

Ladies' Department.

A FEW WORDS TO THE WOMEN OF CANADA.

Though the following remarks are addressed to the women of Canada, we think that many things contained in the communication are equally applicable elsewhere, and commend them to our readers.

"Her husband is known in the gates when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

"She looketh well to the ware of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."—*Prov. 31, xxiii.-xxvii.*

THE education of the young females in a colony is a matter of great importance to its prosperity, more, too, perhaps, than it may at first appear to us; but on reflection, the thinking mind will perceive that the future greatness of the new country will be materially affected by the character of those who are destined to be the wives and mothers of its colonists. If our daughters are brought up to follow a life of mere vanity and frivolity now, can they assist in bringing up energetic, industrious and virtuous sons?

If the tree be weak, so also will be the branches, and the fruit that springs from them corrupt and insipid.

It was one of the glories of the matrons of ancient Rome to be the mothers of great and good citizens. To merit this honor they also must have labored to train up their sons to be brave, useful and honorable men. Had the daughters of Rome given their minds only to idle vanity, where would have been the line of heroes, lawgivers or statesmen who have astonished the world by their prowess, and enlightened barbarous nations by the blessings of useful knowledge bestowed upon them in the arts and manufactures, left as a lasting legacy by the conquerors to the conquered? Why should not the daughters of Canada emulate the matrons of old Rome? Have they not also the great and glorious privilege of being the nurses of a nation which may in the course of time, and that at not a distant period, equal or surpass any upon the face of the globe?

Wives and mothers, and you, young daughters of Canada, the elements of a growing country's prosperity are in your hands. Your examples, your teaching and moral training may make us a great, and good, and noble-minded people—the pride and glory of all lands. But will it be so?

We have often heard strangers make the remark, that the young women brought up in Canada, with excellent natural talents, are, nevertheless, more frivolous in mind and manner than those of Britain, or

in the other States of America. The justice of last part of the remark, I am incompetent to depend upon, my acquaintance with the young females of United States being very limited.

We hear continually young men who have emigrated from the old country object to taking wives from among the Canadians. They want cheerful sensible partners, who are able and willing to take an active part in their houses, to guide and assist, if necessary, not as a slave and mere drudge, but as a mistress, kindly, cheerfully and with that moral dignity which commands at once respect, and inspires affection from a household.

Mothers err greatly in imagining that to make their daughters accomplished (and this they think can only be done by sending them to school in one of the larger towns) they are making them ladies, and raising them in the scale of society. This is a great error: the superficial acquirement of a little music, dancing, (as taught,) drawing, and the various sorts of embroidery in wool or cotton, is not to be accomplished. Still further off is the grace of mind, and manners, and feeling, which alone constitute a real gentlewoman. A sensible, graceful young woman will adorn any station in life, even if she possess not one single accomplishment (commonly so called). Such an one, though she may be plain in person, will be sought out as a companion for life, by men who will choose her in preference to the giddy, vain, noisy girl, whose only attraction consists in a pretty face and a display of accomplishments imperfectly acquired, and which, having been learned merely as a task, are discontinued in a few years, because really distasteful.

There are natural gifts which should be cultivated, and which are sources of pleasure to the possessor as well as their friends. Among these may be ranked first, the possession of a musical voice and correct ear, which, even unassisted, will yet be a source of enjoyment; nor would we shut our young Canadians out from any rational and intellectual sources of amusement for which they have a natural taste. We only object to those things being made the sole occupation of early life to the exclusion of higher duties, and all the necessary and useful employments which are essentially requisite in her future station of life, whether she be destined to play her part as the wife of the agriculturist, the mechanic, or the merchant.

To fit our younger females for a life of usefulness it is highly essential that the early part of their education should be devoted exclusively to acquiring the plain elements of reading, writing, ciphering and