

dependent for its full and proper action, upon the oil applied to its various parts. All movement, all life, implies secret springs of action; and it is woman's hand which finds out most surely, and brings into play most skilfully, those which regulate man's being. Men live for the world—women for their husbands and children—but although they keep behind the scenes, they have much of the ordering of the drama, through the actors whom they train, and their office of prompter. In Heaven's name, then, let them have freedom and the facilities which freedom gives, for the proper fulfilment of those noble duties which God has assigned to them!

They who talk about the inferiority and incompetency of women, found their arguments upon data falsely assumed, and resemble, in their mode of reasoning, those who contend that slaves were destined by the Creator for a life of bondage and drudgery, and are therefore unfit for any other.

Marriage is a partnership in which each party has equal interests, and an equal right to be consulted in regard to every plan or arrangement affecting those interests. We know that Paul says, "Wives, obey your husbands in the Lord." He says also, "Servants, obey your masters"—though all servants at that time were slaves; and "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers, for the powers that be are ordained of God;" yet no reasonable man supposes that he intended to promote the continuance of slavery, or the everlasting rule of tyrants. There is just as much reason, however, for founding, upon Paul's authority, the divine right of slaveholders and kings, as the divine right of husbands. His instructions on this, as on every other subject, had reference to the existing condition of things. Woman, having been from the beginning of the world in an extremely subordinate station, was unfitted, then, for a sudden change that should place her on a totally different footing. Our Saviour was the first great reformer who made of women his intimate friends,—and how well did they justify his confidence! It has been truly said of them that they were the last at the cross, and the first at the sepulchre. It was not altogether "afar off" that they followed him.

There is much significance, not yet

fully apprehended, in the phrase, "obey your husbands in the Lord." The light of the Gospel "is dawning more and more to the perfect day." When it first broke upon man, "great scales, as it were, fell from his eyes," and having been so long blind, they were not fitted, at once, to bear its full light, any more than the eye that has long been in darkness, can bear the full light of the sun. As his moral vision enlarges, he sees his way more clearly, and more and more of duty is continually revealed to him.

Our Saviour and his Apostles, instead of separately denouncing every evil of the times in which they lived, despotism, polygamy, &c., contented themselves with the insinuation of moral precepts at direct variance with them; and trusted to the gentle, invisible influence of the Gospel to wear them all away, as the dropping of water wears the hardest rock. Undoubtedly they looked forward to the gradual elevation of women, such as has actually taken place. It is only because the Christian religion has done its work so imperfectly as yet, that vestiges still remain in the most enlightened Christian communities, of the low estimation in which woman was held, and the subordinate rank assigned her before our Saviour's time.

It is said that there must be a supreme head of a family, else who shall decide in important cases where the parties disagree. Who decides in other partnerships where the parties disagree? Undoubtedly, disputed points are adjusted by mutual compromise, or the decision is yielded to that one of the parties who is supposed to be the best qualified by superior knowledge or natural capacity for deciding as to the particular matter in question. Thus the greatest benefit is secured that can result from the respective knowledge, dispositions, and capacities of both parties. The Creator, in endowing man and woman with a nature so different in many respects, undoubtedly had a view to the combined influence upon the race. In the education of a family, how many grievous mistakes are often made by either party pursuing a certain system of discipline and education with regard to a child, without consulting the wishes or judgment of the other. A woman, for example, generally speaking, shrinks too much, per-