

## T H E S I S.

Subject, How shall the American Girl  
be Educated?

Name, Paul C. Fickinger.

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The question that holds the interest among the thoughtful people of America to-day is: "How shall the American Girl be educated?" What a grand and vital question to discuss.

Shall our girls be educated in the same way their grandmothers were? No. Why should they sit in the kitchen with stiff fingers, and a crooked back, bent over knitting needles, looping stitches, when it can be done in better style, and twice as quick in the weaving machine? The American girl will see that the time is better spent, by being out in the open air, and sunshine, playing basket ball or tennis, for in repair instead of a miserable piece of knitting, she will have rosy cheeks, a clear complexion, and steady nerves. But the time is here when this ques-

tion of the Education of Girls must be answered, it will not be postponed, it will be heard.

We do not hear constant discussions of men's sphere, and men's education. Man is left alone to work out his own career, without the responsibility of the whole sex resting upon him. He is at liberty to make the laws of our country, to kill people in his medical practice, to blow up steam-boats by his carelessness, to put people asleep with his dull sermons, and to write silly things, without finding his whole sex disgraced by his shortcomings. So with this sort of individual power, and responsibility, it employs his energies, and educates him without a teacher.

People are not aware of the fact that woman's nature like man's is

self-determining, and that her destiny must be decided by her character, and powers. There one important point in the Education of Girls, will be to increase her energy, and regulate herself-discipline.

Some people object to giving girls as high an education, as is given to the boys. Should not a generous education be the birth right of every daughter of the Republic, as well as of every son?

The answer of the question, "Shall a girl receive a College Education", depends upon the character and conditions of the girl. A high education will prepare women for greater things than they would otherwise have found possible. A few hundred dollars is not much spent upon an experiment of so much moment. Four of the best years

of one's life spent in the company of noble thoughts and high ideals cannot fail to leave their impression.

To be wise, and at the same time to be womanly, is to wield a tremendous influence, which may be felt for good in the lives of generations to come.

It is not the forms of government that make men. It is the character, and the influence of their mothers <sup>and</sup> wives.

We will admit that in the Education of Girls, life is not well adapted to her needs. Some person is always trying to readjust her claims, or to map out her sphere by boundary lines, which are always drawn at every conceivable distance from the centre. Very few have arrived at the conclusion that woman's nature, like man's, is self-determining, and that her character, and her powers

must decide her destiny. Some say that it is the educated women that neglect their domestic duties, or that lack maternal affection, but why should it be so? Does she not love her home? Will her smiles cease to be less attractive when brightened by intelligence? Will her conversation lose its power when strengthened by words of wisdom?

Some think that girls should not be educated because of its injuring their health, but this is not the case if they have plenty of exercise, and a sufficient amount of sleep. They need to know that tight clothing, and twenty-four hair-pine sticks in their heads, along with the ignorance of the laws of health, is what breaks down the health of our girls, instead of hard study.

But the American girl will see

that her health is maintained, <sup>and</sup> also  
 along with her daily work, she must  
 have rest which comes through sleep, <sup>and</sup>  
 if she loses the required amount of  
 sleep, whether at a Dancing Party, or at  
 a lecture for the benefit of foreign  
 missions, she will see that "Nature will  
 avenge." "An eye for an eye, and a tooth  
 for a tooth," is her "Golden Rule," and  
 she makes no distinction between the  
 rich and the poor. Her law says, - "All  
 men are created equal." But if the  
 American girl works with a purpose,  
 success is sure to crown her efforts,  
 for an active pursuit, an earnest  
 purpose is to the mind what out-  
 door air, and exercise are to the  
 body.

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