

FEMALE EDUCATION.

BY MISS ——— IRISH.

We cannot well overrate the value of female education. The power of moral influences which is exerted by the female sex is not a little; and as their education is increased, so we see human happiness more and more widely disseminated. Has not her presence inspired man with courage and enterprise, and so harmonized life that severities have been lessened, and the ferocities that have disgraced the house, cottage and cabin disappeared before her benign and redeeming influence? It is a fact that is easily proved, that woman has ever had great influence over the powers of man. In the most ancient history we see this fact illustrated. Then, why not ever since, through the scenes of a period of about 6000 years?

If we mention names, we shall consider Esther in the Persian court, who delivered her people from a dismal fate; Helen, who set in motion the whole of the powers of Greece, which were excited for ten years; next, we see Cleopatra take Anthony as it were with the strongest chains, and if the battle of Actium had decided in her favor, we doubt the existence in modern history of the proverbial expression, "The Augustine Age."

We might also note the great influence that Amytis possessed, when she, like Esther of the Jews, was allowed to ask of her husband to the one-half of the kingdom; and Nebuchadnezzar, according to her wish, made Babylon to resemble a hilly country. Now what a vast amount of labor and genius must have been exerted upon this occasion, when the very earth was raised upon a series of elevated terraces. When we consider the amount of influence that has ever been exerted by woman, we are led to believe that it is of the greatest importance that the young ladies of the country should be most thoroughly educated. But the different kinds of education have played as fantastic tricks with truth as the most potent magic of fancy:

It is a very common thing to lament that the finest faculties in the world have been confined to trifles utterly unworthy of their richness and their strength. The instruction imparted to the attendants of our fashionable boarding schools we would not another advocate. It might be very good if they were going to practice what they have learned there to gain a living; but if they are going to become musicians, artists, teachers of music, painting, dancing, etc. But we observe that they must sooner or later lay aside these less important accomplishments for the more important duties of life. For instance, we see a father take the sick chamber as an example. Supposing a father lay there sick with one of the numerous ills to which the human body is subject. He has some fashionable daughters; calls on them to attend to his wants; they come, but what does it avail? One can do nothing another much less than nothing, for she moves she makes but a lds pain to the already afflicted parent. They look over their whole vocabulary of accomplishments, and get quite perplexed in not finding the necessary one there. They

could embroider him a night-cap, pocket handkerchief, or vest; could paint him with a variety of most beautiful colors, or stick him all over with pine cones or colored wafers; or if it would prove salutary to him, could festoon him from top to toe.

If the objections against the better education of woman were once happily removed many good effects would ensue; and one of the benefits that would arise from a more liberal and rational system of female education, would be the banishment of many trifling vanities and frivolous amusements, and corporal punishment would be abolished. None will deny the importance of having females properly qualified for their various and peculiar duties; and yet few are aware how much an experienced teacher may accomplish in effecting this all important object.

Woman is the first who stamps impressions on the immortal spirit that must remain forever; and what requires so much sound discretion, such devoted tenderness, such ardent love and profound wisdom?

Principles formed in childhood are ever reclaimed; how important, then, that the mother should be an exemplary woman. Precept is good, but example much better. The former is like that which is written on the sand—floods come and wash it away; but the latter is like that which is engraven on stone, which will last for ages. Think of the instruction that Moses received in his youth, or during the time he was with his mother. It had such a strong hold upon him, that he did not forget it even in the gaieties of an Egyptian court, among the wise men, in which a man of his wisdom would be likely to fancy. Also, we might notice the promise Hannibal made in his youth with respect to the Roman people. Was it not ever kept in mind by him?

Woman is also the presiding genius of the domestic circle, and who must regulate the thousand minutiae of the household, that require habits of industry, order, neatness, punctuality, and unremitting care; and it is for such a diversity of duties that she is to be trained. For this her most tender sympathies, her lively imagination and quick invention all need to be cherished and improved; while at the same time the more foreign habits of patience, calm reflection and self control should be induced and sustained. The great principles and ideas contained in history, the principles of philosophy and reasoning should not be hidden from her, that she may be able to judge the future by knowing cause and effect, past and present, and also to keep a sharp look out to the latest improvements.

Which is the strongest throne on the globe to-day? Is it not one governed by a noble, virtuous, and illustrious woman, Queen Victoria, who sways the sceptre over upwards of thirty millions of people, and are not the masses of them satisfied with her government?

We believe it is in the power of the educated female to lay broad and deep the foundation of peace, of order, of learning, and of religion. What great achievements may be aimed at and accomplished by the educated. If we have the right

kind of education, we shall be great in adversity and great in prosperity.

We should be both theoretically and practically educated. Theory without practice is of no good; and practice without theory very little; but where they are combined we see improvement. It is possible to be employed merely physically while the powers of the mind lie dormant; but what an improved state of affairs do we see when the mind becomes employed. Where system is used, how much sooner can we accomplish our feats of manual labor. Let art and science be combined, and what a difference do we observe.

Women may be considered to the child as one who plants. No noise or pomp, proclaims the planter's coming. He silently deposits the seed in the ground, and covers it quite out of sight. Nothing can seem less showy or unpromising of great results, yet there has been a great work accomplished; great, because it is in harmony with all the universe. From that moment the power of God in earth, in ocean, and in air, all unite to protect and bring forward that planted seed.

The earth rolls, the sun shines, winds blow, waters roar, vapors rise, and rains descend, all in favor of that plant. He that labors, whether for temporal or spiritual things, has the power of God above, beneath, and around him, working with him, and his work shall prosper.

DO YOU WANT A CONGREGATION?

Get a good Sunday School; and if you want the largest and best congregation in town, make your Sunday school the best in town. You cannot do this, perhaps, in three months, or in six; but you can see changes for the better even in as short a period as six months, if you will set out for it. Do you think that your ends can be secured without liberality in labor, and perhaps pecuniary liberality; not to get scholars, but in the care of those you have. A generous course of treatment with your Sunday school will verify to you, as readily as you can expect, those remarkable words; "Give, and it shall be given unto you." You will be surprised at the measure you will get, and find you were never in a more paying business.

PLEASURES OF PRODIGALITY.—It would not be a pleasant arrangement, that a man who has to be carried across from England to France should be fixed on a board so weighed that his mouth and nostrils should be on a level with the water, and thus that he should be struggling for life, and barely escaping drowning all the way. Yet hosts of people, whom no one proposes to put under restraint, do, as regards their income and expenditure, a precisely analogous thing. They deliberately weigh themselves to that degree that their heads are barely above water, and that any unforeseen emergency dips them under.—Atlantic Monthly.