

ADDRESS TO PARENTS

ON

THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

The subject I have chosen upon which to offer a few remarks is one the importance of which all will admit; but before entering on it, I wish to express the feeling of humility with which I undertake the task. Yet, however incompetent one may feel to discuss so important a subject, I regard it as a duty to employ such means as may be within my reach to awaken interest in the minds of parents. I endeavor merely to indicate the road, hoping that others will pursue it further. Nothing can exceed the solicitude of most parents for the health and enjoyment of their children; I wish to suggest that moral and intellectual progress must be sought after with equal avidity, or the happiness of the child will be shipwrecked. There is scarcely a habit, a mode of thought, or a peculiar taste that we possess, that cannot be traced to early influence, and early example. A look, a careless word, an inadvertent action, may be the lever of future deeds in some observing child. Deeply penetrated, then, with a sense of the importance of this matter, and anxious to arouse a corresponding interest in the minds of parents, I submit my views for their consideration, hoping only that my remarks may lead to a few fireside discussions, a few earnest thoughts. Books, enough and to spare, have been written on education, but until we become desirous of acquiring knowledge on any particular subject, we do not seek the means. To kindle this desire in some hitherto indifferent, to solicit the sympathy and co-operation of others already convinced of its importance, is my only ambition, and I claim indulgence for an honest though imperfect effort made in behalf of what I believe is felt to be a universal want.

The "Education of Girls" is a subject that in its various aspects resembles the mustard seed in the parable, a very small thing in tender youth, but far reaching, almost unlimited, in its mature influence. It would be difficult to point out the person, whether king or peasant, professional or mercantile, educated or ignorant, who is entirely free from female influence, through mother, wife, sister, or friend. We need not go to history to learn of kingdoms governed by women; society, we know by experience and observation, bends unresistingly to their sway, and we daily see numerous examples of feminine character and feminine will playing a conspicuous part in the domestic circle. When this