

sible under such circumstances that bitterness should not come into that home. Its harmony would be gone; it would no longer be a place of joy and love and trust; these would certainly give place to jealousy, hatred and malice.

I am firmly convinced that one of the curses of this age is that there is not enough of home life. I think that home life is the strength of any nation. Scotchmen, whom we find in almost all parts of the world taking a front rank, owe more than most people think to the power and influence of home life. The demand for woman suffrage is a blow at this power. If I had the privilege, and wished to bring the greatest blessing possible to our people, I should choose to increase and develop the influence of the home, to endeavour to change the tendency of the times, and to encourage young people together to build homes where mutual companionship, harmony and love might prevail: such homes as would prove a greater attraction than the street parade, the saloon or the theatre: homes where character would be built which would increase right conduct and prove a shield from temptation.

WOMEN WITHOUT HOMES.

One reason urged why woman suffrage should be granted is because so many women are without homes. I know that this is true, and that the tendency in that direction is increasing, but it is largely the result of the prevailing fashion among young people to desire neither to be mistress of a home nor to work in the home of another. They choose in preference the factory, the counter of a store, and the tailor shop: anywhere to be entirely independent and to live unto themselves. I have no quarrel with them if they wish to do this, but I want to say that it is certainly not conducive to increasing morality. Intemperance is spoken of as the greatest evil, but I ask those who have observed more closely the workings of society whether or not the tendency to forsake home and home life does not lead directly to that end? I ask whether the prevailing vices of our cities and towns are not the direct outcome of forsaken homes, and do not lead directly in the way of the saloon.