

a very great deal of woman and of woman's work ; for certainly women to-day are seizing and holding positions in business, in University Classlists, in the Medical Profession, and in many other directions, which we should have thought impossible only a very few years ago.

But really, when we come to look at this matter a little more closely, there is nothing new in it ; for, while it is true, that in the old, dark and superstitious days woman was oppressed by man, and was treated, alas ! as a chattel or as a slave, yet in every age of the world's history a very large proportion of the best things, that have been done, have been attributed, and rightly attributed, to brave and able women.

For, in the Old Testament, not only is woman brought before us as the help-mate, or rather as the help meet for man, but we also have instance upon instance, in which women were raised up by God to deliver and to rule His ancient people, instances moreover in which they performed their high duties right well.

And in the New Testament, while men, and men only, were chosen by our Blessed Lord for the Sacred Ministry, and while S. Paul says in so many words: "I suffer not a woman to teach," yet we have brought before us over and over again the loving work of women, work which will compare favorably with the very best things that have ever been performed by men.

Yes ! passing by the glorious fact, that in His Wondrous Incarnation our dear Lord was born by the operation of the Holy Ghost of a lowly Virgin, we have in the New Testament brought before us at once the loving, earnest, practical work of Martha, the Sister of Lazarus, and at the same time the sweet and tender devotion of her sister Mary, who poured the whole contents of the Box of precious Ointment of Spikenard upon her Blessed Master, and so anointed Him beforehand for His Burial. We have also the won-

derful bravery of S. Mary Magdalen, who, when almost all *men* had fled, had the courage to stand firmly and fearlessly beneath the cruel Cross. And in the Acts of the Holy Apostles we have the fact, that the Infant Church was wont to assemble in the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, and also the fact, that Lydia of Thyatira, a seller of purple, exercised a lovely hospitality towards the great Apostle S. Paul ; and there are many other holy women, who are mentioned as doing much, very much, for our dear Saviour and His little band of Apostolic friends. And in every age of the History of the Church there are, as we all know, many, many instances of noble martyrdom and grand heroism, attributed to tender maidens and worthy matrons, instances which are quite equal to the very highest things, that have been recorded of the very best of men.

And here in the Canadian Church it is just the same ; for not only do we find good women helping their Clergy in all our Parishes from one end of the Dominion to the other, but we can hardly go into a Parish, which has not its Ladies' Aid or Ladies' Guild, doing much for the Parish, which would otherwise certainly remain undone, while we, in the Diocese of Quebec, have in addition our Church Helpers and our Church Society Helpers, doing all that can be done for the poorer parts of our own Diocese, and also our Diocesan Branch of the W. A. working continually for great and noble objects beyond our Diocesan limits.

And no doubt, my dear Sisters, it is best when it can be so, that there should be three distinct Societies or Associations, one working for the Parish, a second for the Diocese and a third for outside. But if this is impracticable : if *e. g.* there should be any one of our Bishops who refuses to sanction the formation of a Diocesan Branch of the W. A. within his Diocese, because he feels that it is im-