

## WOMAN'S SPHERE.

How vast, how almost limitless is the sphere of influence committed to woman by her Creator! The present life is but the beginning of its course; eternity and immortality can alone reveal its full extent. Home is the centre of that sphere, the utmost verge of being its circumference. Home is the throne from whence the voice of conjugal affection and maternal love sends forth mandates that are obeyed beyond the seas. A wife, a mother! the mistress of a household! what a responsibility is hers!

Ah! she whose province is a quiet home.  
Within her hands doth hold the destiny  
Of all who draw around the festive board,  
Or pass long hours amid the atmosphere  
Which doth pervade her special realm.

Strange that the minutiae of daily domestic life, the petty cares, the numberless, ever-recurring annoyances, and even the right or wrong performance of kitchen drudgery, should have an important bearing upon the present happiness and future destiny of the immortal mind. Yet so it is, and so close and intimate is the connection between the body and mind, that a neatly spread table and simple well-cooked food give a sense of comfort, and refine and elevate the social affections to an extent which is not perhaps sufficiently appreciated by those who despise domestic drudgery.

While it is true that a woman, however well educated and intelligent, who is not equally well versed in practical housekeeping, loses in a measure her own self-respect, and in some degree her influence for good over her husband and children, it is also equally certain that no woman should be exclusively devoted to domestic affairs. It is right, nay it is an imperative duty to devote a portion of her time to mental culture, for the sake of her family, for her own sake, and for the sake of the social circle of which she forms a part.

It is generally admitted that the mothers of our great men have done more to form their character than the fathers, and we think it not too much too to add, that woman has more to do in the world's reform than man. But it must be done in the way that God has appointed. Woman rules the world now. Her empire is the affections. Endowed by her Creator with finer sensibilities, more constant in her attachment, and possessing more fortitude and perseverance than man, the power is already hers. The only reason that all abuses in society are not corrected, is because she is not aware of her great influence and still greater responsibility. Women, especially American women, need to be more thoroughly educated. Let the fine powers of mind which God has given, be so cultivated, that the mother shall be able to give to the son his first and most indelible impressions of the beauty and value of an uncorrupt government and of free institutions, and our country is for ever safe. Let her be qualified, well qualified to sustain her part in conversation with her husband and other intelligent persons, on important subjects in the presence of her children; not in a dictatorial, un lady-like manner, but in the spirit of meekness. Let the arts and sciences, the improvements of the age, and the great changes among the nations of the earth, be the themes of rational conversation in the family, and the children who believe that no being in the whole world is as good as their own mother, will demonstrate the power of that mother's influence in after life.

The sphere of woman's influence is by no means confined to the domestic circle. Here, she has exclusive control, but the whole world feels her moral power. The devotion of the heathen women, degraded and enslaved as they are, is the principal cause of the perpetuity of idolatry. So in the Christian world. How long would Popery exist, if the minds of the women who profess that faith were enlightened and

arrayed against it? In the infancy of our own country, the influence of heroic women did much to gain for us our national freedom. It was Washington's mother who made him the hero in war, as well as in peace.

And now, in these "latter days," the best Christians and philanthropists well understand, that, to give prosperity and perpetuity to any benevolent object, the sympathies and the approval of woman must be obtained. Take away her efforts and influence from our missionary enterprises and benevolent institutions, and how long would they live?

Woman's sphere is not large enough, when it embraces every unfortunate, unhappy member of the human family! Not enough for her to do, when she is a Heaven-commissioned angel of mercy to man in his miserable fallen state; and the bright star on which his fondest hopes are fixed, to which his eye instinctively turns in the glad day-spring of prosperity, and whose undimmed light in the dark night of adversity guides him sweetly to the haven of rest!

They are not true to themselves, who seek to leave their appropriate work amid "the gentle charities of life," for the bustle and turmoil of party, the publicity of the rostrum, or any of those spheres of action which would in any wise detract from the retiring loveliness of the female character.

To be lovely and gentle, does not by any means imply that fashionable, sickly sensibility which will sigh and weep over the pages of a novel, yet withhold aid and sympathy from the suffering, lest those delicate nerves be shocked. But it means a full development of all the nobler feelings of woman's nature, a shrinking from unnecessary publicity, yet an unshrinking performance of duty everywhere.

At the bedside of the sick and dying a true woman finds an appropriate place. None like her can smooth the dying pillow, none like her can soothe the agony of the soul, as in gentle tones she points to "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world."

Surely no woman, who comprehends her responsibility, would dare to fling aside these precious gifts of her Creator, and attempt to fetter the Heaven-implanted aspirations of a mind better capacitated for the employments that angels love, than for the debasing bickering of political life, or the fierce combings for wealth and power, which are more in accordance with man's rugged nature.

No! rather let man and woman each pursue the course which the All-wise has appointed, till, in the glorious consummation of all things, is seen the beautiful harmony of every arrangement, as well in the moral as in the natural world.

Then will woman's sphere be found akin to the ministry of angels, and they who, as butterflies, are sporting on the breath of adulation, and they who seek to grasp the reins of power, will alike blush, that they no better understood their Heaven-appointed mission.—*Correspondent of Independent.*

## SELECTIONS FOR CHILDREN.

## I.—THOMAS LENNOT.

Long ago there was a learned Englishman named Thomas Lennot. He was reading a book which, in his day, was little known, namely, the New Testament. When he came to the "Sermon on the Mount," in Matthew v., and vi., and vii., he was amazed, finding our Lord there enjoining duties which flesh and blood think strange, and seek to avoid.

He read there, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." The simple-hearted man was like one thunderstruck, and

broke out into this exclamation, "O Jesus, either this is not thy gospel, or we are not Christians!"

Let us, as well as Thomas Lennot, read the Scriptures, and attend as we read. We find it written, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."—(Matt. x. 37.)

We read again, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."—(Luke ix. 23.) Young people, what do you say to these words? Are you Christ's, or are you not? Do you love father or mother more than him? Do you indulge yourselves, and seek to enjoy the world, and dislike to take up the cross? Then, either these are not the words of Christ, or you are not Christians.

Read again, "God loveth a cheerful giver."—(2 Cor. ix. 7.) "Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"—(1 John iii. 17.) Think of millions upon millions of unsaved souls, and think upon what you omit doing for them, though in your power, and can you help exclaiming, "O Jesus, either this is not thy gospel, or we are not Christians!"

Let Thomas Lennot's words sink deeply into your hearts.—*Free Church Children's Missionary Record.*

## II.—"SET ON FIRE OF HELL."

So spake the apostle James of an ungodly tongue. But evil words proceed from an evil heart. Surely then it must be true of such a heart, that it too "is set on fire of hell."

What a picture this presents of the unrenewed heart!

1. It tells of its likeness to Satan, the prince of Hell. Mr. Howatson once said that he knew of nothing that showed so much how like a sinner's heart is to the devil, as that, when he is tempted, he cannot tell whether the temptation is from Satan or from himself. Surely, then, these evil passions which burn in your breast, O Christless boy or girl! make you a child of the evil one, for they are "set on fire of hell."

2. It tells of the malignity of the unrenewed heart. You think of hell as of a place where wickedness is at its height. And you think rightly. Its inhabitants blaspheme God day and night. But, dear young friend, this should make you tremble, for there burns in your breast a flame of the same kind. "It is set on fire of hell."

3. It tells of the hopelessness of all the sinner's efforts to subdue his corruption. Could you, do you think, quench by your feeble arm, the flames of the bottomless pit? Oh no! So also, the fire of your sinful lusts is like that at which it is lighted—unquenchable—by you at least. Perhaps you have been thinking it would be easier by and by to turn from your sins. Ah, little do you think that sin is not a fire that ever burns out. It feeds upon itself, and thus it burns stronger day by day. "It is set on fire of hell."

4. It tells of a power that can subdue your corruption. He who lighted the flames of the burning lake has power to quench them. Had he pleased, he might have devised a way of doing so. He alone could. And so he, and he alone, is able to quench these flames in your young hearts—these evil passions which are lighted at the unquenchable fire. Oh, flee to him, then! It is vain to hope for deliverance in any other way.—*Ibid.*

## MONEYS RECEIVED UP TO FEB'Y 22.

## KNOX'S COLLEGE FUND.

Ottawa .....	£13	5	0
Galt .....	6	0	0
Galt, Female Association .....	25	0	0
Melis .....	2	0	0
Rev. W. Macalister .....	0	10	0
Knox's Church, Hamilton .....	120	9	3
Cobourg .....	22	10	0