

gust, at which period the coasts on the Gulf are subject to heavy thunder storms, accompanied with rain, which detach the fruit from the vines, and sometimes destroy in a few hours a third or fourth of the whole crop. The prices of this article are subject to great fluctuations, produced by the quantity of the crop, which, when small, enhances the value of the fruit; while, on the other hand, in abundant seasons, the price necessarily falls—so that to the farmer it is pretty much the same whether the crop be large or small, as they regulate their prices accordingly.

## THE DAUGHTERS OF ENGLAND,

THEIR POSITION IN SOCIETY, CHARACTER, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

BY MRS. ELLIS, AUTHOR OF "THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND," &c.

There are few writers of the present day better qualified to deal with the subject discussed in this volume than Mrs. Ellis. Her former works prepared us to expect what we have found in this publication—high religious feeling, a thorough knowledge of the female heart, and a just appreciation of the scope and character of the social duties of her sex.

The present volume is the first of three. The writer proposes to divide the general inquiry into three parts, and to consider the character and situation of women under the distinct heads of daughters, wives, and mothers. This distribution of the matter is judicious. It will enable Mrs. Ellis to group and classify her illustrations with full effect, and to exhaust the matter progressively.

Agreeably to the systematic arrangement indicated in the final plan of the undertaking, the volume before us presents a complete examination of the duties, responsibilities, and prospects of girlhood. The general principle of responsibility in proportion to the talent of the individual is first clearly laid down,—and then the various questions of education, moral and intellectual, are followed up with searching acumen. The subject divides itself into a variety of separate considerations,—such as the economy of time, music, painting, poetry, taste, temper, beauty, friendship, &c. We cannot, of course, enter into any of these details,—but a glance or two at some of them will serve to show how the enquiry is conducted.

Mrs. Ellis recommends to women the acquisition of a general knowledge of the political and social state of the country in which they live. She does not advise them to become politicians, and she even recommends them not "to grow warm" in the advocacy of any particular candidate for a seat in Parliament—but she thinks that a general acquaintance with such questions as the abolition of slavery, of war, of cruelty to animals, &c. is in the highest degree desirable. Yet even upon these topics she reprehends discussion: "It is by no means necessary that we should

talk much on these subjects, even if we do understand them—but to listen attentively, and with real interest, when they are discussed by able and liberal minded men, is an easy and agreeable method of enlarging our stock of valuable knowledge; and by doing this when we are young, we shall go on with the tide of public events, so as to render ourselves intelligent companions in old age; and when the bloom of youth is gone, and even animal spirits decline, we shall have our conversation left for the entertainment and the benefit of our friends.

For my own part, I know of no interest more absorbing than that with which we listen to a venerable narrator of by-gone facts—facts which have transpired under the actual observation of the speaker, in which he took a part, or which stirred the lives and influenced the conduct of those by whom he was surrounded. When such a person has been a lover of sterling truth, and a close observer of things as they really were in early youth, his conversation is such as sages listen to, and historians make the theme of their imperishable pages."

There are many fine and eloquent passages in this volume. Thus, speaking of the advantages of drawing, the writer touches with great felicity upon that one which is least thought of, but which is, probably, the most important of all:—

"It is not the least amongst the advantages of drawing, that it induces a habit of perpetually aiming at ideal excellence; in other words, that it draws the mind away from considering the grosser qualities of matter, to the contemplation of matter as an abstract idea; that it gives a definiteness to our notions of objects in general, and enables us to describe with greater accuracy, the character and appearance of every thing we see."

Again—how grave, how noble, and how ennobling is the following:—

"Above every other feature which adorns the female character, delicacy stands the foremost within the province of good taste. Not that delicacy which is perpetually in quest of something to be ashamed of, which makes a merit of a blush, and simpers at the false construction its own ingenuity has put upon an innocent remark; this spurious kind of delicacy is as far removed from good taste, as from good feeling and good sense: but that high minded delicacy which maintains its pure and undeviating walk alike amongst women, as in the society of men; which shrinks from no necessary duty, and can speak when required, with seriousness and kindness of things at which it would be ashamed indeed to smile or to blush—that delicacy which knows how to confer a benefit without wounding the feelings of another, and which understands also how, and when, to receive one—that delicacy which can give alms without display, and advice without assumption; and which pains not the most humble or susceptible being in creation. This is that delicacy which forms so important a part of good taste,