

No one is ignorant that it was a woman who prevented the commission of that atrocious crime to which a mighty monarch was instigated by the counsels of cruel man against the people of God—that, by the noble devotion and tender mediation of the Sabine women, Tatius and Romulus were enabled to fix the foundations of that state whose growing power and splendour at length rendered her mistress of the world—that by Lucretia and Virginia the Romans, in two instances, recovered their liberty,—and that by Volumnia and Veturia they were extricated from the awful vengeance of a formidable and justly irritated warrior. Tell your insolent detractors, moreover, that the women of Sparta trained the heroes of Thermopylæ and Plateæ; and to the women alone of modern Greece we must ascribe the revival of ancient heroism on that favourite and classic soil, while the men have frequently exhibited, and indeed are still exhibiting, instances of rapacity, intrigue, and merely selfish ambition. Had the Greeks but imitated the example of their disinterested