

the real owner. It is worthy of remark exactly in proportion to a man's own justice and generosity in his dealings with woman is his own idea of her elevated. Solomon says; "A man in a thousand I have found, but a woman in a thousand I have not found;" and how would a man who kept a thousand wives for the sole purpose of administering to his capricious fancy, expect to find a true woman? Bad men have always the lowest opinion of women. They see God's fair work through their own base selfishness, and then impiously pronounce it not good. We are not among those who are eager to discuss the question whether woman has equal capacities with man, or to claim for her political prerogatives. We care not to have her powers enlarged; we are anxious only that she should be able to fill the noble sphere in which God has placed her, without obstruction from the abridgment of her natural rights; without other restraints than those imposed by religion, conscience, and devoted, self-sacrificing affections. We have a high idea of the duties of a wife; a high idea of the privileges and honors of a happy wife. The conjugal relation is the most perfect, the most full, the most satisfying human relation, when its duties are properly fulfilled, its right conditions properly observed on both sides. But, how much is involved in these duties! how immeasurable the responsibility implied in these conditions! It is something, and a very great and important thing, for the husband to supply the means of comfortable support to his family, and stand as their protector from outward harm; it is something important for a wife to keep a well-ordered home, and a well-appointed, well-served table for him, and to attend carefully to all his physical comforts; but this is only a small, a very small part of their mutual duty, and the least important part. Man does not live by bread alone, nor thrive by personal comfort alone. The true bread of life cannot be obtained from a domestic cook, however well-instructed or superintended. The husband and the wife should minister to each other of that which pertains to the higher, to the spiritual life. They should choose each other for companions in life's journey not merely for the convenience and pleasure of fel-

lowship. Pilgrims for another world, they should propose to themselves higher objects in such an union. They should not only bear one another's burdens; search out for each other the best paths; encourage and uphold one another in dangerous and difficult places; brace themselves together against the coming tempest, or shelter themselves, as best they may, from the storms of life beneath the banner of their mutual love stronger than death; but they must exult in one another those high and holy feelings which feed only on that which is spiritual; they must awaken in each other those earnest aspirations after excellences that lead ever towards perfection; they must reckon wisdom, justice, truth and humanity their most valuable common stock, and strive together for its perpetual increase; they must help each other to lay up treasures in heaven.

Who then shall say that woman does not contribute at least her equal share to the highest ends of marriage? It is a great mistake to suppose that the husband, as a matter of course, brings more to the wife than the wife to the husband. Woman, in her weakness, is often mightier to achieve life's most difficult duties, than man in the fulness of his strength. If he is greater in action, she far exceeds him in endurance. The Creator, after he had made man in his own image, found it not good for him to be alone. He needs other support than such as mere bone and muscle can give him; other counsels than those of his own breast; other sympathy than that to which he has no rightful, acknowledged, habitual claim. He needs, too, the approbation of one as much interested as himself in his conduct, to confirm the decisions of his own conscience; and he further needs some sweet, pleasant retirement to which he can at all times withdraw from life's busy conflict, and find refreshment, repose, and soothing, delightful companionship; where, too, when "some evil spirit troubles" him, the ready harp, played by some dear and skilful hand, may drive it speedily away.

Nothing created is sufficient to itself, and therefore God's universe presents one illimitable series of dependences, from which man, the commissioned lord of this lower sphere, is not exempt. The mightiest machinery is