

The virtuous woman

"She will do him good and not harm, all the days of her life." Proverbs 31:12

The virtuous woman will be inventive, ingenious, and laborious to promote his comfort, his health, and his interest. She will smooth by her sweet words his brow, when wrinkled with care. She will hush the sigh that misfortune extorts from his bosom. She will answer with gentleness the sharp words that in moments of irritation drop from his lips, and will do all this, not by fits and starts when in congenial moods, but continually.

To sum up all

And now, to sum up all, consider—
A mother's charge—an immortal creature.
A mother's duty—to train him up for God, heaven and eternity.
A mother's dignity—to educate the family of the Almighty Creator of the universe.
A mother's difficulty—to raise a fallen sinful creature to holiness and virtue.
A mother's encouragement—the promise of Divine grace to assist her in her momentous duties.
A mother's relief—to bear the burden of her cares to God in prayer.
A mother's hope—to meet her child in glory everlasting, and spend eternal ages of delight with him before the throne of God and the Lamb!

This inward spring of grace in the soul

"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water, welling up to eternal life!" John 4:13-14
True religion is a new, a spiritual, a divine, a heavenly life—the life of God in the soul of man! While the pleasures of the world—the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eyes, are but as drops which inflame rather than allay

the thirst of the natural man after true happiness, or at best leave him unsatisfied; the grace of Christ in renewing and sanctifying the soul, leads it to the true fountain of bliss, and compels it in the fullness of satisfaction, to exclaim, "I have found it; I have found it!"

And this source of happiness is not far off, for it is within and not outside its possessor. It will become in him a spring of water! He carries the spring about with him as an abundant, an unfailing source, a constant supply—a well ever accessible and never dry—a spring whose sparkling and gushing ebullitions shall be ever bubbling up, and forming an ever-living fountain that flows at all seasons of the year, in heat or cold, and in all the circumstances of the weather, whether foul or fair, wet or dry. True religion always lives, always shows its beauties—and amid all changes of external circumstances.

This inward spring of grace in the soul is represented as rising higher and higher, and never stopping until it reaches eternal life; swelling into a stream which refreshes others in its course to eternity, making all around it fruitful and pleasant; just like a river flowing through a country which irrigates the land and covers it on every hand with fertility and beauty!

Is this descriptive of your religion?

Do you know anything of this . . .

indwelling of the Spirit of God?

inward supply from a divine source of sanctity and bliss?

holy ebullition of sanctified feeling?

rising up of an inward principle to a divine source?

Do you know anything of this something . . .

godlike, which aspires to God,

heavenly, which aspires to heaven,

eternal, which rests not until it has reached the eternal?

The Christian life is a state of . . .

self-denial,

intense desire,

deep solicitude,

of strenuous, unwearied action,

of constant progress.

The most attractive of all female graces

"And I want women to be modest in their appearance. They should wear decent and appropriate clothing and not draw attention to themselves by the way they fix their hair or by wearing gold or pearls or expensive clothes." 1 Timothy 2:9

Modesty is **the most attractive of all female graces**.

What is intelligence without it, but bolder impudence; or beauty but a more seductive snare?

Modesty is a woman's ornament, investing all her other excellences with additional charms—the blush of purity upon the cheek of beauty. It is her power, by which she subdues every heart that is worth the conquest.

Chastity is the robe which every woman should wear, and modesty is the golden clasp that keeps it upon her, and the fringe that adorns it.

A bad disposition

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other." Ephesians 4:32

There is a saying, that "disposition is everything."

This is going too far, since it is not to be doubted good disposition is sometimes associated with bad principle. While on the other hand, there are many high-principled and noble-minded individuals, who are troubled, equally to their own annoyance and that of their friends, with infirmities of disposition. Still, though not everything, good disposition is a great thing. Reason and religion may do much, and in myriads of instances have done much, to correct and improve a naturally bad disposition.

A bad disposition will torment you through life. With this you will carry your own curse with you everywhere.

A bad disposition will multiply your enemies, and alienate your friends.

A bad disposition will becloud your reason and benumb your religion.

A bad disposition will embitter your comforts and envenom your trials.

A bad disposition will make you unhappy at home, and secure you distress when away from home.

A bad disposition will give you wretchedness at the time,

and conscious guilt and painful reflections afterwards. A bad disposition will deprive your days of peace and your nights of sleep.

In short, a bad disposition will be to the soul what a chronic and painful disease is to the body—a constant source of uneasiness and distress, with this difference, that whereas the one brings its own consolation with it to the Christian, the other brings nothing but punishment and shame.

How is a mother's heart grieved to see her daughters, after all the pains she has taken to form their pious character, more taken up with fashion, company, and gaiety—than with eternal realities! And their father, how is he distressed to see his counsels unheeded, his prayers unanswered, and they whom he had hoped to lead to God, far more fond of the fleeting mirthful vanities of the world!

Young women!

Young women! Deeply ponder, that character for life is usually formed in youth. It is the golden season of life, and to none more truly and eminently so than to the young woman. Her leisure, her freedom from care, and her protected situation, give her the opportunity for this, which it is her wisdom and her duty to consider, embrace, and improve.

Set out in life with a deep conviction of the momentous consequence of self-discipline. Let your mind, your heart, your conscience, be the chief object of your solicitude.

Lay the basis of all your excellences in true religion . . .
the religion of the heart,
the religion of penitence,
faith in Christ,
love to God,
a holy and heavenly mind.
No character can be well-constructed, safe,
complete, beautiful, or useful, without this.

Cultivate a thoughtful, reflective turn of mind. Look beneath the surface of things; beyond their present aspect to their future consequences. Be somewhat meditative, and learn to restrain your words and

feelings, by a rigid self-control. Pay most anxious attention to your temper, and acquire as much as possible its perfect command. More women are rendered miserable, and render others miserable, by neglect of this, than perhaps from any other cause whatever. Let meekness of disposition and gentleness of manner be a constant study.

These are woman's amiabilities, which fit her for her future situation far better than the bold, imposing, and obtrusive airs of those who mistake the secret of woman's influence.

Contentment and patience;
self-denial and submission;
humility and subordination;
prudence and discretion,
are all virtues, the seeds of which should be sown by you in early youth, that their rich ripe fruits might be gathered in future life.

Benevolence of heart, and kindness of disposition, must be among your foremost studies, the most prominent objects of your pursuit and most laborious endeavors; for they are the virtues which in their maturity are to form excellence in Christian character, and constitute you the fit companion for a husband.

Make worldly accomplishments subordinate to more substantial excellences. And as matters of mental taste are to be less thought of, than the state of the heart and the formation of moral character, so let especially bodily adornments be in low estimation compared with those of the mind.

To prepare you to carry out the duties of your future mission with ease to yourself, with satisfaction to a husband, and comfort to a household, pay attention to the minor virtues—punctuality, love of order, and efficiency. These are all of immense importance, the lack of them in the female head of a family, must necessarily fill the home with confusion, and the hearts of its inhabitants with sadness. Set out in life with a deep conviction of the importance of habits, and a constant recollection that habits for life are formed in

youth and that these habits, if not acquired then, are likely never to be.

Aim at universal excellence. Do little things well. Avoid with extreme dread a loose, slovenly, and careless way of doing anything proper to be done.

Young women, your whole future life will illustrate and confirm the truth and propriety of this advice, either by the comfort and usefulness which will result from your attending to it—or by the miseries which you will endure yourself and inflict on others, if you allow it to sink into oblivion.

Home, sweet home

HOME is the proper sphere of woman's action and influence! There are few terms in the language around which cluster so many blissful associations as that delight of every English heart—the word HOME.

The paradise of love.

The nursery of virtue.

The garden of enjoyment.

The temple of harmony.

The circle of all tender relationships.

The playground of childhood.

The dwelling of adulthood.

The retreat of old age.

HOME is where health loves to enjoy its pleasures, wealth to revel in its luxuries, and poverty bears its rigors—where best sickness can endure its pains, and dissolving nature expire—which throws its spell over those who are within its charmed circle, and even sends its attractions across oceans and continents, drawing to itself the thoughts and wishes of the man who wanders from it, to the opposite end on the globe—this, **home, sweet home**—is the sphere of wedded woman's mission!

Is it any hardship upon woman, any depreciation of her importance, to place her sphere of action and influence there? Is it to assign her a circle of influence unworthy of herself, to call her to preside over that little home? Shall we estimate the importance of such a scene of action? Shall we tell of the varied and momentous interests which

are included in that circle? Shall we speak of the happiness of a husband, whose bliss, to so considerable an extent, is created by herself—and which involves her own happiness; or the character and future well-being for both worlds of her children?

It is the privilege of the woman . . .

to make one such home a seat of holiness and happiness; to fill one such sphere with an influence so sweet and sacred; to throw the fascination of wedded delight and of maternal influence over one such home; to irradiate so many faces with delight; to fill so many hearts with contentment, and to prepare so many characters for their future part in life! One of the most hallowed, lovely, and beautiful sights in our world—is a woman at home discharging in all the meekness of wisdom, the various duties of wife and mother, with an order that nothing is allowed to disturb; a patience which nothing can exhaust; an affection which is never ruffled; and a perseverance that no difficulties can interrupt, nor any disappointments arrest!

Satan's baits!

Bring up your children with low notions of the importance of riches and worldly show, and of the power which these things have either to give respectability to the character, or to procure happiness.

Do not let them hear you magnify the value of wealth by your words—nor see you do it by your actions. Avoid a servile attention to the rich and great—do not point to them as the individuals most to be admired and envied. Do not have an undue solicitude about grandeur of abode, or furniture. From the time that they are capable of receiving an idea, or an impression, teach them it is godly character that constitutes true respectability.

Remind them of the danger of riches, and that they are **Satan's baits** to tempt men to love the world—and lose their souls!

Not that you should produce a cynical disposition towards either riches or the rich; much less repress industry, and foster indolence. No—but encourage them to consider and seek wealth, rather as a means of usefulness, than a source of personal gratification.

On parents it depends in a great measure
what their children are to be . . .
miserable or happy in themselves,
a comfort or a curse to their relationships,
an ornament or a deformity to society,
a fiend or a seraph in eternity!

It is indeed a fearsome thing to be a parent,
and is enough to awaken the anxious, trembling
enquiry in every heart, "Lord, who is sufficient
for these things?"

Conducting their children to the bottomless pit!

A graceless parent is a most dreadful character! Oh!
to see the father and mother of a expanding family,
with a crowd of young immortals growing up around
them, and teaching worldliness to their offspring,
and leading them to perdition, by the power of their
own example!

A sheep leading her twin lambs into the den
of a hungry tiger would be a shocking sight!
But to see parents **conducting their children**