Thoughts and Facts for Women.

Close behind her stood
Eight daughters of the plough, stronger than men,
Huge women, blowzed with health and wind and rain
And labor. Each was like a Druid rock,
Or like a spire of land that stands apart,
Cleft from the main and walled about with mews.

I believe that it is because of the sentiment expressed in these lines, and others like unto them, that women became admirers of fragile bodies, and thought uselessness an all-essential to ladyhood. To be a huge mass, like unto a Druid rock, or a spire of land walled in with mews, is, indeed, the most repellant ideal that could be presented to woman, refined and sensitive as we know her to be. But this figure is not well taken, and is misleading. The combined intellectuality, spirituality and physique of woman, be her hugeness ever so great, can nowhere, within the range of comparison, be likened to the rock or land. And hugeness is no more necessary to a strong, healthy physique in one sex than in the other. True, there are women with strong, healthy bodies, who are repulsive; but it is not the fault of the body so much as of the mind and heart. Let these be strong and healthy, as well as the body, as God intended they should, and the possessor becomes a power to do good and an ornament to society. And tardy, though she be, to recognize the fact, woman is beginning to understand, through practical experience, that the little, delicate women are going out of fashion, and that the world, through its shops, its sales-rooms, its school-rooms, and over its platforms, is ushering in the reign of a larger, stronger woman—one able to contend with hard realities and succeed. The shop-keeper tells us that "a commanding and fine looking woman will sell a sealskin cloak in five cases out of six where a little woman will fail. You little women may be refined gold, but there is nothing impressive about you." "A small woman is out of place in a show room," said Mme. Demorest, when one of her friends sought a situation for a worthy, but undersized lady. "I have no use for her there. She can not sell even a pattern. People will not go to her; they will pass her by and go to a saleswoman more stylish and commanding." Upon the platform or the stage, it is the woman of physical magnetism, as well as specially cultivated powers, that thrills an audience and carries off the laurels. Is it any wonder that women are opening their eyes to the fact of needed physical strength? Usefulness shall solve this problem for them—that usefulness which requires physical strength, not the overdone fancy work, time spent with which some one has so suggestively called "busy idleness." Strength comes through strength, and "To him that hath, shall be given, and he shall have more abundantly."

One of the last, best outgrowths of civilization is the respect shown to woman. American women take it as a matter of course, which indeed it is, with them, and should be everywhere. But all are not so well favored, even in so-called civilized countries. Visit Cuba, and behold the treatment which ladies there expect, because it is that which they are accustomed to receive. There is a marked absence of ladies on the streets or highways—society does not allow it. If ladies desire to make any purchase, which is absolutely necessary, they drive to the store and the clerk displays the goods at the carriage door. Our American sense of freedom could not abide such a custom. Our evening strolls—how delightful and refreshing they prove to taxed muscles! In Cuba, such a treat is seldom allowed to our sex. To be a lady in America, is to receive the best seat, if entering a car filled with gentlemen; is to have the cigar cast aside, out of deference, and to be treated courteously by all present. To be a lady in Cuba, is to be prohibited from going alone, and if attended by a lady, only to receive the impudent and ill bred remarks from strangers of the best society, and insults from the vulgar and uneducated.. The French philosopher, DeTocqueville, considered that the chief cause of American prosperity was the superiority of its women; and we would add, that the chief cause of the superiority of American women is the freedom to come and go and be, which they enjoy to so high a degree.

Lucy M. Hall, associate professor of physiology at Vassar college, speaking of the effects of