

## T H E S I S.

Subject, Woman's Education

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Among the many advancements in our country today stands the education of woman. We have only to look back a century or so ago in order to realize how much the world has broadened its ideas on this subject. The aim of the former period was to produce notable housewives; but the aim of today is to give us women teachers, doctors, lawyers, speakers, and writers, in short fully developed true women.

A century ago little provision was made for the education of girls. If they could read and write, and had a slight acquaintance with French and music they were called accomplished. Yet this poor little pretence of learning was considered of no importance in comparison with a knowledge of

household affairs. To be illiterate was then no special disgrace to a woman, but something like infamy rested upon her if she failed to be a good cook, seamstress, or housekeeper.

In this enlightened age we consider that the home is woman's throne and that household duties are her dearest pleasures but we think a good all round education is necessary for her to carry out her work properly and thus raise the standard for coming generations.

We now have almost as many institutions where woman may prepare herself for life as we have for men. A great field lies before the woman who wishes to make herself a leader in the world. She may be out in the world leading

and helping the weak and struggling about her.

It is little more than thirty years since the first college for women was founded in the United States. Without considering the co-educational institutions in the West and South, we already have a goodly number of colleges for women alone, well endowed and equipped, largely attended and of excellent repute for scholarship. For those who cannot leave home and attend school there reading circles so that education is within reach of all.

Woman was, at one time, so weak physically that she could not well stand a course of book learning but this has been overcome by the establishing of Gymnasiums and

schools for physical culture where she makes herself stronger and more ready for the work which awaits her

Machinery and factories have taken away the spinning, weaving and sewing which formerly kept woman busy, and now with more leisure she lifts her eyes to find a means of earning a living or trying to make herself useful in the world and it is not surprising she asks for better mental, civil and physical conditions to meet new emergencies.

These different conditions are now met at such places as Wellesley, Boston, Woman's College Baltimore, and Vassar College. All schools that will prepare women to be a true mother, teacher, and wife.

Pages would be required to do

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Owellesley justice but a few words can be said about it.

Here we find every means provided to fight against obstacles which come in the way. Their rules are few excepting those regarding punctuality and regularity. A well furnished gymnasium is under the care of a good instructor who directs the girls in choosing needed exercise. Besides this the grounds are very beautiful and inviting games always await you. The mental training of the school has always been highly praised so the school certainly trains girls for living.

The European countries in some way are ahead of the United States but along this line the countries are about equal.

Germany furnishes some very

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excellent Colleges among them being  
Warrar where a purpose for securing  
advanced education was founded.

In France there are about twenty  
five lyciums open to women, and nearly  
a hundred schools of high standard.

The Spanish universities are now  
open to women, and they are availing  
themselves of the opportunity in small  
numbers to study medicine.

All the Italian universities, seven-  
teen in number, are open to women.

Switzerland is doing much for  
woman's education and is a refuge  
for women whose own countries do not  
provide for them.

More countries are deeply interested  
in this work but it is not necessary  
to name them.

We have many notable women who

have taken a course in some of these colleges and they have done noble work. Mrs. Palmer of Wellesley, Miss Mann, Horace Mann's sister, and Miss Miner of Washington, are all famous women and have done much good work.

Dr. Vincent in one of his lectures in which he speaks of woman's education, says her this charming tribute,

"Not all women are to be wives or mothers. And yet these childless women are often the best of mothers, - mothers to other people's children, mothers to mothers who, themselves, have need of mothers. And this mother spirit in a woman, whether she be single or married, is her glory; the mother spirit which delights in home life, the care of children, in the blessed ministry of the nursery, in the



aesthetic devices by which home, from  
attic to cellar, is made a place of  
neatness and beauty, and in the  
intellectual and spiritual life of the  
parlor by which all breadth and purity  
and effectiveness are promoted. I honor  
old maids. I know one, her step was  
quiet, her voice was low and sweet  
the light of her beautiful blue eyes  
was like the light of heaven and  
the wrinkles in her face were lines  
of beauty."

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