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## A CULTURED WOMAN.

DR. ABERCROMBY tells us that what constitutes the greatest difference between one person and another, considered either as intellectual or as moral beings, is the culture and discipline of the mind.

It is difficult to define the exact qualities which constitute a cultivated mind. People who have always lived in a refined and intellectual atmosphere, who have been constantly in the way of seeing works of art, and of hearing able criticisms expressed on all subjects, acquire a sort of skin-deep culture, which is sometimes mistaken for the real thing. But though these advantages are very great, yet, without the appreciative soul, and the love of knowledge for its own sake, a person can never be truly cultured.

We can all feel the charm which culture bestows, touching every detail of life, and giving a refined sensibility to every action. It may be said to imply a large power of appreciation of all that is true and beautiful in literature, nature, and art; a capacity for appropriating knowledge on a variety of subjects, and a capacity of using that knowledge aright. It means a sympathy with, and a comprehension of, the different phases of human life around us, and a keen insight into those higher laws which govern our universe. A cultured mind is formed by the thoughts and sayings of the world's greatest thinkers, and has, therefore, a wide range of ideas and a lofty ideal, and is necessarily raised above the pettinesses and trivialities of life.

A woman may, or may not, have had an advanced education; nor is it necessary for her to have had more than the average amount of advantages which travelling in different countries, and viewing life under different aspects, gives. Still, a correct taste for the fine arts can hardly be acquired by book-learning, and the more opportunities she has

had for acquiring that correct taste and acquainting herself with the greatest works of men's hands, the wider will be the sense in which she is cultured.

Pope has told us that the greatest pleasure of life is to know how to admire rightly, and this capacity is certainly a great sign of a cultured mind. And, as Carpenter has remarked very truly, "Though no one can acquire the creative power of genius, yet everyone can train himself to appreciate its products, the capacity for such appreciation growing and intensifying in proportion as it is exercised aright."

When a special subject is taken up, to the exclusion of others, and pursued with more or less amount of success, it may make a woman learned it is true, but it will not make her cultured. For culture implies such an enlightened mind on all topics of present interest, that, strengthening and elevating as is a more exclusive research into the sterner fields of knowledge, yet, as her time for study is, as a rule, but limited, she must be content with a broad outline on many of the more abstruse subjects. Still, she will be cultivated in a deeper sense if she has had a certain amount of mathematical or classical training, for it will give her that power of close reasoning, and those elements of exact thought, without which it is hardly possible to comprehend science.

It must not be supposed that by appropriating knowledge on a variety of subjects, a desultory flitting from one subject to another is meant. A woman who wishes to be cultured will always have a systematic course of reading on hand, which she will follow up in its different bearings, and she will be careful not to waste her time with second-rate or inferior books. She will have also many interests and an open mind, and any



knowledge she can gather will be assimilated and stored for future use. But it is in the application of culture to every day life that it is so invaluable, in giving that "added grace" which so beautifies all our relationships with mankind. It has been remarked, very truly, by a writer on this subject, that cultured women "are more than usually prone to take pleasure in the beauty and order of their houses, and love flowers and animals and everything which the typical Eve should bring about her to 'dress and keep' the garden of home." In conversation her influence is always elevating, and as it rarely occurs to her to discuss her neighbors—her mind being filled with more interesting topics—she is far removed from all the wretched scandal that little minds delight in. She will possess, too, the power of being an interested and intelligent listener; and Lavater tells us that "he who sedulously attends, pointedly asks, calmly speaks, coolly answers, and ceases when he has no more to say, is in possession of the best requisites of a man." We might add of a woman also.

To cease when she has no more to say is one thing the cultivated woman will have learnt, and a true estimate of her powers will keep her from expressing an opinion on subjects with which she is inadequately acquainted. She will be free, too, from that dogmatic narrow-mindedness which is the inheritance of the ignorant, and will have acquired the blessed wisdom of holding her judgment in suspension on subjects on which our finite minds can never know the whole. By the wide range of her ideas she will be delivered from prejudice and intolerance, and will respect the opinions of others, however much they may differ from her own.

In the highest relationship—that of a wife—what an immense boon it is! How her husband values her correct and far-seeing

judgment, and seeks her opinion and sympathy on the various subjects in which he is interested! If he is engaged in political or literary pursuits the advantage is still greater; and how many instances rise to our minds of the inestimable help a cultured wife has been to a man! And with regard to children—how can we speak too highly of the blessing of a cultured mother?—a mother who will give their young minds that "bent" and encourage that taste for high pursuits which will give them something to live for besides pleasure-seeking and amusement, and who will put everything before them to give that love of knowledge for its own sake of which she so well knows the value. And when boys enter upon life at a public school, and afterwards at a university, and come home full of new thoughts and new interests, how soon they find out if their mother's opinion is an understanding one, and if her judgment is narrow and her interest limited, how soon they learn to think little of her opinion even on those subjects on which she speaks with knowledge.

Then, as regards ourselves, how enormously culture enhances the enjoyment of life!—giving eyes, in fact, where others see not, and ears where others are deaf. In every book read, and in every work of art seen, there is an added world of pleasure; and, besides all this, the mind is, to a great extent raised above the circumstances of life, and can find satisfaction in itself to a degree little realized by those who are without what we might call this extra sense. Ovid doubtless felt something of this when he wrote those touching lines from his lonely place of banishment:—

Reft of my country, of my friends, my home —  
All things which I could lose are lost to me;  
But soul and mind I brought with me from Rome,  
And Cæsar hath o'er these no empery.

— *London Queen.*

**IRON RUST.**—For iron rust, take dry cream of tartar and rub on with the finger while the cloth is wet. Hang or place where the sun will shine directly upon it. Should the rust not come out with the first application, repeat it.

**TO DESTROY THE ODOR OF PAINT.**—Slice a few onions and put them in a pail of water in the center of the room, to remain there for several hours, or plunge a handful of hay into a pailful of water, and let it stand in the room over night.