

Home Column.

WOMAN'S SPHERE.

"O Thou that through thy panes dost look and yearn Beyond thine own familiar scenes to roam, Thy face is set away from all—O turn! The world is in the marvellous light of Home!"

"The marvellous light of Home"—that indeed is woman's true sphere. To light up, to brighten that kingdom and all things pertaining to it; her heart to be the source of that vital fire and strength without which the father can be no true father, the brother no true brother, the sister no true sister, since all have to learn from her how to labor lovingly, how to be forgetful of self and mindful only of the welfare of others. The words of St. Clement, Pope and Martyr, are most suggestive and point out the virtues which should adorn every home: "Who is not struck with beholding your lively faith; your piety full of sweetness and modesty; your generous hospitality; the holiness which reigns within your families; the serenity and innocence of your conversations." We have set before us by our holy mother, the church, many noble examples to follow. First and dearest of all The Blessed Virgin in her humble home in Nazareth, Elizabeth in her mountain home and Margaret of Scotland surrounded by the many cares and duties of a kingdom. In our day women all seem hungering for remunerative employment and we fear, in many cases, at the cost of a thorough knowledge of that most necessary employment of all—The Knowledge of Housekeeping and Homemaking. No attainment can, by its brilliancy make up for the lack of that all important factor in the education of a woman: that which alone fits her to fill as God has willed she should, the sphere He in His all-wise Providence allotted her:—How to make the Home and Fireside possess a charm for her husband and children. The Home is the woman's domain, her kingdom, where she exercises entire control; her power over the little subjects she rules there, is absolute. They look up to her for everything. She is the example and model constantly before their eyes, whom they unconsciously observe and imitate. Then should not woman receive a most careful preparation to render her competent to thoroughly fill that sphere of wife and mother. To instruct woman is to instruct man, to elevate her character is to raise his own, to enlarge her mental freedom is to extend and secure that of the whole community. "Educate the boy, you have an intelligent man. Educate the girl and you have an intelligent family." For nations are but the outcomes of Homes, and peoples of mothers. While it is certain that the character of a nation will be elevated by the enlightenment and refinement of woman it is much more than doubtful whether any advantage is to be derived from her entering into competition with man in the rough work of business and politics—women can no more do men's work in the world, than men can do women's, and whenever woman has been withdrawn from her home and family to enter upon other work, the result has been socially disastrous. There are of course exceptions to this—such women as Rosa Bonheur, Anna Dickenson and others. They did not choose a career, a career chose them. Such richly-endowed and gifted women are rare and to be the Queen of a happy home—loved and appreciated by a kind husband and little children, to live only for their appreciation and respect. Surely this is the grandest and truest sphere possible for women. Still I would say, teach your daughters to be self-supporting. Mothers are careful, and are cautioned to be more careful about their daughters—to raise them, so as in time, they may become good wives. How about the sons? Should not they be raised to fill, as God intended they should, the position of kind husbands. "None but the brave deserve the fair." "None but the good

and virtuous deserve the pure and womanly." Show me the son who treats his mother and sisters with respect and courtesy and to him you can entrust your daughter's future! The mother who waits upon and humors her son, neglecting to impress upon him the duties devolving upon him as a manly man, training him to take his place among Nature's noblemen, neglects an important duty of her sphere, neglects her duty to futurity. Let mothers allow no occasion to pass whereby she may show her sons their duty towards women, then we will have fewer women leaving their homes to pursue a career as the world is pleased to style it. No woman who is blessed with that greatest of all gifts from Heaven—a comfortable happy home—will willingly leave it for the plaudits of the world. There are cases where woman, through no fault of hers is deprived of home comforts and even necessities, and is forced, though much against her own inclinations, to enter into the arena, to struggle against the tide, but such occasions come, I believe, just to stir up our better self and show us what we really are capable of doing. Certainly a woman's sphere is where circumstances beyond her control have situated her, yet if she feels a constant and never-ceasing rebellion against her environments and craves a change of condition, it will certainly come. "The same fire purifies gold and consumes straw." Inherent nobility of character never asserts itself more strongly than in the hour of adversity. We may whine and complain at fate all our lives without ever accomplishing anything. But the soul that looks steadily in the face of its desire, makes no complaint, recognizes no ill fortune but demands from life the thing it craves, believes with God's blessing on its endeavor it will be given—that soul will obtain its wish as sure as the sun shines. There are no circumstances which can overthrow or circumvent the passionate resolve of a noble, earnest soul. We are only denied the thing we crave in order to test the strength of our desire. An allwise Providence directs all and grants to each soul its wish, if that soul never swerves from the intensity of desire. The reason so few of us obtain what we want is, so few of us are patient and persistent. Woman's sphere is True Womanhood.

"She most is blessed who bears what life may send In cheerfulness, not striving to contend With man's own right; to make a woman's way As free from care, as strength and loving may, For him the struggle, the fierce pain of strife; For her, the surety of a sheltered life."

—Gena Macfarlane.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

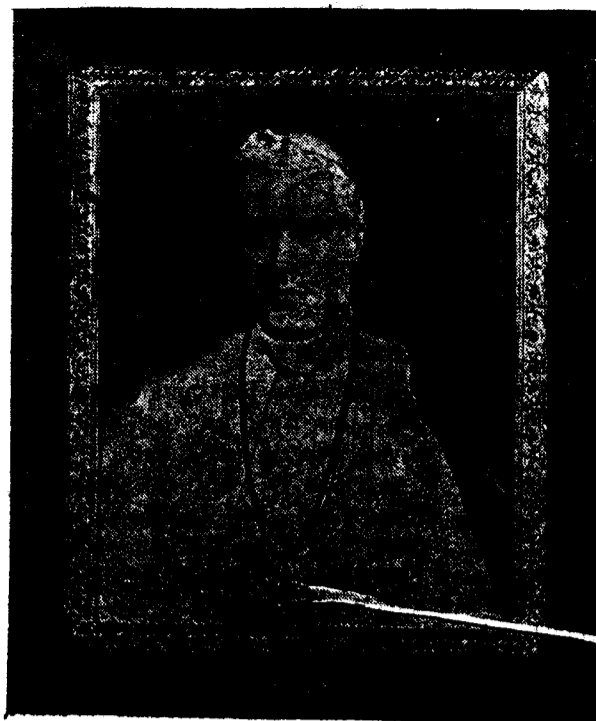
Feast, Aug. 28.

He spoke the tongues of Seraph, Saint and Sage, Nor could the syllables of any tongue Exhaust his over-wondrous heritage Of Thoughts sublime, like the high heavens, strung Eternitie's deep Silences among, And bending round their radiant centre, God; Love-lightening all the mortal ways he trod, And linking sweetness to the Truths he sung. Saint of the erring and repentant heart, Thine was the inner puissance that springs From closer converse with the Word apart: Thy lot was lofty o'er the world of things;— One of our Nature's full-ensceptred Kings, Beyond the heights of Knowledge and of Art.

W. A. Reynolds, S.J. St. Boniface College, Aug. 28.

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