

Whether this shall be done by means of separate Universities, as at that noble institution, Vassar College, or by separate Colleges in connection with the University being provided for women, or whether, as in some of the Universities of France, Austria and Switzerland, and the several Universities in the Western States—New England is about to go and do likewise—they shall be admitted to the same class-rooms with the male students, thus effecting a great economic advantage in regard to libraries, museums, laboratories, professors—these are matters of detail. The right of women to the highest and best education the best Universities in the world can give is as undoubted and self-evident as their capacity to receive it is undeniable. Why they have been so long denied such privileges will be a matter of astonishment to future ages. If we have respect to the enjoyments which a knowledge of science and literature imparts, who will we deny women's right to share in them? Is it reasonable to deride the reasoning powers of women, and yet to deny them the highest opportunities for mental culture? It is most inconsistent to admit and affirm the intimate relations which should subsist between husband and wife, and yet to deny her the means of entering into the most intimate fellowship with him, should he be a man of culture. It is now well understood that intellectual and moral characteristics may be transmitted from parent to child, and more especially from the mother to her offspring. It is admitted on all hands that woman as a wife and as a mother should also be an educator, and yet the means of securing to her the highest culture and of enabling her to be an educator of the highest class have long been denied. I believe you will share with me the pleasure of feeling that this state of things is about to pass rapidly away, nor will you fail to distinguish between woman's rights, as set forth in my humble plea, and the ill-favored agitation which bears a kindred name.

It is a familiar experience of our pioneer farmers, who penetrate the "forests primeval," that when they have caused the murmuring pines and the hemlocks to disappear before the axe, when the fires have scorched the sward, and the genial sun and the vital air have been brought into contact with the virgin soil, then there spring up entirely new growths of trees—the birch the maple and the ash. In like manner, when the light of science, in all its wide and enchanting relations, is freely communicated to all our youth, to boys with their inquiring and inductive tendencies, to girls with their intuitive and deductive bent, and their admirable gift of tongues, what individuality, what variety, what new discoveries, and new methods of discovery may we not expect?