

she has been hunted and captured like an animal. She has been bought and sold like a chattel. She has been bargained for, by the representatives of different estates, in order that her marriage might cement the two properties together. The marriage-relation, whose whole spiritual value consists in its voluntariness, has been forced upon her by father or brother or uncle or guardian for purely utilitarian ends. She has been a pawn to be moved hither and thither as the players felt was in the interest of the game. Until recent times the laws of divorce have been almost invariably in the interests of the husband. The divorce laws of the Roman Empire are a famous exception, but everywhere else custom established the right of the husband, as the owner, to dismiss his wife whenever he pleased. Even the laws of the Bible, humanitarian as they generally are, only attempt to relieve the harshness and injustice of the ancient custom. The Arab of the present time, a genuine survival from the ancient world, has only to lead his wife to the door of his tent and tell her to go and the divorce is complete.

Then, again, in the occupations and opportunities of life, woman has been confined, until recent times, within the narrowest round of labors and privileges. Among barbarians and savages she has always been a drudge. The men of our own Indian tribes considered it manly to hunt and fight, but not to work, and so the Indian's squaw became his slave, butchering the animals he had killed, making his baskets and moccasins, and carrying his burdens when he went on a journey. And not only has woman been confined to the most menial tasks, but the door of educational opportunity has been shut