

Unexpectedly and unsought this honor has come to me. My own Alma Mater the Pittsburg Female College was the first to honor me with a like call several years ago. And as I recall the audience, the conservative divines of different churches in that grand old Calvinistic city, who honored me with their presence and cordial attention to my theses, I may presume that Cincinnatians are equally liberal and equally anxious to discuss the important problem of the century – the basis of human Progress. In this inquiry we are limited to facts within the range of ordinary observation.

At sea, the human eye being six feet above the water's surface may describe a horizon of two or four miles, while the mind's eye takes in the whole round globe spinning like a top under the touch of magic.

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It is the old story of mighty emperor Lilliput reigning with great authority over his vast and universal empire of twelve miles circumference. We are so small a particle on the great throbbing ocean of humanity that we need to climb the highest acclivities of human observation to see the horizon of our own small experiences.

God has isolated us from the past and veiled us from the future as if to tempt us to aspire to heights above. The higher we climb the more we can see, but the topmost round of observation commands but a small part of the prodigious sweep of possible attainments in intellectual development with a moral aim. With one hand to grasp the Throne of God and the other disbursing the gifts of His clemency we pass the boundary line of time and charter a claim on eternity. We learn to live for the compounding of value in our own being, the building of character for eternity. This is the only eternal attribute we possess. And character is without sex before God. The trend of human events does

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More to batter down prejudice and modify public opinion than all the ceremonial conventionalism of society can withstand.

Minor among these and noteworthy – a popular lecturer setting up a pretty imaginary being in the person of "That Boy's Sister", whose individual identity was not a circumstance in itself, only an addendum to the superlative fact of that Boy's existence, an ornament on the family crest, a button hole-boquet on the young [master's] coat of arms.

Presto – There came vis-a-tergo across the Atlantic an idea from the brain of conservative old England's greatest statesman Disraeli and the scenes change [front] setting forth now the man of greatest power as that woman's brother.

Endymion is maser in nothing except by the powerful influence of his greater sister. No modern author has compassed the practical fact of woman's unseen and powerful influence like Disraeli. Whether intentional or not, as a faithful delineator of social events he sketches the actual sources of social development with a master's hand. How much of this really great

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conception was due to the influence of American events upon British thought no one may determine. It has been said that a word in England is greater than a man in Italy and a thought in American is often greater than a cabinet in Europe. No matter whether the thought is heralded from the brain of woman or man – only so the thought is sound. What does it matter in the growth and progress of Colleges for women in the world, whether the first grand conception was in the mind of Mrs. Wilbur or Mr. Wilbur to found the Wesleyan College. It is a matter of gratulation to Cincinnatians that one of them thought of it, and the Queen City of the West was made the seat of the first chartered College for women. It is further a matter of gratulation that Cincinnatians had the high honor of helping to send the grand idea booming through the world doing more for the world's uplifting than any European Cabinet-edict of the century. The law of human progress will not be violated with impunity nor observed with uncertain results. The seed corn multiplies manyfold

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For the harvest. Colleges for the higher education of women open their magnificent portals in all English speaking countries, despite the broad mouthed ridicule of such eminent divines as Dr. Morgan Dix.

By the way we would like to commend his Reverence to the study of the thirty first chapter of Proverbs. The lady who sat for her portrait before the Seer was not circumscribed in her opportunities.

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“She was the girl of the period and the woman of the twentieth century. As a girl, she must have learned all sorts of domestic work and acquired a book-education, which entitled her to the honorary degree of wisdom.

Then going into tapestry work and merchandise, furnishing her own ships and importing and exporting her own goods, she realized high success. Her real estate received her personal attention, in purchase, sale and improvement. She was generous to the poor and needy. Her tastes in dress for herself and family were elegant, and her wardrobes supplied with purple and fine linen. Her woman's sphere duties and domestic affairs were so well done that she was praised in the gates for her faithfulness – a mention at her times about as conspicuous as the newspaper mention of to-day. Her husband was honored for his fine personal appearance – no buttons missing.”

(Handwritten speech continues...)

Lord Bacon's sententious apothegm; “Cogitamus secundum naturam, loquimur secundum praecepta sed agimus secundum consuetudinem” explains Dr. Dix's position exactly. He thinks according to this selfish nature, speaks according to instructions from his church and acts according to the customs of the world. He says “We affirm - not I, we God's messengers and witnesses ordained and sworn to teach the faith of the Church, affirm

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That fact of the distinction between women and men – a distinction original essential and everlasting.”

As if God were a respecter of the persons of men. He has failed to learn from the master, no sex in heaven. I am glad he said the faith of the Church and not the doctrine of God. (Written in between lines: They shall neither [] nor are [] marriage un[] equal to the []).

We have seen the holy ordination of high power in humble woman’s success far above that which crowns the benediction of Bishop’s hand on Dr. Dix’s head.

If angels have any fun in them they must be amused at such priestly arrogance. Right here in Cincinnati we have grand holy women who have dared and suffered more for truth and are exerting more moral and mental power for the betterment of the world today than the Pastor of Trinity in New York City. And only a fortnight since there went from our midst a sublime soul, Mrs. Ex Gov Bishop whose life was radiant with the successful ministry of true Gospel-power, Who from Cincinnati has walked more majestically up the rugged steeps of opposition to the high and useful eminence than Rachel L. Bodley at the Woman’s Medical College of Philadelphia? And what shall we say of the courageous attitude

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Of Mrs. Lucy Hays toward the most powerful social custom of the times. Heroism thy better name is Mrs. Hayes.

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“We dare not to pause to call the roll of honored statesmen, whose mothers and wives have so supplemented their lives as enabled them to scale the heights they have attained. Sufficient to say that they are fairly represented by President Garfield, whose noble mother and cultured wife held that mysterious power beneath the throne which lifts while it lightens, which ennobles while it guards the ambition of the American statesman. And from this position down, through all the varied strata of public and private business, and even in the very marts of life’s toilsome and vexatious duties, there are bright ministering spirits weaving their golden threads into the mesh and woof of all temporal wants and mental ambitions – “ministers, who show themselves approved by rightly dividing the word of truth, to each a portion in due season.” And thus the soul-avenues are kept open toward the heights above, and the shining ranks go up one by one to the desired haven of success. But frequently, alas! The bright ministering one who placed the ladders so carefully on the ascent, is left below, unhonored and unsung. Like the guardian angels of the “little ones,” themselves unseen by the world, it is enough that they do always behold the face of the Father above.”

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History proves that the mind of the Creator knows no distinction of sex in the prosecution of his plans in the building of a great humanity. Only the preparation of faculties and the acquires will attracts the divine radiance which shines as the sun for every soul turned steadily toward the throne. As well it might be argued that the natural sun delights in the cistus or ock rose, but not in the violet because the former is a masculine organization and the latter feminine. Sex is an essential accident of physical being but has no more influence over the soulical structure and destiny than the geological

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formations of the earth over the intellectual conditions of men. Is it impious to charge the Deity with imposing a disabling accident upon one half of the race whose eternal destiny is conditioned upon work done under such pall? Ambition is set in every soul as heavens own incentive to make life's purpose steady and achievement sure. Mental power, the great motor of progress is almost universal yet each individual soul must travel the same path of the sciences and the arts and of executive trial. The narrow span of life allows one person to go but a short distance but he leaves all his appliances and his successor takes them up with new skilled hands. Thus the world progresses materially and civilly. Molecular philosophy shows interspaces between the atoms, different atoms, which can hardly be said to touch. If society and the ages are compounded of individual atoms equally important in the make-up of the whole. "The single individual; says Alger, " as the column of mercury in the barometer is to the whole atmosphere. They balance each other although

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Infinitely incommensurate." The public is the atmosphere without which the forces of the individual would collapse. The individual will is usually the meter of power. The dilligent student who toils through the curriculum of her times and trains herself in a mechanism or profession adequate to subsistence will find great deeds and high duties at every turn. She who consecrates her powers to the great Father of her being with a conscientious purpose to project and defend the right and to antagonize the wrong will encounter evil but accomplish good for her own times and the ages to come.

The supreme human will schooled in the difficult science of self-control and accomplished in the diviner art of obedience to God is irresistable. It is the prophecy of glory and immortality. Without this bowing of the will before the scepter of its author the greatest learning and skill is a failure. That human will which stands dauntless before a great human need will be crowned with an office in human history. Seize the inevitable handles

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of the plow of progress presented through mists of uncertainty and follow courageously the long devious furrows, upturning here a frightful error and crushing there a bud of promise, but breathing everywhere the deep fallow, tangled, netted and meshed of wrong, and the harvest of rejoicing is sure. This is the faculty of distinction eminent for women. It is education from within ab intra and upward toward Christliness. It contrasts strikingly with what Dr. Dix is pleased to term "hardness, coarseness, boldness, and virility in us forlorn men." There is no apology for these traits in men, much less in Christian ministers. They are unchristly in men as they are in women. But the keen perception of evil is blunted in men because social customs condone their offences while the silly woman is trampled under foot. Christianity has done much for women. It needs to do more for men. Education has done much for men. It needs to do more for women. Enjoying the highest privileges, opportunities and powers, men push on their institutions of oppression, crime and degeneracy without conscience for the individual souls of men or women. In the maze of woe, they

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have created they expect woman, as a christian sister, a devoted nun to work on cheerfully in mission work and patiently, realizing that the servant is not greater than her Lord. And with radiant countenance and generous hand she goes out from the trysting with the Father down by the hedges of sin, through the highways and into the byways, bidding and guiding, wooing and winning souls to the Infinite love of Christ. While her priest is writing books about her and achieving fame, she like her divine Master, is engrossed with a ministry of word and deed. Her writing is with the pen of eloquence, her tablets the souls of humanity, her books the eternal years evolving results. Very little and insignificant to the ordinary view are these vitalized sands gathered from the ocean of humanity, but they are the soulical images of Deity – arcs of a circle whose circumference touches the empyrean of heaven. There is joy enough in this for one life, victory, renown, glory enough for one soul. And that soul may claim kindred with the Blessed Virgin whose faith cleaving the impossible let in a flood of glorious possibilities upon

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the absolute humanity of man.

It will be observed that among those engaged in the betterment of the race some have risen to eminence of character without scientific culture in the ordinary acceptation of the terms. An analysis of such characters will show that habits of industry and correct principles have been attended with careful observation which sometimes gathers more practical knowledge from the open book of nature than from scientific research. Talent to comprehend the situation culture or smoothness of temperament to pave the way of approach to the highest achievement and skill to grasp the means and appropriate them to ends that are practical and saving – these are the powerful elements of the natural built character. Add to these a resolute restraint of strong feeling – an unyielding resistance of all that would disconcert from without or unsettle from within and you have the overcoming grace which gives mastery to the soul. The social bodies of which we all constitute a part may be compared to a living organism with organs of prehension, secretion, circulation,

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But all this exclude the joy of a liberal education. There is no compensation for the lack of scientific knowledge. The basis of such knowledge as acquired in the Collegiate Curriculum, prepares the mind for research into the deeper truths and hidden laboratories of nature which are filled with treasures for every student. Besides, the knowledge of the laws of life, bestows a benediction which is both material and everlasting. The fruition of knowing how to learn not only from every book but from every object, from every law of nature, from every relation among the laws natural and supernatural is one of the highest sources of human happiness. The very fact that God has entrusted us with the key, and the mental grasp to turn it, opening the long vistas of investigation, is equivalent to His command . Woman go forward! The finest chisels for carving human character are given to us by the Creator and every stroke vibrates through eternity and reports at the Throne of God.

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(This is a continuation from Page 12, not from 12 Extra)

repair, reproduction, and nervous supervision and regulation. This organism has no objective meaning, aside from its component units and their relative influence upon similar organisms.

You take out one half the organs, or keep them, dumb and inactive, the functions of all the others must be defective. The equal opportunity for legitimate action of all the organs is a simple requirement of right, and justice to the author. In this organic or scientific sense the powers of women have never been generally employed - have never been generally trained for employment in the social organism except in its latent capacity. Therefore whatever is lacking of harmony in economical jurisprudence in social education, in Gospel ministrations, throughout our civilization is owing to the absence of equal opportunity for women to train and exercise their powers. The human electro-magnet can no more complete its circle of power without the negative pole than the battery of electric fluid with but one arm employed.

Printed note inserted on page-

“Great results are the sequences of great opportunities. If women have been wanting in great achievements, it is because men have not been helpful to afford the needed opportunities. Doubtless many men are blinded by long-established custom, and make honest admission of conscientious opposition. Lord Bacon said truly, “They only who have kept their minds open

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Printed piece continued...

“to the taking of new ideas are saved from the tyranny of customs.” We can barely excuse such people as make no pretensions to “keep their minds open.” But when we find men of modern times, and of great mental pretensions, becoming particeps criminis in the wrongs of woman, we cannot excuse, though, “Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward.”

“The tyrants are but the spawn of ignorance begotten of the mother-slaves they trample.”

Every man’s opinion on this question retroacts upon the women of his own household. When Dr. Clark goes into a rhapsody over the Syrian girls in a Turkish harem, our logical conclusion is that his mother and sisters, and even his wife, might have been better off in Turkish harems. When a public speaker, minister, or otherwise, vents his spleen in a burst of eloquent horror that public trusts and sacred places should be invaded by women, we conclude logically that his household female companions are not worthy of sacred trusts, and most probably on account of long associations with coarse, unworthy, domineering man. And it is to be regretted that the conclusion of observation corroborates the logical conclusion.

Like eyeless fish in Mammoth Cave, having lost the organ of sight from long disuse, men held in captivity under prejudice lose the faculty of discerning truth.

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The chief distinction between our republic and other liberal governments is the condition of public sentiment which may be termed heart civilization. This is a progress not involving merely polished manners or athletic culture – but an elevation of soul, a devotion of life and its energies to better things than the mere arts of comfort luxury or personal attainments – a development of civic responsibility and the holier attribute of conscience. Just what relation our political progress sustains to this manifest condition of character – growth, it is not easy to define. But one fact is patent, the action of our people is less limited than in any other country.

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Hence the attributes of true womanliness are threaded through all the meshes of social and civil, beneficial institutions. It must be conceded that our national distinction includes not only the characteristics but the character of woman.

Away in the background, unauthorized and unrecognized, this conscience power is operating in the make-up of results vast as the nation's destiny. All along the history of our country the women are exercising a power which rules destinies higher than diplomacies and cabinets and executive chairs – a power which is intrinsic, intuitional, moral, and alert. Woman's power of veto says Dr. Whedon "is acknowledged in the domestic social and marital relations. From her absolute no, there is no appeal though millions are at stake."

This is the secret medium of moral force making for human progress. The patriotic woman devoted to heroic virtue is the fountain source of men's valorous devotion to country. The conscientious mother – rule is the royal remedy for the ills of

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Government. And Since woman is the best production of the state, every pains should be taken to conserve her character value in every generic and kingly sense. To this end she should have the largest opportunity and ample time to prepare for life's great responsibilities. Usually girls are hurried through education so called, to marriage at twenty – if a possible suitor of possible character is available. There are three great principals of character growth attrition of mind opportunity and responsibility.

Printed piece inserted:

These all being withheld from the mass of women in a greater or less degree, human growth is by so much impeded – the race by so much deteriorated. There being substantially but one great opportunity for women – marriage – its sacred office has become greatly corrupted. Girls hurry into marriage lest the opportunity pass forever, and life should be a failure.

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As violated law brings it own punishment as the neglect, the malappropriation or the desecration of the ennobling forces of women result in disaster and the law of heredity in agnornance hangs upon the race with the weight of a universe.

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There never was a period n the nation's history which so urgently demanded the co-operation of women. The very earth seems yawning with the mighty roots of material growth, and the National Government trembles in the throes of majestic human growth, while the public heart leaps up for some diviner embodiment or personation of reforming power, some world-building truth, some character-moulding environment, some soul-empowering energy, around which to rally the wasting vital resources of the nation.

17 Handwritten...

A new spirit the incarnate witness of what mankind was intended to be is coming from somewhere into man, tiding up the higher levels of truth. Some are prepared logically, some ethically and some practically to accept the command of God, "Let them have dominion over all things."

Printed piece inserted:

The fountains of this high truth are opening through the hearts of thousands of women, like secret sources of lofty aspirations and renewed life, pouring fresh and free and into the common reservoirs of society. The enlargement of thought and feeling makes way for purer liberty. The old hardness of superstition, and bitterness of persecution, and coldness of indifference yields to the touch of woman, and classes that stood asunder in antagonisms reach out hands to-day in personal friendship – milder but more potent types of character.

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Woman's nature is more intense than man's being possessed of greater vital force. Her love of Justice may not be deeper but her sense of its demand is keener and this gives purpose to the attribute. A woman's loyalty may not be so well defined but it is deep-seated and elemental in her being, not to be uprooted by petty assailants. A woman's prowess is polemic, it moves by magnetism and the following is absolute. A woman's determination is like Hannibal's - every barrier must be surmounted. A woman's sagacity is Ciceronian, if defeated she retreats with commanding pageantry. A woman's will is like Caesar's, the inspired autocrat of the

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situation. But when a woman presses into the thoroughfare of active life for honorable subsistence and usefulness in the world, shoals of people rush into her plane and demand a toll from her deepest treasury of faith and sincerity. This is criminally unjust. But if her resistance is supreme, her fortune is made in right. - bedewed with many a tear crystalized now into jewels for her crowning. Oh the withering, parching, blighting sin of selfishness which women encounter who have a sublime purpose equal to the gifts which God has imparted. But with instinctive prescience, she stands on the summit of the age and feels the electric currents of the eternal life coursing through her being and those petty criticisms melt under the sum of her truth like hail stones in the summer solstice. Blessed is that community or country whose dark background of sin vice and crime shows a moral basso relieve of such characters. Like the Canicola on the humid walls of Santa Maria delle grazia. They win the admiration

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and love of all hearts by the power of Christliness. The warm philanthropic movements of the times are eliminating the old pagan distinctions.

Printed piece inserted:

When men and women stand and work together, as in the Christian Commission, Educational Fields, Missionary Work, and Temperance Reform, they come to understand and learn to respect their mutual powers. Many men are being drawn away from fealty to exclusive customs, love of chivalry, banquets and revelry; and many women are being drawn away from frivolity, indolent indulgences and expensive pleasures, to the practical engagements of the times.

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These men and women are led up toward the heights of the Golden Rule. On this

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altitude, higher than Plymouth Rock and broader than Independence Declaration, classic cultured woman, domestic trained mothers, professional student girls and humble women of all

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honorable employments have moral rights which override the mere material interests of thousands.

Young ladies of Wesleyan College, you stand on the very threshold of eminent advantage, ready to step into the untrod future leaving the past with all its glory and much of its error. Be undaunted, be ready, be vigilant. Be willing to move by the new light as soon as it gilds the mountain-tops. So shall you stand abreast with the most luminous period of progress. Step by step

Printed piece inserted:

the world has advanced to the acknowledgement that woman can display more than dress-life ornament; more than etiquette-conduct; more than knowledge-wisdom; more than intellect-soul; more than culture-character; more than charity-love, full-formed powers of being loyal to God and humanity. "The sentiment of justice," in our popular forum parts the lictors of prejudices, cleaves the hurdles of conservatism, and extends the myrtle of honor at the [] Damaris, with tae Dionysius, upon the American Bema[] shouts of universal applause.

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Oh God of our being, God of love who dost inspire within us the divine conceptions of life who hast created us

Printed piece inserted:

Prime ministers over all social interests, and put into our hands the scepter of authority over all human life, help us to stand at the stadium of the nation's morality, demanding justice, demanding freedom, demanding high character, until our royal needs shall defy the laws of surveillance, and inheritance of dominant principles shall make long destinies of honor to the liberated race.

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Give us the joy of laboring as well as waiting until the prophecy of the Goddess of Liberty on our nation's pedestal is fulfilled in our country, until Gospel Liberty inspires all people with a vital blood-interest in all things human with a diviner God-image in the whole human character. And human growth shall attain the God-ideal of earth-life. And at last, crown us with the meritorious award, "She hath done what she could."

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*The printed extracts are taken from the author's book "Accident of Sex."