

1845.09.04

*Women* are the last most perfect work of God. *Ladies* are the production of silkworms, milliners and dressing maids.

1846.05.08

### The Rights of Women

It is natural for one animal, to exercise, if it can, domination over another. We see this among almost all herds of animals, and even flocks of domestic fowls. The strongest and most permanently vindictive obtain, after repeated struggles, the ascendancy; and, while the florescency of strength remains, most generally retain it. The spirit of domination is not confined to the male, but extends to the female with less power, but with almost equal tenacity. Thus in a dairy of cows there is from the strongest down to the weakest, and from the most vindictive down to the least pugnacious, a place of sequence or position of yielding in a short time invariably assigned. The least observant country boy has noticed this fact, no doubt, a thousand times. Let him scatter the salt upon the flat stones in summer, or the hay upon the edge of the untrodden snow in winter, and the dominant pass from rock to rock, and from one pile of fodder to another, select what pleases them, and, in regular order the weaker have to give way. This is physical brute force, embittered or ameliorated by the good or bad disposition of the dominant animal: for even brutes have, according to their sphere of action, and each individual according to its superior nature, all the attributes of mind, and affections of the heart. What has in a state of ignorance been called *instinct*? A term merely used to satisfy a superstitious feeling, and to make an absolute and essential distinction in animalized beings, so as to give man only a soul, understanding, sense, and reason? Is reason in animals more or less superior according to the more or less perfect organization of their physical constitution? As man has

mounted up from a savage to a civilized state, no matter what his religion, customs, government, and laws, more or less equitable and perfect, have supplied the place of violence and force; and in the same proportion, have the female sex been raised from a state of servitude and dependence. In Egypt, Greece and Rome, they attained under heathenism, all the elevation in the domestic and social relationship that ever they have in christian lands. This is a fact, which none acquainted with universal history, can consistently deny. The fact is, that it is on the *degree of civilization and refinement*, and not on the virtues of any *religion*, that female privileges depend. We are prepared to argue this point with any individual, whatever be his capacity or energy of mind, or however extensive his acquisition.

We repeat, *it is on the degree of civilization and refinement to which a nation has arrived, and not on this or that superstition faith that their privileges have depended.* In fact, if the christian faith were carried out, it, of all others would the most subject the female sex to the lowest point of subjection in servile dependence on man, and Implicit obedience to what he conceives his lawful commands. The Apostle commands her "to be in subjection," "to reverence her husband," "not to speak in the churches," "to keep her head covered," as an evidence of her subjection; the marriage ceremony requires what it does not on the reverse, of the husband - that she'll "obey her husband, as her lord and master," and Wesley, the head of the Methodist church, who permits them to exhort, says that "the woman is *inferior* to the man," and "a sort of higher servant."

Among the Dutch and Swiss, and throughout Germany, the female is inured to the most sever and laborious manual labor, and yet, Switzerland is called the "cradle of the Protestant religion," and

Germany has long been one of the most free and scientific empires on earth. Where, now is the argument for Christianity so often in a bombastic inflated clerical style insisted on, as "the divine source under God, to the female of all her privileges and endeared relationships in life!" From all this will they appeal to experience? Let us then appeal to personal observation and experience, and what do they demonstrate? Why! The same demonstrable, veritable fact! She has to yield in sentiment, opinion, judgment. During the halcyon days of courtship, her judgment, taste and choice are highly commended, but no longer. No sooner is she married than the Lord Premier takes the dictatorial position, and the more ignorant his mind, the incorrect and unrefined his taste, the firmer he defends it, and with nine out of ten every vestige of anything more than servile assent, or at most, persuasive dissent is in the least degree tolerated. We all know this to be a fact. We have been in a thousand different families, sufficiently long to make all due observation. We know it to be so; and so does every man and woman of the land, worthy to take his or her stand as a person of common sense, judgment and observation. She is degraded, brow beat, cast down by a continued and resistless action on both the sentimental and intellectual parts of her constitution; educated in a childish and fantastical manner, being taught that her dancing, embroidering, drawing, and music, the delicacy of her skin, the artificial tenuity of her form, and the gracefulness of her motions, are to secure administration and law the foundation for her happiness for life and then forsooth, after being thus degraded with all the peculiar sympathies of her sex pressing upon her, she is told, "that she is inferior in mind, talent, judgment and capacity, to man," her lord and master! Does she pretend to authorship? She is merely tolerated -

subjected to the severest criticism, and has no matter how transcendent-soever be her mind, correct her taste, refined, strong and energetic her diction, finished her style and triumphant her execution, she has to spend a life in defending what she has with an almost infinite degree of firmness and perseverance, with all these difficulties species in the way, thus, dearly achieved. In mind, we affirm the female is not inferior to the males and in delicacy and correctness of taste, she transcends him. As an evidence of this we adduce the fact that female sovereigns have had more splendid reigns, comparatively speaking, that is, we mean making a few exceptions, than any monarch on earth. Who in ancient times, surpassed Semiramis? Or in modern Christians, of Sweden? The Cathrines of Russia? Elizabeth and Victorian of England? Who ever in the languages has surpassed Madam Dacier, whose translation of Homer still stands pre-eminent?

Having brought the subject of our remarks, the object of our vindication, fairly on the ground, we are now prepared to state simply, leaving the arguing the case to another article, what we conceive to be the rights and privileges of women, the female sex. And, in doing this, we shall encroach on no domestic duty or privilege founded on sexuality, reason and common sense. Let her as she has to be, remain the woman; and let her appropriate and specified duties be domestic, or to engage in any line of action in any calling which shall not interfere with their discharge.

Having made the reservation, we affirm, and affirm it boldly, and have ourselves ability, if we are female to defend our position - that females have an indefeasible and inalienable right to enjoy that mode and system of education both physical and intellectual which shall give compass, depth and solidity, both to their habit of thought and tone of feeling - that they have an inalienable and inalienable right to be equally respected in their sentiment,

judgment, opinion and taste, as the male sex - that they have an indefeasible and inalienable right to buy and sell, solicit and refuse, choose and reject, as have men. That they have an indefeasible and inalienable right in all domestic concerns to have their judgment, taste, opinion, sentiment and choice, equally and at all times, and forever, equally respected as the male sex. And that in the outgoings of friendship and affection, freedom of intercourse and unrestrainedness of expression in language and address, they are on equal ground. These five distance propositions, we are prepared to defend; and, while we have mind, talent, acquisition, ability, and a pen, we will defend them.

We shall take them up separately and successively; and make each the topic of discourse, and the subject of a separate article. We repeat, these five propositions thus limited and restricted we are prepared to defend, and while we have mind, talent, acquisition and ability, will with our tongue defend them. "Ah! With a woman's tongue?" Yes, and the sneer upon your groveling and selfish contemptibility! Who will angelize the same object in sentiment and passion, and the next moment, brutalize her in intellect, reason, judgment, and in all the grand prerogatives of high, noble and intellectual being!

We cannot conclude this article without exhorting those of our own sex, who read it, at once to embrace cordially its truth. You have been degraded long enough. You have sufficiently long been considered "the inferior" - a kind of 'upper servant,' to obey and reverence, and be in subjection to your equal, and no more than your equal! Enter, at once, upon your privileges. Cultivate a clear, strong, matter of fact way of thinking, and a natural and therefore, conclusive mode of reasoning. Look upon all your accomplishments, dancing, drawing, as only the gewgaws of a youthful day, soon to be of little or no use, what the most contemptible of

society, the most excel in, and punished, only as amusements, not as qualifications. Improvement of the mind by solid reading, such histories as Gibbon, Hume, Goldsmith, and Rollin.

Make yourselves acquainted with Chemistry, Geology, and especially those sciences, Phrenology and Electricity, which are calculated to unmask superstitious pretensions, and give you an intimate knowledge of your own nature, and of the constitution of man. Resolve that you will think, reason, judge, love, hate, approve, and disapprove, for yourselves, and at your own volition; and, not at the dictation of another. At the same time, as females and as rational beings, be wise, discreet, kind, conciliating, affectionate, benevolent, just, and virtuous. This is the line of conduct which common sense, and the eternal and immutable laws of nature, in mind and matter, distinctly prescribe, and imperiously command us undeviatingly to pursue. Doing this, you will perform your part towards extending and improving the intellectual capacity of your sex, unrestricted by brute force and clerical cunning, interest and deceit; and placing yourselves on the above ground of true enjoyment and self-respect.

- *Martha*

---

1846.04.24

A new female sect has just appeared in a part of Ohio, called "The Female Kings," who hold that the order of nature has been reversed - that the time has now arrived when the 'last half' be first; consequently that woman is the lord of creation and man her servant. They sit in judgment upon the saints; are endowed with eternal life; are proof to injury; and are under the special are of the Lord - fed, clothes and preserved by his power. - They have succeeded in making a great many converts, and the infatuated creatures have left their families and are wandering about without script, and without purse, taking no thought of the morrow, led as they think, buy the Spirit, to follow the Lamb withersoever he goeth.

---

## HOW TO TREAT A WIFE

It is not every husband who knows how to treat a wife. The following admirable lesson on the subject should be carefully read and treasured in the memory of every husband, and of everyone who contemplates assuming that relation. If rightly improved, it may serve to avert many of the troubles of life – change the clouds to sunshine, and render its whole course smooth and placid. We know not the origin of the article; but that it is a good one, an excellent one; we are quite sure.

First, get a wife. Secondly, be patient. – You may have great trials and perplexities in your business with the world; but do not, therefore, carry to your home a clouded or contradicted brow. Your wife may have had trials, which though less magnitude, may have been as hard to bear. Do not increase her difficulties. A kind, conciliating word, a tender look, will do wonders in chasing from her brow all clouds of gloom. You encounter your difficulties in the open air, fanned by heaven's cool breezes; but your wife is often shut in from these healthful influences, and her health fails, and her spirits lose their elasticity. But, oh! Hear with her; she has trials and sorrows, to which you are a stranger, but which your tenderness can deprive of all her anguish. Notice kindly her little attentions and efforts to promote your comfort. Do not take them as a matter of course, and pass them by at the same time being very sure to observe any omission of what you may consider her duty to you. Do not treat her with indifference, if you would not sear and palsy her heart, which watered by kindness, would to the latest day of your existence, throb with sincere and constant affection.

Sometimes yield your wishes to her. She has preferences as strong as you, and it may be just as trying to her yield her choice as to you. Do you find it hard to yield sometimes?

Think you not it is difficult for her to give up always?

1846.04.10

**Qualities for Wife.** – The man who can be contented to live with a pretty useful companion, without a mind, has lost in voluptuous gratifications a taste for more refined enjoyments. He has never felt the calm satisfaction that refreshes the parched heart like the silent dew of heaven, – of being beloved by one who can *understand* him. In the society of his wife he is still *alone*; unless when the man is sunk in the brute. The charm of life, says a grave philosophical reasoner, is sympathy: nothing pleases us more than to observe in others a fellow feeling with all the emotions of our own breasts.

– *Mary Wollstonecraft*

---

[FIND DATE]

*From the Philadelphia Tocsin*

## KNOWLEDGE AMONG FEMALES

Some persons suppose the Female mind incapable of comprehending abstruse science, because there are so few females who have attained eminence; but this is a great mistake. Notwithstanding they have been excluded from the advantages thrown open to the other sex, there are a few, who, by their own exertions, ascended high in the temple of science, and one whose name is inscribed on the roll of fame among those of the most profound Philosophers that ever lived; and when means of acquiring knowledge shall have been thrown open to them, we shall see as many learned Ladies as men.

The first Lady that rose to eminence was Hypatia, the daughter of Theon, the Mathematician in ancient Rome, who rose to great eminence, and became the Tutoress of some of the most learned men of her age and country.

Maria Goetena Agnesi, was actually professor of Mathematics in the University of Bologna, in 1748, and wrote the Analytical Institutes, a profound work on Algebra of great

excellence; and a treatise on Curve lines, and the Differential Calculus, the best produced in that age on these most abstruse branches of profound analysis.

“Caroline, the sister of William Herschel the great Astronomer who discovered the planet bearing his name, was the constant assistant of her brother, in this bright career of science.

A lecturer in Boston, recently stated that the best Mathematician now living in our country, is a young Lady – One of the best linguists, expert in the classics, and as eminent for her Metaphysical and Mathematical skill, is a lady in this country – As close a reasoner as we have ever met with, is a Lady now living.

– *St. Clairville Gazette*

But the prodigy of learning, who for varied attainments, in many branches, perhaps never equaled in any age or country, is Mrs. Somerville of Scotland. At the age of 15, she heard her brother demonstrate a proposition of Geometry which fired her genius; and when he returned from a tour in Europe, she had actually mastered that science, and was engaged in studying Newton's principia, which had not then been translated from the Latin, and she had to learn that language also to read it. Mrs. Somerville is now about 50 years of age – is master of every modern Scientific language besides the Latin. In the Science of Astronomy her name ranks with those of LaPlace of France and Bowditch of our own country, and her treatise on physical Astronomy is one of the best ever published. – She has several drawers filled with Diplomas from learned Societies in all parts of the world the voluntary gifts of the great and good of all enlightened countries – is an accomplished Scientific and practical Musician, a first rate Painter in Oils, a learned Chemist, and thorough Mineralogist and Botanist; and besides is the adored Mother of a numerous and happy family.

What a theme for reflection, admiration and eulogy! Let those upstarts in Science, who take pride in denouncing the female mind as inferior to their own, but have not yet learned what has been accomplished, by the gentle sex, remain forever silent, and shrink into their own native nothingness compared with this noble Lady, who stands proudly pre-eminent - a genius of unrivalled excellence the admiration of the learned world.

- H.R.S.

---

1846.05.08

**THE LADIES.** - As long as there are women on the earth, there will always be something new to say about them. The Rabbins ought to be ashamed of themselves for their scandalous libel, in saying that ten baskets of chatter were let down from heaven, and the women appropriated nine of them.