

W E D N E S D A Y, JULY 9, 1788.

NORTHAMPTON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM BUTLER, A FEW RODS EAST OF THE COURT-HOUSE.

On the EDUCATION of FEMALES.

THERE are two opinions in the world respecting the reading of females, and they are two extremes. The one says, that women have no business with books, and that it is enough for them to make a pudding, &c. for I will not repeat what is so commonly in the mouths of vulgar people. The other says, that the capacities of women are equal to those of men, and that they are as capable, for they ought to be taught all kinds of learning.

With respect to the first opinion, I can pass but one sentence on it; which is, that there is no reason why ladies should be kept in profound ignorance any more than men. Not to cultivate the elegant minds of females is a crime which a judicious parent would avoid and a fond parent would detest. It is a neglect for which there is no excuse from sense, reason, or religion. But as this opinion sinks more and more every day, and indeed is contradicted by the practice of most parents, it is not necessary to say any thing farther on it.

The second opinion that women have equal capacities with men, and therefore should not be denied instruction in the same sciences, is an improper one, because it is a piece of false logic. Women have the same capacities with men; many instances show it, but it by no means therefore follows, that they ought to be taught the same sciences. Nor do any of the sex desire to be chymists, natural philosophers, divines, mathematicians, or metaphysicians. Such learning is not taught, because it is not necessary, and because women are destined to fill situations in life which the pursuit of philosophy would render them incapable of. No inferiority of genius can be attributed to the ladies, but every sex has its separate offices to perform in life, and as they interfere, absurdity and misfortune will follow.

Another mistake in the above opinion, is, that because the genius and capacity of women is equal to that of men, they ought all to be taught; this is more than a simple mistake it is a very absurd one. All women are not fitted for learning, nor all men. Of men, the number that are capable of learning is very small indeed; the number of those who have rendered themselves ornamental to their age, by their works, is yet smaller, and bears no proportion to that immense mass who are born to breathe, get money, and die, unnoticed, and unknown beyond their street or square. In the case of women too, as in that of men, the education is always proportioned to the abilities of the parent; a rule which is never departed from, unless where uncommon genius bursts forth from the obscuring clouds of humble poverty, and calls for exercise. And where this happens, there will generally be found patronage sufficient to water the tender plant, to cultivate the fruitful soil.

But if I am to hazard an opinion on the reading of the ladies, I must take the liberty to say, that in general it ought to be confined to those higher studies which correct the judgment, and temper the imagination, while they improve the mind. The Belles Lettres, as it is called, including principally Poetry, may be studied by those who have time and opportunity; but the higher species of reading Morals ought to employ some part of the time of every young lady.

Of books proper for a young lady to read, who reads for instruction and amusement, the number has of late years much increased. At the head of those, and beyond all competition, stands the immortal work called the *Spektator*; a book which every man that has had time to read, ought to blush if he has neglected. The

value and importance of this work will readily be acknowledged. The world at large has stamped a merit on it which cannot be effaced while the English language is read and spoken.

This is out of a set of books of the kind, which ought above all others, to form the library of a young lady; the principle of them are, *The Spectator, Tatler, Guardian, Adventurer, Connoisseur, World, Rambler, and Idler*. These works alone form a treasure of moral instruction, of improving hints, exquisite satire, and sterling humour. They excel in different ways; the profundity of Johnson's reasoning will be less pleasing than the lightness of the Connoisseur; but the who reads all, and reads all with attention, will soon learn to think profoundly, as well as to trifles elegantly.

A higher order of moral instruction we find in the sermons of English Divines; but I cannot suppose that any young lady will dispense with a perusal of these at times, when the others may be less seasonable; nor will it be any absolute disgrace to look into the sacred source and foundation of all moral conduct.

History will attract by its native graces. It is a pity, however, that we have but few historians which can safely be recommended to a young lady. Some will condemn her by tedious political disquisitions, and some alarm by the insidious attempts of their Authors to mix a proud scepticism with the narration of historical facts.

Biography is yet a more interesting study, and cannot fail to suggest many valuable hints for the regulation of the conduct, by exhibiting, in real persons, the miseries that attend on vice and imprudence; and the same, honour, and happiness which are attainable by the prudent and virtuous, even in this life.

The English Poets, and the works of Literary Ladies, I presume will meet with that attention they deserve. An exception however must here be offered against *Novels*. Those of Richardson and Fielding excepted, which claim attention, as works of uncommon genius, I scarcely know any which do not give the most unnatural pictures of life and manners. Much time is wasted in reading Novels, to no purpose. The chief subject is Love, but as handled by them, it is an unnatural passion, tending to dissolve the ties of duty, and substitute affection of feeling and sensibility, which when brought into private life are unfriendly to happiness and to virtue. To a sensible young lady, who has formed her mind on the works above mentioned it is not necessary to forbid the perusal of Novels, as she will soon find them tiresome, and beneath the dignity and attention of a rational and cultivated mind.

STRAYED from the subscriber on the sixth day of June inst. a bay MARE, about fourteen hands high, trots and paces, no artificial mark, a white spot, or star in her forehead, with a long black mane and tail, shod before, when she went away, and a little white on one of her hind feet, very bad to catch, supposed to be about nine years old. Whoever will take up said mare and confine her so that she may be had, or give notice to me the subscriber, shall have a handsome reward and all charges paid by me.

HENRY HENDERSON.
Halifax, (Windham County, State of Vermont) June 16th, 1788.

TAKE NOTICE.
ALL persons indebted to *William Kirtbridge* for more than six months, are desired to call upon him, and to settle their accounts by the first of August, as he is determined to settle his Book.

Amherst, June 3d, 1788.

NOTICE is hereby given to the following Non-resident proprietors of land in the town of Ashfield, that the land tax for the year 1788, and the rate tax for the year 1787, are now ready for collection, viz. State tax, &c. &c.

Proprietor's Name	Acres	State Tax	Rate Tax	Total
Jonathan Dickinson	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
Ebenezer Whitman	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
John Ewell	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
Ell Faller	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
Abner Williams	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
Ebenezer Baldwin	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
Daniel Alden, Esq.	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
3d division, Lot No. 3	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
12	7 4 0	13 5 0	2 1 0	15 10 0
15	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
18	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
21	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
24	3 8 0	6 10 0	1 1 0	7 11 0
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