

either to the importance of the subject or to the flattering confidence which has placed me in this chair. My success must in a great measure depend upon the patience and persistence of

the students themselves whose studies it may be my fortune to direct. Excellence in anything is not easily attainable, least of all in classical scholarship.

THE TRAINING OF GIRLS.

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"That our sons may grow up as the young plants, and that our daughters may be as the polished corners of the temple."—Ps. cxliv.

THE inspired writer in this verse seems to me to have indicated clearly a radical difference in the destinies of the two sexes. Man is supposed by him to stand in the open air, exposed to every change of time and circumstance. As the tree grows strong in the sunshine, drinks in the dew, builds up its sturdy stem and fortifies its spreading branches to withstand the storms of summer and to endure the frosts and cold of winter, so man from his earliest years shows his natural delight in exertion, in struggle, in conquest over outward things—animals, his playfellows, all that his tiny hand can grasp, his active feet chase. But woman, says the psalmist, is to be "as the polished corners of the temple." A wonderfully strong image to those who appreciate the place the temple held in the mind of a devout son of Israel.

The Temple! the heart, the innermost core of all his religious and patriotic love!—that place which was the symbol of his nation's alliance with Jehovah, his pride, his resort in joy or in sorrow. And woman is to be as the polished corners thereof—the corners, that on which the solidity of the whole building depends. They

are to be the clasp and bond to fasten the social edifice, sheltered, fitly finished, polished for beauty and for glory, not their own, but for that of the great structure they complete.

Now, how are we in this nineteenth century to train our girls to reach this ideal—strong to support, quiet to endure, fair and polished, to beautify the corners, where destiny has placed them—each to fit best those circumstances in which she finds herself, and over which generally she has so little control? How fit her, with her more feeble frame, her higher-strung nerves, her quicker sensibilities, to be a strength and help to all those around, not a burden?—to make her presence felt as a refuge, a very present help in trouble, a constant pleasure then and always?

To begin at the beginning and secure health. I think that our habits of family and social life militate against the constitution of our young people generally. They are both too much and too little with their elders. From morning till night they are about—at meals, everywhere. This is bad in many ways. For instance, the food, care in regulating which is necessary to every growing animal. Coming to table with their elders, the children soon learn to want all they see before them; the parents have not the strength of mind to refuse, and the