

She is benevolent. "She stretcheth out her hands to the poor; yea, she reacheth out her hands to the needy."

She cares personally for the comfort of a well-managed home. "She looketh well to the way of her household."

She has a happy family life. "Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband, also, and he praiseth her."

Her piety is the crowning glory of her life. "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but the woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

The degenerate Judaism of Christ's time had swung far enough away from the Divine ideal. Its rabbis said, "He is a fool that attempts the religious instruction of a woman;" and "let the words of the law be burned rather than given to a woman."

Paul, whose utterances on this subject have been wrested by the unlearned and unstable to the destruction of thousands of souls—Paul gives an epitome of his belief in this sentence: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." When the Christian Church cuts down through gloss and prejudice to the core of the meaning of that utterance we may look for the millennium..

The retrograde Christianity of the *dark ages* shut woman out of the world of sober thought and earnest endeavour, making her a drudge, or, at her best estate, a dainty plaything, on account of whose personal charms daft wights should write wretched rhymes, or doughty knights break each other's skulls.

In the sixteenth century Francoise de Santoigne attempted to establish primary schools for girls. She was hooted in the streets of Paris, and her father called in four doctors learned in the law to sit in solemn conclave upon her terrible heresy, and decide whether or not the misguided woman was possessed with devils, prompting her unheard of and dangerous scheme of teaching girls to read!

Phidias said of his statue of Minerva, "Give it the light of the public square." In giving this question the light of the centuries we find that in no land or time in all this sorrowful world has there ever been hope or heart for women except as the religion of the Lord Jesus Christ has borne sway. Women never had and never can have a firmer, better friend than the Son of Mary. Of all systems of philosophic and religious thought none has given her the place accorded to her by *Protestant Christianity*. They who strike at the church because some of its limitations are faulty and irksome, are like the Ancient Mariner who shot the albatross. They will bring down upon themselves a doom more bitter than death, that of the abominable old sensualisms.

The Bible is woman's Magna Charta, and it is worse than suicide for her to set aside its pure, high truths.

Marriage is a Biblical institution. The home is found only in Christian lands. Without Scriptural guards a woman's life is poor and petty and pitiful enough. The woman who has sufficient moral dignity to desire to be nobly and truly herself, and enough insight to see where the danger lies, must cherish Christianity as she would her own life—nay, her own soul.—*Buds and Blossoms.*