor with pride, vanity or haughtiness; but enables us to act with ability and prudence in every situation; or, in other words, leads to the formation of pure and good characters.

Before I go farther I would say, I do not wish you to think I am opposed to any of the innocent accomplishments of the day. On the contrary, I consider them calculated to refine and improve the mind. My only objection is, that they receive more attention than matters of greater importance. In many cases, in our part of the country, the fingers receive more training than the heart—the heart that should be the seat of all the noble affections of humanity. I can point out mothers who urge upon their daughters the necessity of practicing on the Piano for hours every day, while by their example they encourage them in a course of deceit and insincerity—but I digress.

There is a part of the education of girls, I think much neglected, although absolutely necessary: that they should attend to it, as agreed by most reflecting persons. It is the part that relates to household concerns. I expect you guessed I was coming there soon. Now for those of you who intend never to be married, it does not make much difference; but for all who have the least idea of being mistresses of families, it is most important you should early learn every thing you will wish to practice in after life. You know, in music, without a great deal of practice, you cannot execute with skill and judgment—there will be many false notes, jars and discords. It is just so in the every day music of life; if you do not practice these by times, you will be apt to play out of time, there will be but little melody in your chords, and you will have discords that will last through the whole piece. I know girls who ought not to marry. They are as perfectly ignorant of domestic affairs as children. Some declare they would not know how to bake corn bread; biscuit are entirely above their ken. Some of these girls go to school, study many books, are fond of costly clothing and all fashionable doings; but as to any thing useful, it is out of the question. I consider such women totally uneducated; and to those who are so unfortunate as to choose them