

through their daily life. Those countries shine brightest where women are permitted to be their own true selves; and what other religious sect encourages this equality of sex more graciously than our own Society of Friends?

While myself holding that the most congenial place for the average woman is within the precincts of a happy and well ordered home, yet, we must not be unmindful of the rather changed conditions of modern life. This money-loving age, that is so ambitious for an affluence that will maintain a luxury and a display of living unknown to any of our ancestors, must needs defer the young man's settling at once into a home of his own, if indeed he does not prefer to have bachelor apartments unhampered by the usual concomitants.

This state of affairs placed the other half of creation upon their own defense, and, rather than cast their future prospects in an unequal union, unappreciated and devoid of a mutual affection, they display the nobility of feminine selfhood, by seeking a self-sustaining, self-reliant existence of their own, if Providence so wills it.

Not all women prefer to become wives and mothers. There are women of spirit and energy who "are already wedded, not to men, but to their life calling." Who desires to criticise the places so well filled by Frances E. Willard, Dr. Anna Shaw, or the late Louisa M. Alcott?

That "girls at present chiefly take the places of young men in stores and offices," need not be without some benefits to those same young men. Well developed, healthful young men should scarcely seek the enervating indoor occupations, for the average man is better off out doors every day.

Some Indiana and Illinois Friends will bear me out when I say that a worse state of affairs than improved machinery, and yet more galling to bear up under, is the relentless landlordism of foreign capital, with its blighting hand over huge blocks of land, that else would be divided up for

the benefit of many smaller owners if the Government did its duty.

"No woman is ever compelled to be idle." Not infrequently a family of daughters has to be supported by a father of limited income, and that, notwithstanding "the harvest truly is great and the laborers are few," still the charitable works of the daughters, however commendable, do not lighten the care and anxiety of the parents.

Shall these parents cause their daughters to harass the very lives of the eligible ministers and doctors until they must needs find relief in accepting one of these even though he may not as yet have an income "sufficient for two?"

Has there not been quite enough of this thing, together with the wholesale story reading of a variety that in imagination leads our girls up to the altar and afterwards leave them, in innocence or ignorance, to struggle along and gain, by sad experience, much that should have better been taught before.

Would it not be better to *prepare* them for the responsibilities and duties of life than to hasten them out of the family nest?

As to the tramp element, if I remember rightly, the people of the United States knew nothing of it until at the close of the late civil war, two great armies were disbanded, many of them having formed dissolute habits and lost all aptitude for regular work—only one instance of military evil. But did anyone ever reason why women alone will not condescend to "tramp?" and this is pertinent to ask right in this connection.

I cannot but believe that the Creator has as wise and beneficent designs in regards our common humanity as elsewhere. Chas. Sumner once said, "In the universe of God there are no accidents." So it is by no accident or "happen so" that our daughters are developing into a higher type of womanhood, and it needs be none the less lonely and loving, when fit opportuni-