

Thoughts and Facts for Women.

One of the secrets of securing that home-like appearance, so desirable to every dwelling, is the giving to each article of furniture, whether for use or ornament, an entertaining and restful expression. Nowhere is this more noticeable than in the hanging of pictures. Pictures should be hung so that the average person, when standing, may enjoy them without assuming an uneasy posture. A portrait should be so hung that we may look directly into its eyes, and landscapes and other pictures should be hung at such a height that the eye may be on a level with the center of the picture. The manner in which the light falls upon the picture should also be taken into account. Some pictures look better in a shaded recess of the room, while others need the fullest light. And the surroundings should all be such as to give, as nearly as may be, the expression the artist desired when executing it. Pictures are to be looked at and enjoyed. Their influence is refining, and to the degree that they break the monotony of the view, whether material or mental, it is restful. Some one has said that we may judge of the culture of a family, by the pictures which hang upon the home walls, while some one else has said that the manner of hanging the pictures decides the culture, so perhaps it would not be far wrong to decide that the two taken together are a pretty sure indication of the intelligence which selects and arranges them. We do not desire pictures for something bright, merely, but we want them to be suggestive. Art is not for the eye only, but for the mind and heart, through the eye; and in our selections from it, should be made to subserve its noble purpose.

It is said, that "The greatest study of mankind is man," also, in words of wisdom, "know thyself." But man can best be studied through his actions and the result of his actions, human institutions; and self may best be known by knowing others, and by that development of self which comes through mingling with others in society. It is because of these principles, along with increased incentives to endeavor, that the reflex action of a public spirit is so beneficial to the individual. It is a fact to be deprecated that there is not as much of a public

spirit among women as there ought to be. Within prescribed limits—her family and friends—and in certain directions—physical health and the church—woman has equaled, if not excelled, man; but a good kindred to that which she seeks to do in these directions, is needed to be done by her hands and through her thought, elsewhere, as well; and, be it said to their credit, there are many women awake to the fact. Is it a sufficient excuse, that family cares demand a woman's attention? We call a man, who allows his business to absorb his active interest, a fossil. Nor is it a sufficient excuse that there are some things of a public nature which woman can not do, for there are many things which she can do. It is the subtle influence of woman's presence, her moral nature, her gentleness, that are so much needed. These she exerts on questions of public concern, just to the degree that she feels an interest in them. It is true, her influence is indirect oftener than direct, yet to do her utmost is to do her best, and she should not refrain from doing what lies within her power, simply because there are some things which lie without it. Were woman to live for her own family, merely, and there were no christian obligation resting upon her, either for the welfare of those outside her kindred, or for her own individuality, she should, even then, simply for her own family, look to the proper moral standing, the intellectual status, and the general sense of equity possessed by those with whom her family must mingle in society and state, for such is the equipoise of American society, that "That which effects any body any place, effects every body every place."

Water, how closely thou suitest
Thy form to the walls thou surround!
So man, 'neath the power of influence,
Ever rises or falls to the ground.

Then choose thyself friendship ennobling,
And seek for hearts truer than thine,
In virtue improving continue,
Their strength with thine own to combine.

The influence upon the home, of the association of its members with friends, or even acquaintances, without, can not be estimated. It is seldom that we meet a character so neutral that we do not feel a quickening of some faculty