

But the friend was more than willing to be zealous in such a cause, for he was a school-master himself, and knew the need and the danger, so from time to time he reported progress—progress, alas! sometimes slow, but “Slow and sure” is a good motto, and often a true one, and my mother kept the matter going, speaking of this hope and of her increasing difficulties in education. But we had first-rate masters, and as the project seemed to take form and life those masters were ultimately taken into the first series of professors for the new college, to be called “The Queen’s,” which started in the year 1848.

Dr. Bernays, the first German professor, was

our master, Henry Warren (afterwards President of the Water-Colour Institute) was my father’s and sister’s drawing-master, and Sterndale Bennett was a friend.

The circle of teachers grew till it included the most eminent teachers in England, and my mother’s plans were expanded into becoming a college to train pupils, as well as to form teachers.

The professors for the first term, which began on the 1st May, 1848, were the Rev. F. D. Maurice and Charles Kingsley, the Rev. A. B. Strettell, and Isidore Brasseur, Dr. Bernays, Dr. Beolchi, and the Rev. Samuel Clark. The Rev. C. G. Nicolay, the

Rev. M. O’Brien, the Rev. T. G. Hall, John Hullah, Sterndale Bennett, Henry Warren. Amongst the early pupils we find the honoured names of Dorothea Beale, now headmistress of Cheltenham College, Miss Bishop, late headmistress of Holloway College, Miss Octavia Hill, Miss Louise Twining, and many other eminent women.

But no one in the crowded assembly that gathered for the first lecture would have thought that the quiet old gentlewoman, who would have been utterly unobserved amongst that brilliant audience, was in reality the first mother of the great college they came to honour.

## THE STRIDES OF WOMEN.

By NORMA LORIMER.

THE women of Queen Victoria’s reign will stand out in the history of our country as the pioneers of woman’s rights. It is mainly owing to the fact that, in the history of our own time, we have been blessed with a sovereign who has had the self-respect and good name of her women-subjects so strongly at heart, that the women who have been foremost in the fight for the advancement of self-reliance and independence among the women of England, have been able to accomplish the astonishing work which they have achieved during the last twenty years.

If we look at the way in which our Queen has educated her daughters to be in every way intellectual and capable companions to their husbands, as well as loving wives and tender mothers, we have the proof very clearly before us that women who are, as far as possible, men’s intellectual equals, and have their natural talents for art or literature cultivated beyond the conventional parlour-trick accomplishments, do in every way fill the capacity of mothers and wives more completely and happily than the women of the past, who were considered blue-stockings if they had the independence to insist on having an education in proportion to that bestowed upon their brothers. The old-fashioned idea that it was necessary to give the male portion of the family only (the bread-winners) a thorough and practical education is, we are thankful to say, dying out. Even without ill-health or force of adverse circumstances, the painful fact that the “bread-winners” very often failed to make a sufficient income to provide for the future of their wives and children, has proved to the more intelligent parents of our own days that their daughters must be qualified as well as their sons to take their places in the daily struggle for existence. Women are now no longer dubbed “blue-stockings,” or regarded as unwomanly if they go in for a college education, or adopt a profession which at once places them on the plane of equality, intellectual and practical, with men. Even in the lifetime of some of the youngest of us, we can look back upon the intellectual strides of women, and there is not a self-respecting, active-minded girl who will not be thankful that she is commencing her womanhood on a higher level, and in a healthier period than fell to the lot of the pioneers who opened up the way for the coming generation. Poorly-paid governessing is now not the only means of livelihood open to the impoverished daughters of our middle-class, those distressed sisters of twenty years ago who tried to hide their own ignorance at the expense of their pupils. What they did not know themselves (owing to their miserable education, which had not been given

to them in a manner that would enable them to impart their knowledge to others, or to earn their own livelihood, although in all probability their parents were well aware that their daughters would have to provide for themselves) was not advisable for their more intelligent pupils to know. We have to thank America to some extent for uprooting this most detrimental system. Our more independent and self-respecting cousins were wise enough to see that if their children had a refined and intellectual home-training with a gentle home influence surrounding them, it would not hurt them to attend the excellent grade-schools in their towns. This, to some extent, was a matter of necessity, for in the early days in the United States it was almost impossible to get a refined gentlewoman, however poorly educated, to enter a family as a governess—unless governesses were imported from England, in which case they usually got married soon after they landed. They were *rare aves*; and so it came about that the sons and daughters of refined parents went to the grade-schools along with the children of smaller tradesmen and simpler people. In England high-schools took the place of grade-schools, but it was some time before parents began to see that a high-school education was both cheap and thorough, and that the girls who attended them had a chance of receiving as good an education as their brothers, up to the point of a university career. When this was once understood, governesses soon found that to earn a living and compete with high-school education, they must equip themselves thoroughly, and not only receive a superior education, but learn how to educate others.

This general infusing of knowledge amongst women and the new independence of mental thought, naturally awoke in the women of our day the desire to do something with their knowledge, and to take their place as possible factors in the busy world of workers. That women enjoy working and are in every way happier and healthier both in mind and body when employed (I am speaking, of course, of the great body of middle class women who have not money enough to live a broad and developing life, and who are limited by their means and surroundings to a busy life or narrowing one), we have very practical evidence. If we look over the autobiographies of eminent men and women in *Who’s Who* we shall see there are one hundred and thirty women, mostly English women, or at least women whose work depends largely on England for support.

Has Mr. Douglas Sladen in his eminently readable and now universally recognised handbook to the celebrated English men and

women of the day, done full justice to the latter? Judging by numbers only I should say not, for I note that among seven thousand biographies only about one hundred and thirty belong to women. But upon examination, the discrepancy is not so great as it appears, for a great many professions are denied to women, some of them necessarily so. And much of the book is naturally devoted to members of parliament, soldiers, sailors, lawyers, and clergy of the national church. But there are a few lady doctors, and most of them are in the book. Among the occupations which are open to women are the literary, artistic, dramatic, musical, and philanthropic. Especially among those who are distinguished in various departments of philanthropic work are women honourably numerous and prominent. And there is much to be gathered from the lives of eminent women, if we know something about their chosen forms of recreation and how they were educated, for in one or other generally lies the keynote of a woman’s character. For instance, Edna Lyall’s favourite recreation is yachting, and this seems thoroughly in keeping with the healthy tone of her writings. From this too short autobiography she gives of herself in *Who’s Who* of 1898 we learn that her real name is Ada Ellen Bayly, and that she is the daughter of the late Robert Bayly, barrister. She was educated at Brighton, and she published her first novel, *Won by Waiting*, in 1879. Mrs. Humphrey Ward, our most eminent lady novelist, does not tell us how she amuses herself, but she is as a matter of fact a good cyclist. She was born in Hobart, Tasmania, in 1851, and is the eldest daughter of the still surviving Thomas Arnold, who was the second son of the famous Dr. Arnold of Rugby. She married Mr. T. Humphrey Ward, who was a Fellow and tutor of Brasenose College, Oxford. It is interesting to know that she had published three novels before she wrote the famous *Robert Elsmere* in 1888, which made her literary reputation. Besides being a writer of fiction, Mrs. Ward has published other deeper literary works of very high distinction. “Marie Corelli,” who is perhaps the most widely read woman novelist among the middle classes in England, has a hobby for collecting wild flowers, and rare old books, of which she has a unique collection. Her favourite recreations are reading and music; her adopted father, Charles Mackay, a well-known song-writer and *litterateur*, though best known as the editor of *One Thousand and One Gems of English Poetry*, intended her to adopt music as her profession. She was sent to France and educated in a convent, where she received an excellent education and musical

training. When she was barely fourteen years old, she began to write an elaborate opera entitled *Ginevra da Siena*. She also wrote two songs, *My Sweet Sweetening* and *Romeo's Good Night*. Her first attempt at literature was three sonnets on Shakespearean themes, written when she was studying for her musical career. In her autobiography she tells us that it was a curious physical experience which occurred to herself, which caused her to write *A Romance of Two Worlds*, which was published in 1886, and proved such an instant success that she adopted literature as her profession instead of music. She is still, however, an excellent musician. Her very vivid imagination and her wonderful flow of language may be partly accounted for by the fact that, mingled in her veins there is Italian and Highland Scotch blood. She is unmarried and lives the greater part of the year in London. One of our older and simpler favourites, Helen Mathers, whose *Coming Thro' the Rye* was perhaps more widely read than any novel of its day, was born at Misterton, Crewkerne, Somerset, in 1853. Her maiden name was Mathews, and she is now the wife of the famous orthopedic surgeon, Henry Albert Reeves, who is a leading member of the X rays society. She was educated at Chantry School, Frome, and her favourite recreations are needlework and gardening. She also lives in London the greater part of the year.

Miss Braddon, whose literary fame in England has waned in the last ten years, has still, however, a prominent position in literature, for her works, along with those of Ouida's, are more widely translated into foreign languages than any of our living women writers.

I asked a Norwegian friend of mine, who is well qualified to know, who amongst our novelists of the present day were best known in Norway and Sweden, and she told me unhesitatingly that Ouida, Miss Braddon, Edna Lyall, and Mrs. Humphrey Ward were certainly the most popular; she did not think that any of Mrs. Molesworth's were as widely read or as well known.

This sounds a curious selection for a nation that has produced Ibsen and Bjornsen.

Miss Braddon is now a widow—her husband, the late Mr. John Maxwell, having been the publisher of her books. She was born in London, and was the daughter of a solicitor. She was educated at home, and at a very early age was devoted to literature; and when only twenty-three years old she published her first novel, *The Trail of the Serpent*, in serial form. Her next publication was the popular *Lady Audley's Secret*, which at once made her famous. This was an unusual piece of fortune, as it is very seldom that an early book brings the writer either great literary or great financial success.

If we look over the list of novels written by eminent novelists, men or women, in *Who's Who*, we will find that it is more often a third or fourth book which makes a mark; and, indeed, there are many instances amongst them of a writer's fame not being acknowledged until many years after the publication of his first book.

Miss Braddon has published about fifty-two novels. Her favourite forms of amusement are riding, gardening, and music. She lives in a charming old house at Richmond-on-Thames.

Among our more modern writers Sarah Grand's name is very prominently before the public. She was born in Ireland of English parents; her father was a lieutenant in the English navy. When only sixteen she married the late Surgeon Major McFall. She travelled for five years in East China and Japan, and wrote her first novel when she was twenty-six. As every one knows, she has always

interested herself in the woman's movement, and is an active member of the Pioneer Club and Vice-President of the Mowbray House Cycling Association. Her favourite pastimes are sociology, music, and country life. She is a graceful and expert cyclist. According to the *Literary World*, she adopted the pseudonym of Sarah Grand because Dr. McFall objected to her using his name for publications, and has since adopted it for her sole name.

Margaret Woods, whose delightful books are not as widely read as their exquisite beauty and literary excellence would justify, is the wife of the Rev. H. E. Woods, D.D., late President of Trinity College, Oxford. She is the second daughter of Dean Bradley of Westminster, and was educated at home and at Miss Cawthorpe's school at Leamington. Her two best-known books are *A Village Tragedy* and *Esther Vanhomrigh*; the latter is the most exquisite account of Swift's romance with Stella that we have in fiction. Mrs. Woods' favourite amusements are skating and bicycling; she is also extremely fond of gardening.

Amongst our most famous artists we have Lady Butler, whose "Roll Call" and "Quatre Bras" are world-famed pictures. Her maiden name, under which her most famous paintings were exhibited, was Miss Elizabeth Thompson. She was born at Lausanne in Switzerland, and married in 1877 General Sir William Francis Butler, the well-known author of *The Great Lone Land* and other books of travel. She lived for some years in Italy, and studied her art in Florence.

Rosa Bonheur, whose famous picture "The Horse Fair" we are all familiar with, was born at Bordeaux in 1822. "The Horse Fair" was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition in 1853.

The list of lady artists who are English by birth is singularly small, and very few of them have achieved a position of great eminence. On the other hand the stage is represented.

Amongst the eminent women who are doing the best philanthropic work, we must mention Miss Octavia Hill. She was educated principally at home, and first undertook the management of homes for the people in London in the year 1864. She takes an active part in the Charity Organisation Society, Commons Preservation Society, Kyrle Society, and the Women's University Settlement, etc. She has written and published a good deal of literature connected with her own work. Her principal recreation seems to lie in bettering the condition of the poor and in doing good generally.

Another lady who has made a great name for herself whom one might class under the same heading is Mrs. Fawcett, widow of the late Right Honourable Henry Fawcett, Post-Master-General. She was born at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and her maiden name was Garrett. She has published beside her books on political economy, *A Life of Queen Victoria*, and *Some Eminent Women of Our Time*. Mrs. Fawcett is a good cyclist and is fond of music and needlework. Her sister, Dr. Elisabeth Garrett Anderson received her M.D. degree at the University of Paris in 1870. She was educated privately and began to study medicine in 1860. The Colleges of Surgeons and Physicians refused to admit her to their examinations; she was admitted to the examination of the Society of Apothecaries and obtained a license to practice in 1865. In 1890 she was elected senior physician to the New Hospital for Women, and Lecturer on Medicine, and Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women in 1896. Her principal amusements are travelling and gardening.

Three other very able and eminent women

whom it would be well to mention before passing on to a few of our Society Leaders. The first is Miss Eleanor Ormerod, F.R. Met. Soc., F.E.S., whose works on Natural History are so well known, and whose position as a naturalist is quite unique. She is, I believe, our only woman naturalist who has attained a widely recognised position as an authority on agricultural entomology, and her recreation is also part of her profession, namely a great love of flowers and gardening. She was born at Sedbury, and is the daughter of George Ormerod of Sedbury Park, Gloucestershire.

The second is Miss Flora Shaw, author and journalist, who holds the unique position of the only woman writer on the staff of the *Times* newspaper. She is the head of the Colonial department of the *Times*, and has undertaken special commissions to South Africa and Australia in connection with that paper. She has, besides her journalism, written a good number of works of light fiction. With her should be mentioned Miss Billington, the well-known author, who is now at the head of one of the chief departments of the *Daily Telegraph*.

Among the great ladies who are leaders of society, as well as writers, we have Lady Dufferin, who accompanied her husband, Lord Dufferin, to Canada and India. She was Ambassador in Russia, Turkey, Italy and France. Her first publication was an account of their Viceregal tour in India, the next was her *Canadian Journal*, and her last work is *A Record of the Three Years' Work of the National Association for Supplying Female Medical Aid to the Women of India*. Another Canadian Viceroy's wife, the Countess of Aberdeen, has also published an account of her tour through Canada called *Through Canada with a Kodak*. The beautiful Countess of Warwick is one of the busiest women-workers of the day. Lady Warwick is the only peeress whose name appears over the door of a shop. It is the depot of a successful needlework school in Bond Street. Lady Warwick is identified with many public movements. Both at Warwick Castle and at Easton Lodge she has established a complete organisation for the welfare of the poor and the nursing of the sick. Her special hobby is the encouragement of gardening, of which she has published an interesting account. The Countess is an expert horsewoman and an energetic cyclist; she is also a great reader, and looks out for every important new book on cycling. Her beautiful half-sister, the Duchess of Sutherland, in addition to being a clever authoress, also takes a great interest in the welfare of the poor, and has often given her able support to the Society of Women Journalists. Among the aristocracy there is one well-known artist, the Marchioness of Granby. Almost everyone is familiar with her delicate and charming silver-point drawings of her children. The Duchess of Bedford, whose name is so well-known in connection with good works, has for her recreations reading fishing, shooting, and natural history, in connection with which last it may be recorded that the Duke has the finest private zoological gardens in England, if not in the world.

We hear on every side, especially from young men, who are, perhaps, a little jealous of our studies, "Yes, you women are doing great things, but there has never yet been a woman in any art or profession who has been greater than any man in her particular line." Granted that this is so, let us ask them to consider how long we women have been competing with men; how many generations of us have been taught the need of mental concentration and taking life seriously; and then let us ask them to look at what we have accomplished in the short time we have been working.