

that it is in you from the family-hearth, cultivate it, and cling to it, as to a family gem of priceless worth. Gentleness, refinement, and good behaviour are as essential to success in your vocation, as in any other, where relations are personal and private. It has been said that "one's breeding shows itself nowhere more than in his religion"; that "a man should be a gentleman in his hymns and prayers." I fear that, if this remark were tested by fact, there would be fewer gentlemen than would at first appear. But I do not hesitate to affirm that good breeding, like a pleasant smile, always attends upon a true woman, be she Nurse, or be she queen. Never forget that "nature is in earnest when she makes a woman." Perhaps you will reply; 'give us the chance, and we will show what we can do.' Ah! my friends—it is the quiet, unselfish, unwritten work of the woman-nurse, that finds no clarion-burst of fame, that must answer your inquiry. It was of just such Lord's work in this work-a-day world that Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote: "all sounds of life assumed one tone of love." Let me quote half a stanza from a most beautiful poem, on this very idea—

"If singing breath, or echoing chord,  
To every hidden pang were given,  
What endless melodies were poured,  
As sad as Earth, as sweet as Heaven."

It has occurred to you, perhaps rather forcibly, that we have been supporting our argument with negatives—Don't do this, and don't do that.

In regard to the formation of habits, let me call your attention to this caution: Don't make your moral staple wholly of negative virtues. The character that goes through the world, shunning this evil, and dodging that, as if it expected the approach of only harmful influences, comes far short of a highly developed one. Such a character must deteriorate unless it finds vent and solace in acts of sympathy and benevolence.

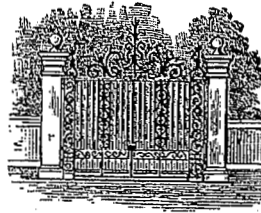
I cannot close this set of homilies without alluding to your possible futures. Some of you may become attached for a long season, perhaps for years, to a family, in which, from being Nurse you become house-keeper, purchasing agent, and companion. Don't do that, unless you are invalid, or private Nursing is distasteful. Some of you may travel—and you will be disappointed in it, and surprised at the disappointment, if you get your idea of travel from books alone. Travel makes one cosmopolitan, and lets in the big outside world to our narrow sphere of thought—but while, as travellers, you change your coin, you do not change your characters. Some of you may marry—and you might do worse—but, I hope you will find the best man without asking the town-pump the size of his rent-roll; and, in marrying, you may be following the proper bent of your affections. But, whatever may be your future, do not forget the care and solicitude of those who have been installed over your welfare here, and who, as managers of this school, have certain protective claims upon you. Remember, we shall always look upon you as trained Nurses, and shall expect that loyalty which your outfit implies. I am convinced that, as Miss Florence Nightingale said to me in 1878, there is no higher calling for the young woman of to-day than that of a trained Nurse.

Welcome! then, each and all of you, to this sentiment:

"The true Nurse in sickness—the world holds her dear—  
Love bless her, Joy crown her,—God speed her career!"

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Mrs. Stanton Blatch (daughter of the celebrated American reformer, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton), says the *Women's Signal*, recently lectured for the Fabian Society on Collectivism and the Economic Freedom of Woman. Mrs. Blatch gave some interesting statistics. She said that the recently issued census of 1891 shows that out of fifty trades in which women take part, the proportion of women to men, compared with 1881, has risen in twenty-seven, remained about the same in eleven, and fallen (mostly for special reasons) in eight only; whilst in the remaining four both men and women have decreased in number. The number of men engaged in commerce has increased by one-half; the number of women doubled. As a whole, for the ten years, population increased one-eighth, men workers increased one-seventh, and women one-fifth. Women wage-earners are thus proved to be growing in actual numbers, in proportion to men and in proportion to the whole female population. But many women are engaged in productive work who are not so classed by society. In the future, married women, who now are by law entitled to receive wages in kind from their husbands, must be recognised as producers.

The greater number of women who are paid wages earn no more than 8s. to 10s. a week. This low wage is partly due to their want of trained intelligence, which hinders them from organising effectively; partly it is due to the fact that they can live on less than men, because they have the habit of doing for themselves things which men pay for. Sometimes they have to pay men to do tool-grinding and other heavy parts of their work, and—they pay for it exorbitantly. Turning to married women, the lecturer gave some instances which showed that wage-earning wives meant lazy, ill-paid husbands, and others where the men were earning high wages, and the wives worked because they liked it. The question of the effects of factory work on the health of mothers and children is most inadequately dealt with in the Lady Commissioners' Report on Women's Labour. But this one thing is clear, that the present amount of factory inspection is grossly inadequate, and there is no reason why, ultimately, every factory should not be a cheerful, healthy place for both women and men workers. Some people regard as the problem of industrial life how to keep married women out of the factory. Collectivism will solve the problem how to keep them in.

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