

society. Sentiments of honor, generosity, integrity, benevolence, and truth may all be cherished at a very early age; whilst meanness, selfishness, dishonesty, unkindness and falsehood may be as early and effectually restrained.

So fully am I convinced of the paramount importance of a minute and anxious attention to the very dawns of reason and of passion, that I am convinced, if we knew the early history of the eminent men who have most adorned and benefited the world, we might trace back the stream of their usefulness and their fame to the nursery — to the pure fountain of maternal prudence and affection. I trust I shall not be accused of degrading either my character or my office, by the meanness of flattery, when I declare my firm persuasion, that in all the social, friendly, and most estimable relations of life, in everything that tends to sweeten the cup of mortality, the influence of woman is inconceivably superior to that of man. But it is in the earliest and most important years of existence that her influence is of unspeakable consequence. The first dawning of reason, the first stirring of passion, the first line of character, are marked by her eye. Her familiarity and affection remove all restraint, and she can distinctly perceive the very inmost workings of the heart and mind. “From earliest dawn till latest eve,” her eye follows the beloved object of her hopes and fears; so that she enjoys constant opportunities of checking every symptom of folly, encouraging every appearance of virtue, and deducing lessons of improvement from every occurrence, and from every surrounding object. On the contrary, man, engaged in the turmoil of business, the cares of a profession, or any of the thousand harassing avocations of the world, returns home, rather to