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THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN AND THE POETIC SENSE.

BY T. M. MACINTYRE, PH.D., PRINCIPAL LADIES' COLLEGE BRANTFORD.

THE formation of individual character is a slow growth. The same law applies with even greater force to the development of national life. The activities of human life to-day are but outlining the characters which will be stamped on the civilization of the next generation. The advance and retrograde journey of the Israelite in the wilderness is a permanent type of the history of our race in the march of progress. The future is ever concealed from us. It is only in looking back, that we can trace the devious path we have taken and mark the influences which have urged us on. Our starting point may be definite enough; but it is possible for us to miss altogether the objective goal which we desired to reach. We may persuade ourselves that we are moving on and making progress, while we are like the recruit at drill, engaged in marking time. From the days of Bacon to the present, we have no difficulty in tracing the impetus given the acquisition of knowledge by his new method to the world of science.

Cowley says of Bacon that he was like Moses on Mount Pisgah, the first to view the Promised Land; but Taine adds, "that like Moses, he did not enter there." "He pointed out the route but did not travel it; he taught men how to discover natural laws but discovered none himself." The inductive method has been of incalculable value to the department of science. We must not, however, overestimate its value or worship the form for the substance, nor the facts for the relations they bear to our individual lives. The influence of the scientific method has been particularly active during the present century. The accumulation of facts from experiment and observation has so engrossed the attention of the age, that facts and facts alone would seem to be the desired end of existence. The logical outcome could only be pure materialism, or agnosticism. Such a method finds no place for the supernatural nor for spiritual existences, and hence no religion. A character built up of such soulless facts despises the very idea of sentiment and