

THE
INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT OF
WOMEN:

BEING A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE
IN THE WATCH TRADE IN COVENTRY, IN WHICH WOMEN
ARE NOT EMPLOYED; AND THE PEOPLE IN THE
RIBBON TRADE, IN WHICH THEY ARE
EMPLOYED.

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THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

In all departments of unskilled labour there is a tendency to a surplus, and consequently, we find the sempstress market in this country overstocked and wages lower, in proportion to what they will purchase, than they are in India or China. The governesses also, whose labour in too many instances is equally unskilled, have overstocked the market, and there is a cry for more room for women to work. This requirement, I presume, relates principally to middle-class women, as there seems at present to be no lack of employment in the skilled departments of trade and manufactures. Domestic servants are scarce and dear.

Of 3,110,376 persons employed in commerce, trade, and manufactures, according to the census of 1841, as given by Mr. M'Culloch, 681,027 were females, 483,017 of whom were 20 years of age and upwards, and 198,010 were under 20.

In 412 cotton mills in April, 1844, out of 116,281 people employed 61,098 were women, 10,721 of whom were married. Of their husbands, 5,314 worked in factories, 3,927 at other trades, and 821 had no regular employment.

In the silk factories, in 1838, there were 10,188 males and 20,494 females—more than double. No doubt all these numbers are now much increased.

According to the census of 1851, the milliners and dress-makers were 267,291.

Sempstresses and shirt makers, 73,068.

Nurses not domestic servants, 25,518.

Various teachers, principally, I presume, governesses, 40,575.

Here we have altogether a large number of women employed,

more I should have thought than could have been well spared from domestic duties ; still, most of these employments are thought to be degrading to gentlewomen, and work is wanted for this class.

It is required that every woman shall be able to get her own living ; that she shall not be obliged to sell herself, either in a degrading marriage to a man she does not love and cannot respect, or in any other still more degrading sense. It is considered that population has a natural tendency to increase fast enough without this. Mr. Bennett, of Cheapside, has lately been strongly and strenuously advocating the employment of women in the watch trade. The staple trades of Coventry are the watch trade and ribbon trade. In one,—the watch trade, women are not at present much employed ; in the other,—the ribbon trade, they are extensively employed. This furnishes an opportunity of comparing the population dependent upon each branch of industry, and of illustrating the effect of the employment of women, under such circumstances. John Stuart Mill says—“*Ceteris paribus*, those trades are by far the worst paid in which the wife and children of the artizan aid the work. The income which the habits of the class demand, and down to which they are almost sure to multiply, is made up, in those trades, by the earnings of the whole family, while in others the same income must be obtained by the labour of the man alone. It is even probable that the collective earnings will amount to a smaller sum than those of the man alone in other trades ; because the prudential restraint on marriage is unusually weak when the only consequence immediately felt is an improvement of circumstances, the joint earnings of the two going further in their domestic economy after marriage than before.” The general truth of these remarks is forcibly illustrated in the district to which we have referred. The man alone in the watch trade will earn as much as the man and woman in the ribbon trade. He is, thus, no pecuniary gainer by the work of his wife. The economical gain to the country may be about a farthing a-yard or 9d. a-piece on the widest ribbons ; which farthing a-yard, added to the wages of the weaver, would be about 7s. 6d. per week—the average earnings of the woman, and already the larger power looms lately introduced have made more than this difference.

Women and children in this district are now principally employed in factories ; and among the effects of the employment of women we have observed—The too early independence of young girls. At 14 or 15 years of age they will earn in the silk or trimming departments 8s. or 10s a-week, and if they have any cause to be dissatisfied with the conduct of their parents, they will leave them. We have known a young girl of 15, whose parents objected to her “keeping company” with a navy, leave home and take lodgings next door. Young girls also leave their parents in the country and come into the town to work, and necessarily soon fall into bad company, the atmosphere of public opinion into which they fall being generally opposed to steady conduct.

Another effect is the indiscriminate *mixing* of the sexes, which too soon rubs out all natural modesty, and the consequences to morality may be inferred. If in factories the majority were good, they would make the bad better ; but where the majority are bad, they soon make the few good as bad as themselves.

The employment of women leads to early marriages ; as Mr. Mill says, “the prudential restraint on marriage is usually weak when the only consequence immediately felt is an improvement of circumstances.” Under these conditions, there is generally no provision made : no savings, and no knowledge of what constitutes a home. The girl ordinarily has spent her surplus earnings in dress and casinos, and she has no knowledge of housekeeping, and none of the duties of maternity ; and the consequence of this, and of the practice of leaving the children to go to work, is a fearful infant mortality—the worst effect of all. There are persons who regard this early mortality as a desirable result ; but this is looking but a very little way beneath the surface, for it is not those that die with whom society has to do, but with the weakened constitutions, consequent upon this ignorance and neglect, of those that remain. It is calculated that for every death there are twenty-eight cases of sickness ; and the returns of our own Provident Dispensary during the last twenty years show 54 cases of sickness for one death. From 1837 to 1857 there have been 39,070 people who have received medical assistance at this Institution,

and 716 deaths. The average number of admissions per annum have been 390, the average number of patients per annum 1,950, and the deaths 35. The members of this Dispensary pay one penny per week, and as they have no additional charge for medicine and attendance, many of these cases are no doubt very slight, and many applications on the principle that "prevention is better than cure."

The result of this great amount of sickness is the immature and imperfect development of every organ, bodily and mental, and a predominating and diseased nervous system, which begets an incessant craving for present enjoyment and artificial stimulant—the most fruitful of all causes of intemperance and vice. How is it possible to make education, in its only true sense—the perfecting and developing of all our bodily and mental powers—bear upon such materials?

The above picture of the effects of the employment of women is perhaps common to the whole of the factory districts, and it is well that such employment is more limited than is commonly supposed. According to a table given by M'Culloch, there were employed in 1845, in the cotton, woollen, linen, and silk factories in Great Britain :—

14,441	children from	8	to	13	years.
65,544		„		13	to 18 „
141,437		above		18	„

Total, 221,422

Of these there were 120,804 females. Probably at this time there are nearly double these employed. Still, although the evils we have detailed belong principally to the factory system, I do not see how the effect mentioned by Mill, that wages should fall in those trades where the wife and children of the artizan aid the work, can be avoided, even though the work should be done at home; and the consequence of such lower earnings must be, children kept from school and wives taken from domestic duties.

The facts confirmatory of these views in the ribbon trade will be found below :—

From a careful investigation of four large factories during the space of one year, containing in all 1,272 persons, I find

119 males under 20, and 426 above that age ;

226 females ,, 20, and 501 above.

The married couples working on the ground, 83.

47 males married under 20 ;

109 females ,, ,, 20.

Total number of children of all these married persons, 1,013, of which 356 died under 6 years of age.

Under 1 year.	2	4	6
196	60	52	49
Persons who could read and write, 268 males ;			
	,,	,,	262 females.

In one factory of 279 persons those who can read and write are returned as unknown.

Wages of men average 16s. 6d. ;

,, of women ,, 9s. 6d.

In one factory where "the hands," 256 in number, were made members of the Provident Dispensary, there

Received medical advice—Males 70 ;

,, ,, ,, —Females 99.

Received pay from sick club—Males 12 ;

,, ,, ,, —Females 21.

Alive. Dead under 5.

Known number of illegitimate children, 43 31 ;

but there is no means of ascertaining the real number.

I was told that many of the most respectable-looking women refused to take upon themselves the responsibility of husbands ; not at all, however, from Malthusian principles, as I understood they had not in all cases the same objection to a family. I was told, also, that matrimony was not considered a very permanent institution, and that many *young* couples, from jealousy and other cause of quarrel, frequently separated and took up with the original causes of jealousy or others, as it suited either inclination or convenience.

But there is a bright side to this rather dark picture.

The people now principally employed in the factories used to be employed by a class called undertakers (people who took out work from the warehouse to get it made,) and as half-pay apprentices, at a third less wages than they now receive. They are so far better off, and clothe much better, and this produces a desire for increased respectability in all other things. Besides, all the most respectable hands not only strive to keep their children out of factories, but to get out themselves as soon as possible. Many have done so, and have been enabled to purchase their own houses and machinery, and these operatives are quite as respectable as the most prosperous ones in the watch trade. I have obtained a return of the condition of 40 of such bands in the employ of one firm, not selected, but taken as they came, and the result is highly satisfactory as compared with the factories, and indeed as compared with the operative class generally. It is as follows:—

40 men of the average Age of 46 Years.			
Of these 39 were Married.			
Males married at 20 and under	...	...	2
Females ditto ditto	...	...	7
Total number of Children	...	...	192
Total Deaths among the Children	...	...	66
Ditto under Five Years	...	...	50
Men unable to Read and Write	...	...	3
Women ditto	...	...	9

The children are generally well educated, apprenticed to the watchmaking, &c., and others employed at home on the loom. 25 wives assist at the loom, 1 a midwife, and others said to be employed domestically only. 12 men belong to Building, Land, and Provident Societies, 35 to Sick Clubs, and 31 own 44 looms, employ 55 persons, besides their families. 26 of these are boys employed in turning looms. The average earnings of this class, where one loom only is employed, would be 25s. a-week.

The worst feature is the employment of this boy to turn the loom. He is generally 12 years old, earns 3s. 6d. a-week, and is kept from School to perform the office literally of a turnspit. To help to remedy this amongst other evils, the Messrs. Cash have commenced building a block of houses in the country, **ultimat**. consist of 300, all the looms in which are to be

turned by steam from a large steam-engine. We have here many of the advantages of a factory, combined with individual family arrangements. On the same plan we have a Building Company projected on the principle of the Building Societies, that will, probably at no distant time, enable the working men to own both houses, steam, and machinery.

MORTALITY.

From the 1st of January to the 31st of August, 1857, there have been 709 deaths in Coventry, of which

251 were infants under	1 year old.
143 were from	1 to 5 „
70 were from	5 to 25 „
109 were from	25 to 50 „
145 were from	50 and upwards.

394 under 5 years old, 155 of which were the children of persons employed in the silk trade. The Registrar assigns prematurity, or natural weakness, and unhealthy dwellings and sites, as a great cause of this infant mortality. The medical men, when called together by the Mayor to investigate the cause, laid great stress upon the number of hours that the infants remained unfed, and they considered the hurry of the mothers on their return from the factories, and the hasty manner in which they were then fed, as very injurious to health. In connection with this infant mortality, I am told that there are about forty young women who go into the Workhouse every year to be confined, not 5 of whose infants live.

I have not been able to collect equally definite information with respect to the Watch Trade. The persons dependant upon the ribbon trade in the City and neighbouring villages are about 25,000. The watchmakers, I am told, are about 2,000 men and 3,000 apprentices. About 150 women—wives and daughters of watchmakers—are at present employed in the trade in subordinate departments; but in no case are they employed by the manufacturers at first hand, or in factories. The women thus employed must continue to increase.

The apprentices are paid 4s. 3d. per week; with overwork they make an average of 7s. per week. The average wages of the men are 25s. per week. The watchmakers generally are

provident in their habits—do not marry early, keep their wives at home, send their children to school till the age of 14, belong to Building Societies, Freehold Land Societies, and Sick Clubs, and are otherwise well conducted. The number of watchmakers who have opened accounts at the Savings' Bank from Sept. 23, 1856, to Sept. 23, 1857, are 35, with an average amount to each account of £8. 17s. 6d. The number of weavers during the same period who have opened accounts are 61, with an average amount to each account of £5. 19s. 0d. This is exclusive of married women, whose savings are entered in the names of their husbands, but the trade not specified. On the other hand, there are married men who consider that their wives ought to earn something, as others in the ribbon trade do, and because they do not, leave but a small part of their wages at home, and spend the much larger proportion upon themselves in dissipation. Then there are wild and fast young men, in receipt of high wages when at work, but who spend them in cutting a dash with horses and gigs, and attending races, &c.; and we have occasionally apprentices marrying young women who can earn 10s. a-week in the ribbon trade; but these things appear to be exceptions. In most departments of the trade at present, watchmaking can be carried on without any very expensive machinery, and consequently without very large capital or factories, and a provident workman soon becomes a master; and the tendency has been greatly to increase the number of small shops rather than the size of factories, the consequence of which has been to place the trade, until very recently, in the singular and anomalous position of masters competing for workmen, rather than the ordinary one of workmen competing for employment. Whatever effect this may have had upon the condition of the workman, it has had a bad effect upon the trade at large. There are not a tenth part of the watches made in this country that are made in Switzerland. There the subdivision of labour is very minute. But the operatives here have strenuously resisted this subdivision, and masters have hitherto been completely in the hands of their workpeople. This is a state of things that cannot last. All the parts of a watch ought to be made by machinery, and are being so made, we are told, by very superior machinery in America. This must very much cheapen the process, and *force* improvements here. Women are very extensively employed in putting watches

together in Switzerland, but it is principally at their own homes, during the winter months of the year, when they have no out-door occupation.

This question, then, of the employment of women in the watch trade is not so simple as it at first appears. The workmen are all opposed to it, because they know it means more work and less wages, and they have a sort of instinctive apprehension of the evils we have detailed. Still, watchmaking consists principally of putting the various parts of a watch together which are made, by the minute division of labour, to the hand; and what could seem a more proper occupation for a family of unmarried daughters? and what is to be done with young women between the ages of 15 and 21,—a time of all others in which occupation is most desirable? It is true it would take all this time to qualify them properly for the after-business of life; but many of them cannot afford to give this time; it would be too expensive an education for them; they have to find the means of living in the mean time. Employment at some trade at home, or in some well-conducted factory, for unmarried women and widows, would seem, then, exactly what is wanted. The evils we have mentioned are not indeed necessarily a part of such work, but no doubt belong in great part to the peculiarities of our industrial system. But then women *cannot* work at trades and manufactories without being at once absorbed into that industrial system, which takes no account of sex or woman's wants, but is sensitively and directly governed by the great and inexorable law of supply and demand. Work, however, must be found for the young between the ages of 16 and 21,—work and apprenticeship to some skilled labour; and to what extent this ought to include women, is the question to be solved.

Little time is left for the consideration of the general question; still I should like to say a word upon the subject. Much has been said of late days about the "independence of woman," and so far as the law has aided to consign woman over to man as his property, too much cannot be said about her emancipation; but in fact neither man nor woman was intended to be independent. Woman, like the ivy, is supported by the stronger trunk of the

man, and if when such support fails her she sometimes shoots up into an independent tree, she more frequently, like the ivy, crawls along the ground. Man on the other hand requires softening and refining by the woman. Bachelors and spinsters are only *half* human beings. This is rather strong language; but man is not made by a given number of legs, arms, and other parts, but by the mind, and one-half the mental faculties lie unused and undeveloped in the single man, and this observation applies with still greater force to single women. It requires, then, one man and one woman to constitute one human being; and together as much as possible, let them do the work of the world between them. Let the business of the world be equally divided, but each keep in their own department; each is highest, best, strongest, and first there. Let both take their own road, but let not these roads be competing lines. Women should have work, but not in *competition* with men. From her peculiar organization, she has her sphere; let her work be found in it. If she feed us, clothe us, bring us into the world, educate us, nurse us, and make a home what it ought to be, this is her work; and if it be done properly, surely she will have enough to do—it is at least one-half the business of life. But at present it is not done. If she will do this well, men being exonerated from taking their turn at child-bearing, she may well be released from all harder work, whether of mind or body. Let us consider each of these points. By feeding us—I don't mean earning our bread, but cooking it. Whatever it may suit transcendental young ladies to say, gastronomy is of far more importance to us than astronomy; and whatever truth may be found ultimately in astrology, the stars have less influence upon us than our daily pudding. Cooking is a science, and ought to be treated as such—as much so as chemistry. In these northern latitudes man is a perfect cannibal, and devours flesh almost raw. It has been said that if a man drinks beer he thinks beer; and whether this be true or not, we do know that different meats and drinks affect the mind as well as the body differently, and we ought to be fed according to the requirements of our systems. We change not with “the breezy call of incense breathing morn,” or “still evening” and “twilight grey,” but with our dietary and the state of our digestions, and moral conduct has more to do with eating and drinking than with principles. We have much fallen away since the days of our great grand-

mothers, who considered attention to these things among their daily duties ; but now a woman of the lower class has no knowledge to guide either her choice of food or economy in preparing it, and women of the upper consider such knowledge beneath them. There is not a single change which takes place in the preparation of our food, the *rational*: of which is understood; and cooking, the most important of all departments of science, is a series of Mrs. Kitchener's and Mrs. Glasse's old woman's tales, and the purest empiricism. Here, then, is a department of science, at present almost untrodden, open to women. I do not mean to say that they must all turn cooks, but all ought to understand the Chemistry of Food and the Science of Gastronomy and good digestion.

Again, the departments of nursing and early education belong alone to women, and I do not see how these can consist with any other employment. Probably the "Mens sana in sano corpore" depends more upon the first year's nursing than upon all the other years put together. Whatever the lowly may think who go out to work, or the high who transfer the office to asses or other wet nurses, it is an office that cannot be performed by deputy. The mother only can properly nurse her own child, and her arms alone can furnish the cradle it requires. The same may be said of the earliest years of childhood. Women know how "to rear up children," but so far only as instinct and tradition teach them, and all science were useless without such instinct; but what know they of all the "wondrous powers that lie folded up" in the little being they have brought into the world—the unfolding and developing of which depend principally upon themselves? What do women know of Physiology and Psychology, and the proper use, and therefore the abuse, of each bodily and mental faculty; of the education of the body and the education of the feelings which especially belong to their department?

It is women also that must furnish nurses for the sick. But this also ought to be a scientific profession, and it is time the race of Mrs. Gamps were only fossil specimens. Here a medical education to enable the nurse the better to aid nature and the doctor would be very useful, and some kind of medical degree might

attend it, without necessarily assuming the masculine M.D., and such qualified practitioners might perhaps better “minister to the necessities of delicate young womanhood” than the other sex. Nursing is peculiarly a woman’s element, and as much perhaps depends upon good nursing as upon the physician.

Women should clothe us, or at least their own sex and children. Women are no longer spinsters, not even the unmarried. The time was when the spinning and weaving of sheets, shirts, and broad cloth were done at home ; but now this is done by the steam-engine. A man by the aid of steam and machinery can do 200 times the work his wife formerly did ; and surely this amount of increased production ought to have enabled him to keep his wife and children without their being obliged to add to the weekly income ; and so it undoubtedly would have done if a National System had *obliged* the father to send his children to school till the time the boys should be apprenticed to skilled labour and the girls consigned to the mother’s care to be instructed in woman’s work. The wife would thus have found quite enough to do without working at a trade. But our industrial system has now absorbed both wife and children, and to retrace our steps will be very difficult, if not impossible. But if machinery now does the spinning and sewing, it was intended to release women to some higher occupation. Let them, then, spin the clothing for the mind. To the man belongs strength—to the woman delicacy of perception and sensitiveness : her spring of mind is more highly tempered, and vibrates to the slightest touch and to the music of the spheres. Her instincts may be trusted—her reason not. The most beautiful thing in creation herself, it is her place to beautify all around—to add the ideal to the real. To her, then, particularly belongs the Art of Living.

And this brings us to our lastly. The Art of Living is the most important department in life, and it is the least understood. To the strength of man belongs Production—the transforming the rough and raw material into all the world requires. To the woman belongs the ordering and administering of these things, so as to produce the greatest economy and the largest amount of enjoyment at home. If a poor man’s wife understood this, it would save him much more than he now gets by her earnings either away from home or at home. At present she does

not know how to buy food economically or to cook it, or to cut out clothes, or to nurse and attend to children's complaints, or to do anything else that shows she understands the art of living happily and economically. In the higher classes, if this were understood, it would banish at once the present expensive style of living that is the curse of English society, and all the snobbery that belongs to it; and instead of a heavy, dead, cumbrous, enervating, stifling luxury, we should have beauty and grace, and poetry and the fine arts, and whatever should bring vividly before the mind all that was best worth remembering in the past, or looking forward to in the future. When women understand the art of living, then we shall discover that all God's highest gifts are as cheap as air and water and sunshine, and she will be able to make a heaven of home upon a third of what it now requires to support our present costly conventionalism. In thus advocating the domestic employment of women, we by no means advocate their dependence upon men: what we contend for is, mutual dependence. To the women we give the highest department of all,—the Art of Living—of making life happy; and to her also will generally belong the next highest, the cultivation in man of the spiritual and the æsthetic. The man is too much occupied with the real to have time for the ideal, except through his other half—the woman.

Surely, then, there is enough for woman to do, and to earn money by, in these departments, if the work is to be well done, without making her appearance on the stock-exchange, or in the farmers' market, or in the merchants' desk, or in competing with our parsons, lawyers, or physicians. Here is half the work of the world if it were well done; but it has never been well done. Women are not educated to work well, and too many think it a degrading occupation to *work* at all, at least at any useful occupation. Miss Barbara Leigh Smith (Mrs. Bodichon), in her excellent Pamphlet on "Woman and Work," very truly says, "people are grasping after some grandiose task, something 'worthy' of their powers, when the only proof of capacity they give is to do small things badly."

But women, we are told, want work, and 6d. and 1s. a-day at shirt-making and slops is but poor pay; but all unskilled labour is badly paid, and an agricultural labourer gets little

more. Let them qualify themselves to do their own work in the way it ought to be done, and the supply, as the Economists tell us, will beget the demand.

But the law, we are also told, "has tied the hands" of one half of mankind," and condemned the larger number of women to "inactivity and frivolity." We suspect there is considerable exaggeration here; but if there are such unjust laws, they should be repealed, and women be placed before the law upon a perfect equality with men. Nature has legislated upon this subject, and so distinctly that man may save himself the trouble. A woman's proper work can be found only at home. Napoleon said long since, "That the old systems of instruction are worth nothing," and he asked what was wanting that the youths of France be well educated, and Madame Campon replied "Mothers;" but mothers have not been supplied, for where are women qualified to bring up their own children properly, and able in the other departments we have mentioned, to make a home what it ought to be? If a man's wife goes out to work, he has no home; the house is dirty, the children uncared for, there is no cookery, no comfort, and the public-house parlour is the working man's home. The factory system, and the way in which women are employed in England, make a home impossible, and with it goes every social and moral tie, and society falls to pieces. The only thing that enables a working man to rise, and the foundation therefore of all his other virtues, is providence, and it is in a home that this must have its source; it is there it first rises—that is the centre of all his thrift, around which everything accumulates. But many women, we are told, have no homes, and we are also informed (I do not know on what authority) that 43 per cent. of women in England and Wales at the age of 20 and upwards, are unmarried. This is a large number, but many of the unmarried possess peculiarities, natural or acquired, that it is undesirable to transmit to posterity. If those who have no homes would qualify themselves *professionally* to help those that have, there would be no fear that their qualifications would remain idle, be unappreciated, or badly paid. Let them improve the quality of what they have to offer and its importance will be recognized, and it will be more in demand. Still, we know that this solution of the

difficulty will not satisfy all. They want to be independent—they want to earn money as men do; and if this could be done in departments of labour peculiar to women, and confined to them, it would have an excellent effect—it would raise the value and importance of woman generally, and ensure her more respect and often better treatment. But by bringing their labour into competition with men in the already over-stocked labour market, they drag the married women and children in also. Instead of trying to introduce more women into trades and manufactures our efforts ought, I think, to be directed towards extricating those who have already got themselves involved, not only without any real increase of wages or other measurable advantage to themselves, but to their positive injury. Mrs. Bodichon says — “Apprentice 10,000 to watchmakers; train 10,000 for teachers for the young; make 10,000 good accountants; put 10,000 more to be nurses under deaconesses trained by Florence Nightingale; put some 10,000 in the electric telegraph offices all over the country; educate 1,000 lecturers for Mechanics’ Institutions; 1,000 readers to read the best books to the working people; train up 1,000 to manage working machines, sewing machines, &c. Then the distressed needlewomen would vanish; the decayed gentlewomen and broken-down governesses would no longer exist.” This is probably, altogether, very sound advice, but the making 10,000 female watchmakers brings us to the question with which we started, which a little generalised is, whether it is desirable to bring up a woman to a trade or manufacture, and we have seen that, in this country at least, this is attended with many difficulties. A trade or manufacture can only be carried on in the districts to which it particularly belongs; and a man might instruct his wife and daughters, but few mothers would like to part with their daughters at that early age, to send them apprentice to such districts. A trade then, generally, could find employment only for the women of the district, and we have seen how it affects their condition.

Mr. J. Bennett, of Cheapside, says—“No factory system is necessary for the successful manufacture of this very beautiful little machine (the watch.) The father has but to teach his own daughters, wife, and female relatives, at his own home, and then, just as their leisure suits, they can perform each her part

without necessarily interfering with the most indispensable of her domestic duties." If this were so, who could object? But, unfortunately, the daughters, wife, and female relatives, soon get involved in the great ocean of our industrial system, and, to keep their heads above water, are obliged to work, not "just as their leisure suits," but unceasingly, for it has been found impossible to say to the great waves of supply and demand, "thus far shall you go and no further." With half the work, then, that peculiarly belongs to women, from constitution and circumstances undone, and the other half badly done, I am not prepared strongly to advocate their being educated to trades, manufactures, and professions. If they want work, it appears to me, that this is not the direction in which it should be sought.

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