

**FEMALE EDUCATION: ITS
IMPORTANCE, DESIGN,
AND NATURE
CONSIDERED**

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Female Education: Its Importance, Design, and Nature Considered by Barbara H. Farquhar

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BARBARA H. FARQUHAR

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170 Robert W. Smith: his
life and labors
1848 to 1851

FEMALE EDUCATION:

IN

Importance, Design, and Nature considered.

BY

A LABOURER'S DAUGHTER.

"But for Adam there was not found an help meet
for him."—Gen. ii. 20.

London:

PARTRIDGE AND OAKLEY, PATERNOSTER ROW;
AND 70, EDGWARE ROAD (HARVEY AND CO. AGENTS).

1851.

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P R E F A C E.



IN requesting attention to the thoughts contained in the following pages, I may be permitted to offer my grateful acknowledgments to the numerous friends who have been pleased to regard my former efforts with approbation. A change which has recently occurred in my social position, renders it all the more proper that I should do so in the present instance, as it is not at all likely that I shall soon again, if ever, address the public.

I owe more than thanks to many of the good and great, for the gratifying tokens of approbation they have so lavishly bestowed on me. Since the publication of my Essay on the Sabbath Question, I have been favoured with the correspondence of many far above me in social station, and have mingled freely in their society. Some, also, on whom I had no claim but that which christian affection and sympathy establishes, have evinced an almost parental solicitude concerning both my temporal and spiritual interests.

During a short stay in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London, I enjoyed the society of many whom I can never cease to regard with esteem and veneration, as well as remember with the most grateful affection. I shared the hospitalities and received the polite and flattering attentions of many whom I may never again meet in the present life, not a few of whom occupy an exalted position in

society. To all these I would express my sense of the honour and kindness they have conferred on me.

I am also deeply indebted to christian friends, too numerous for private or personal acknowledgment. I may have appeared somewhat negligent to many who have favoured me with friendly communications. I can truly say that apparent negligence has in no instance been wilful. Each returning day has brought its share of anxieties and duties. Indeed, since the beginning of last year, I have enjoyed but few days of calm leisure.

For many years I have felt the deepest interest in the subject of education : so deep, indeed, that I have long entertained an ardent desire to engage in this field of christian exertion. My natural delight in the society of children no doubt tended in a considerable degree to turn my mind in this direction ;

but what has had a more decided influence on my thoughts and my aims has been the deeply-fixed conviction, that it is among the young especially that christian exertion is calculated to have a beneficial influence, and where it has the fullest promise of a rich reward ; and that christian women are called on to cultivate this interesting field of labour. This is not only indicated by all human probabilities, but is urged by the promises and exhortations of the Bible, and confirmed by all experience.

This long-cherished desire will sufficiently account for all my productions bearing in some way on this subject, and has also been the impelling motive in every effort I have made for my own improvement.

The branch of this subject treated of in these pages is of the utmost importance, lying, as it does, at the foundation of all social improvement. Much has already been

written on it, but, as is frequently the case when truth opposes prejudice and custom, with comparatively little effect.

It would be well, indeed, were this subject more frequently urged by those better qualified to command attention and exert an influence over the opinions and habits of society. As it is, should this humble effort tend, by the blessing of God, in any measure to awaken an interest in Female Education, I shall feel myself amply repaid for any labour it may have cost me.

BARBARA H. FARQUHAR.

Bow of FIFE,
November 14th, 1850.