

DUTIES OF YOUNG WOMEN

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Duties of Young Women by E. H. Chapin

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E. H. CHAPIN

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YOUNG WOMEN**

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BY
E. H. CHAPIN.

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PREFACE.

The following discourses passed almost immediately from the pulpit to the press, and therefore were but slightly revised. Of course, this is no excuse for literary faults, but it will serve to explain them. It has prevented that thoroughness of treatment, and compactness of style, which are desirable in a work of this kind. But, in order to qualify criticism, I would ask that this volume may be received according to its pretensions. I do not offer it as a *manual* for young women, but as a discussion of certain great principles of life and conduct. It may suggest truths which they will find urged more at length and more minutely in other books.

I have preserved in these discourses the style of the pulpit, the style of direct personal address and temporal allusion. To change this into the more sober and general tone of the essay, would have demanded a labor for which there appears no necessity.

For presenting such a work at all, when so much has been written upon the same topic, I offer no apology. I would say, however, that some who have read my former lectures upon the Duties of Young Men, have desired me to publish a series of discourses like these, as a companion to that volume. I am in hopes, also, that notwithstanding the number of books of the kind, this may accomplish some good. I do not think that I have exaggerated the importance of the class whom I address, or that I have dwelt too strongly upon the subject of their influence. If I may be instrumental, to any degree, in rightly directing that influence, I shall not regret the present labor, which, feeble as it may be, I now dedicate to the service of God, and to the good of humanity.

E. H. C.

Boston, Jan. 14, 1848.

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And the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not, for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him in thine hand; for I will make him a great nation. — *GENESIS* 31: 17, 18.

LECTURE I.
THE POSITION OF WOMAN.

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. — *JOHN 19: 25.*

I PROPOSE to address a few discourses to Young Women, including in that class not only those who are usually comprehended in it, but also those who have entered into the relations of wife and mother. My object in addressing them is to urge, not merely the responsibilities which rest upon them in common with all other human beings, but those obligations which pertain to their peculiar position. It is of this position, especially as affected by Christianity, that I shall speak in the present discourse.