

**THE PRESENT PHASE OF
WOMEN'S
ADVANCEMENT AND
OTHER ADDRESSES**

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The Present Phase of Women's Advancement and Other Addresses by Augusta Cooper Bristol

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AUGUSTA COOPER BRISTOL

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The Present Phase of Woman's
Advancement

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
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62
63
64
65
66
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68
69
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72
73
74
75
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77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
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100

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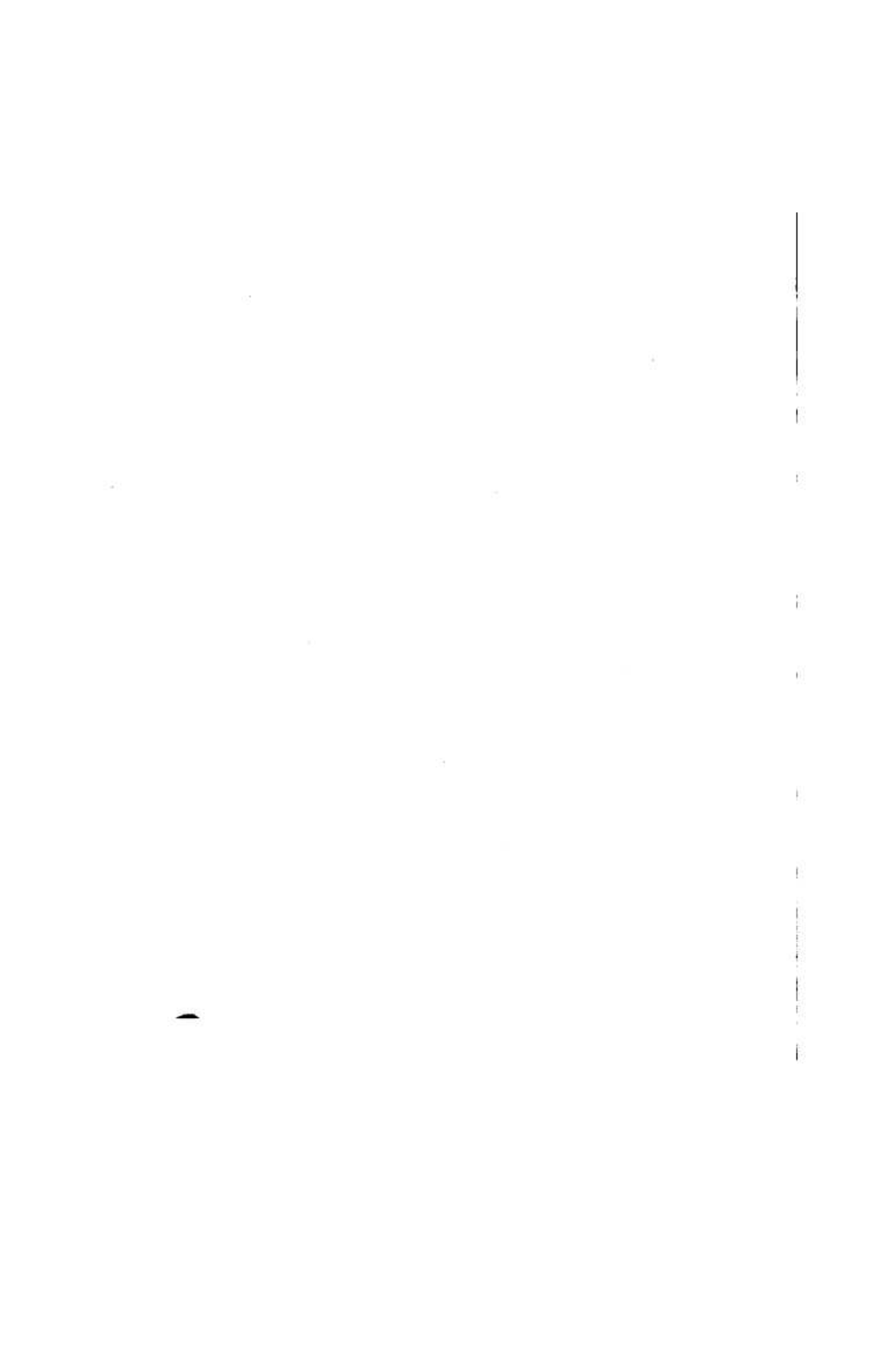


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CONTENTS

	PAGE
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH	7
THE PRESENT PHASE OF WOMAN'S ADVANCEMENT	13
SCIENCE AND ITS RELATION TO HUMAN CHARACTER	27
THE PHILOSOPHY OF ART	44
THE RELATION OF THE MATERNAL FUNCTION TO THE WOMAN INTELLECT	62
LABOR AND CAPITAL	71
OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM	80
WOMAN, THE NEW FACTOR IN ECONOMICS	86
THE FAMILISTERE AT GUISE, FRANCE	97
BROWNING'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE	109
THREE SCORE AND TEN	122



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

The author of these lectures was born in 1835 in the little town of Croydon, perched up in the New Hampshire mountains, and since made famous in Winston Churchill's "Coniston." She was a precocious child, distinguishing herself in her school studies and writing her first verses at eight years of age. Mrs. Cooper was a wise mother and when she saw her little daughter's poetic bent, she encouraged her to express it naturally, but never to force her feeling.

All through her life Mrs. Bristol was guided by this principle, in later years writing to a friend as follows: "The output of my poetry has been comparatively small, as I never followed literature as a profession, writing only when impelled to expression by the pressure of the ideal life within."

New England girls of the last century became teachers very early in life, yet they realized their own need for further development and would continue their studies even under most adverse circumstances. The little girl was only thirteen when her first "position" was offered her, but her parents wisely objected to her accepting it, and kept her at home until two years later, when she began teaching "summer school" and "winter school." The other two seasons were devoted to her own education, thus laying the foundation for her subsequent success.

At this time also, her verses began to be published in various papers and magazines. In 1858, she married Gustavus Kimball and removed to a distant western town, but the young couple proved ill adapted to each other and five years later Mrs. Kimball returned with her little girl to her parents' home, Mr. Kimball securing a divorce later, on the ground of desertion.

In 1865 one of her poems in a New England publication attracted the attention of Louis Bristol, a lawyer of New Haven, Conn., who, after procuring her address, at once entered into a friendly correspondence with the author of the poem, which resulted in a proposal of marriage to her, and Mr. Bristol soon journeyed to Croydon to conduct his wooing in person. After their marriage in January, 1868, they removed to Carbondale, that part of Illinois known as "Egypt." With most of her neighbors unable to read or write, Mrs. Bristol found herself thrown on her own resources, and the appreciation of her husband for mental stimulus. She occasionally wrote verse, and at this time her