

table; on his death doomed to the funeral pile, or to contempt that made life a burden. In such a condition she had been the household drudge, or the mere object of passion. She has ministered to the gratification of man's indolence or appetite, but has not been his companion or counsellor. In barbarous countries, a public slave; in civilized ones a private mistress. Sometimes worshipped as a Goddess, then fondled as a toy, then punished as a victim."

Exceptions may be made in favor of Greece, and Rome, and Egypt, where, in some centuries, and among some classes, woman's position rose higher; but it was not because her inherent God-given right to be so treated was recognized; but rather because of her connection with religion by means of the arts, or that she might develop a splendid offspring, which Lysurgus says "could not be expected of mothers brought up as slaves." Such is the picture of the past which history affords, not even wholly excepting the land where Judaism prevailed, and such is the picture of to-day, in those nations where Christianity is not acknowledged.

To what then do we owe our different positions, our place beside our husbands, our seat at the head of the table, our educational advantages, our social liberty, our freedom from every fetter, and almost every restraint; our happy homes, and with these and proportioned to these — our unbounded influence?

We owe it all to Christ, who, born of a woman, restored her to her long lost place, accepted her worship, honored her character, breathed on her His sweetest benedictions, opened to her the widest gates of His mercy, and commissioned her the first gospel messenger of His achieved Salvation, when He rose from the grave. And everywhere that the gospel has been received, woman has risen, until one sits to-day a throned Monarch over an Empire that circles the globe.

Just as our Beloved Queen yields her extended influence by the power of Christianity, so do we, raised by the same power, sit as queens in our social and domestic realms, and exercise a far, far wider range of influence than our sisters in unchristianized lands.

What women in China, where their immortality is denied, have ever risen to fame? or who among the Mohammedans where the cash value of a wife is from 1 to 100 dollars; or among the Hindoos, who are banished from public view; or the Japanese, who can be divorced upon the slightest pretext; or our own American Indians, carrying their husband's gun and axe, have left their names inscribed on the pages of history, as benefactresses of their race? or promoters of any benevolent or philanthropic enterprise?

None. Sin and ignorance have made them virtually slaves, and curtailed their influence within the narrowest limits; while ours is un-