

honourable subsistence. But to do so, there must be a foundation of early culture, and this of a sound and serviceable kind. Or take another picture. Imagine a woman possessing abundance of this world's goods, and free from engrossing cares. If idle and ignorant, she must either retire into an unworthy insignificance, or must expose herself to be the derision of the shrewd and clever, and the companion of fools. Perhaps, worse than this, she may be a mere leader in thoughtless gaiety, a snare and trap to the unwary, a leader of unsuspecting youth into the ways of dissipation. On the other hand, she may aspire to be a wise steward of the goods bestowed on her, a centre of influence, aid and counsel in every good work, a shelter and support to the falling and despairing, a helper and encourager of the useful and active; and she may be all this and more, in a manner which no man, however able or gifted, can fully or effectually imitate. But to secure such fruits as these, she must have sown abundantly the good seeds of mental and moral discipline in the sunny spring time of youth. Lastly, with reference to this branch of the subject, it may be maintained that liberal culture will fit a woman better even for the ordinary toils and responsibilities of household life. Even a domestic servant is of more value to her employer if sufficiently intelligent to understand the use and meaning of her work, to observe and reason about the best mode of arranging and managing it, to be thoughtful and careful with reference to the things committed to her charge. How much more does this apply to the head of the house, who in the daily provisioning and clothing of her little household army, the care of their health, comfort, occupations and amusements, the due and orderly subordination of the duties and interests of servants, children and friends, and the arrangement of the thousand difficulties and interferences that occur in these relations, has surely much need of system, tact, information and clearness of thought. We realize the demands of her position only when we consider that she has to deal with all interests from the commonest to the highest, with all classes of minds, from the youngest and most untutored to the most cultivated; and that she may be required at a moment's notice to divert her thoughts from the gravest and most serious concerns to the most trifling details, or to emerge from the practical performance of the most commonplace duties into the atmosphere of refined and cultivated society.

But it would be unfair to omit the consideration of still another aspect of this matter. Woman has surely the right to be happy as well as to be useful, and should have fully opened to her that exalted pleasure which arises from the development of the mind, from the exploration of new regions of thought, and from an enlarged acquaintance with the works and ways of God. The man who has enjoyed the gratification of exercising his mental powers in the field of scientific investigation or literary study—of gathering their flowers and gems, and of breathing their pure and bracing atmosphere, would surely not close the avenues to such high enjoyment against women.