

abasement, must be a sacrifice to some personal interest to labor for the human family ; for there is a soul-flow of love for the Divine in mankind, else how could there be any good accomplished ? And I believe this has been the feeling of those, who, from time to time, have striven to better the morals and religious interest of men and women under whatever form of evil they have been found. Seeing and feeling thus, was the cause of Illinois Yearly Meeting appointing a committee to investigate and labor as way opened. And there have been many ways opened and are still opening for a living vital investigation, and we are being aroused to the magnitude of this evil—the social depravity of the human family. I do not wish to be understood to think that we are growing worse all the time ; and yet we are forced to see that avenues of vice are on every hand, and that there are little discrepancies in many lives that are dragging down, where we should expect (from the profession) a higher, purer life. There are special lines of labor that each is called too, for our callings are different, yet by the same spirit, and by no other, is effective work done. Thus I feel called to work in this field of labor that all may come to a better understanding of life and an elevated spiritual experience. As I have been brought face to face with this evil I find its embryo existing where we would little expect it, and that many a violation of this law of right is done in high life so-called, that it is not confined to the poor and illiterate, but it is largely for want of proper home training. Some cases have come from where there has been rigid discipline and yet because of the stringent severity of what was *deemed* right there has come an extreme, and the result is a weakened perception of absolute right. Thus we see the great necessity for parents to train “know the Lord” and the operation of his spirit, and then train their children in this holy love, this sacred reverence of right, and all

will be well. There are many that say they do not need this work in their community, thinking because there has been no great violation of propriety that it would be an acknowledgment of existing evil to investigate. But I am forced to believe by their conversation and action there are but few, if any, but what ought to labor in this line. There are little underlying currents that drift into marked tendencies to this evil. A few weeks ago in E. H. Coale's Report of Blue River Quarterly, she gave some account of our joint labor in this direction. And that there may be an expressed thought on this question I will give a more extended idea of our work. Recognizing this, that there are none but what would feel they can learn and be benefited by this work. They can hold Mother's meetings and consider subjects of spiritual interest, just as deep and as holy as ever pervaded the mind under the quiet worship of our sacred profession. We will instance some of the subjects, and the conclusion arrived at, to give the reader an idea of how it is with us, and if others can give the same we will receive a benefit by the recital, as each perform their work under the same Divine instruction. At our meeting we took up this thought, “What constitutes true motherhood ?” Here we were brought face to face with the natural and spiritual forces, and it opened up a field of thought running away back until we found the truth of Mirabeau fully verified, when he was asked when he would begin to train a child, and mark his reply : “Thirty years before the child was born, by training his grandmother.” That a responsibility rests on the parents, and this was thoughtfully considered in its many bearings, though not all, for it could not in one brief meeting, but could set in motion a wave that would spread out and reach the shore of another generation. The feeling of motherhood was so touchingly brought out that a solemn prayer ascended that we might all consider this more minutely than