

WOMAN'S MISSION

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Woman's Mission by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

**WOMAN'S
MISSION**

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„WOMAN'S MISSION“

“L'ignorance ou les femmes sont de leurs devoirs, l'abus qu'elles font de leur puissance, leur font perdre le plus beau et le plus précieux de leurs avantages, celui d'être utiles.”—MADAME BERNIER.

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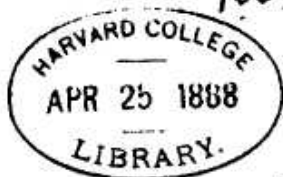
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John Harvey Treat.

"What is wanting," said Napoleon, "that the youth of France be well educated?" "MOTHEES," replied Madame Campan. This reply struck the Emperor. "Here," said he, "is a system of education in one word. Be it your care to train up mothers who shall know how to educate their children."

AIME MARTIN.

PREFACE.

THE subject of the following pages has long engrossed my most serious thought. The result of this thought has produced the fullest conviction, that, if women could once be made to understand their real mission in this world, and to feel their own importance and responsibility, a surprising change must immediately take place in society, giving to it a higher tone and a purer spirit.

The work of M. Aimé Martin, *Sur l'Education des Mères, &c.*, is eminently qualified to awaken attention to this subject, and to teach the true nature of our high calling. It is, therefore, matter of surprise and regret, that his excellent book should be so little read and appreciated in this country.

Wishing to make it better known to English women, it was my intention to translate M. Martin's work, and to adapt it as far as possible to the

English taste. In pursuing this task, however, I found that a mere translation could not do sufficient justice to his eloquent spirit, and that the greater part of his work would not perhaps have much interest in an English dress. Many of his chapters are so exclusively addressed to the French nation, with respect to morals and manners, that his observations would lose much of their effect in this country, because not immediately applicable to English society. In dwelling upon his *particular* application of the fundamental principles upon which he insists, the reader might perhaps fail to discover that these were of *universal* application, equally sound and true, in all ages and in all countries.

Thus the work would, in a translation, lose much of its usefulness, as well as of its beauty. The nationality of M. Martin's work has, therefore, obliged me, most reluctantly, to abandon the design of introducing it fully to the admiration of the English reader. At the same time I have been unwilling to relinquish the hope of rousing attention to this important subject, and since the attempt could not be made, as was first intended, in the translation of the thoughts of another, I have

ventured to embody those ideas which have always occupied my own mind with engrossing interest. The following work is then the result of deep meditation on a long cherished subject. May its power of convincing be in some sort commensurate with the importance of its object.

In a few parts, more especially in Chapters II., IV., and VIII., passages have been adapted from M. Martin's work. Whenever this has been done, the translation is clearly distinguished from the original matter, by being enclosed in brackets, thus, []. It is hoped that these few specimens will induce the reader to turn to the French work itself; it is impossible that any translation can adequately convey the beautiful spirit of the original.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that
feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

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