

**WOMAN; HER POSITION AND
INFLUENCE IN ANCIENT
GREECE AND ROME, AND
AMONG THE EARLY CHRISTIANS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649147205

Woman; her position and influence in ancient Greece and Rome, and among the early Christians by James Donaldson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JAMES DONALDSON

**WOMAN; HER POSITION AND
INFLUENCE IN ANCIENT
GREECE AND ROME, AND
AMONG THE EARLY CHRISTIANS**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION
OF FAITH
AND THE THIRTY-NINE ARTICLES OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND:
*THE LEGAL, MORAL, AND RELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF
SUBSCRIPTION TO THEM*

Crown 3s. 6d. net

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
LONDON, NEW YORK, BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

WOMAN;

*HER POSITION AND INFLUENCE IN ANCIENT
GREECE AND ROME, AND AMONG
THE EARLY CHRISTIANS*

BY

JAMES DONALDSON, M.A. LL.D.

Principal of the University of St. Andrews

LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

39 PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON

NEW YORK, BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA

1907

All rights reserved

PREFACE.

THE first three books of this work and a part of the fourth are a reprint of the following five articles from the *Contemporary Review*, and of a portion of the sixth, with the kind consent of the Editor.

1. The Position and Influence of Women in Ancient Greece.—*Contemporary Review*, July, 1878.

2. The Position and Influence of Women in Ancient Athens.—*Contemporary Review*, March, 1879.

3. The Position of Women in Ancient Rome.—*Contemporary Review*, May, 1888.

4. The Position of Women in Ancient Rome.—*Contemporary Review*, October, 1888.

5. The Position of Women among the Early Christians.—*Contemporary Review*, September, 1889.

6. The Characters of Plautus.—*Contemporary Review*, November, 1877.

All the articles have been carefully revised and various additions have been inserted in them. The fourth book contains discussions of some important questions bearing on the subject of the work, which are printed for the first time.

I am indebted to Mr. John Randall for the preparation of the Index.

CONTENTS.

BOOK I.

THE POSITION AND INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT GREECE.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. PRELIMINARY	I
II. HOMERIC WOMEN	11
III. THE SPARTAN WOMEN	24
IV. SAPPHO	42
V. ATHENIAN WOMEN	49

BOOK II.

THE POSITION AND INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT ROME.

I. THE GOOD SIDE	77
II. THE OTHER SIDE	87
III. RELIGION	93
IV. LEGISLATION AND MARRIAGE LAWS	99
V. THE EFFECTS OF MARRIAGE AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS	112

BOOK III.

THE POSITION AND INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY.

I. HIGH POSITION OF WOMEN AND THEIR SUB- SEQUENT DEGRADATION	148
II. EXPLANATION OF THE DEGRADATION	175

CONTENTS.

BOOK IV.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

CHAP.		PAGE
I.	WOMEN OF THE HOMERIC PERIOD.	
	(1) The Gentleness of the Period .	192
	(2) The Darker Side of the Question .	198
	(3) Love-Making in Homer's Time	205
II.	WOMEN IN THE GREEK PERIOD.	
	(1) On the Character of Sappho	207
	(2) Aspasia	210
	(3) Portraits of Sappho and Aspasia	211
	(4) Right of Intermarriage— <i>ἐπιγαμία</i>	211
	(5) Athenian Citizenship	212
	(6) Date of 'Ecclesiastusæ'	215
	(7) The Women of Plautus	216
III.	WOMEN IN THE ROMAN PERIOD.	
	(1) Women in Asia Minor	237
	(2) The Speech of Augustus on Marriage	238
	(3) Medical Women	240
	(4) Women in Egypt	241
IV.	WOMEN IN THE ANTE-NICENE PERIOD.	
	(1) Influence of Christianity on Women	248
	(2) Callistus	249
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	255
	INDEX.	269

BOOK I.

THE POSITION AND INFLUENCE OF WOMEN IN ANCIENT GREECE.

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

EVERYTHING that has life has a course within certain limits predetermined for it, through which it passes until it finally disappears. The seed of the oak gathers materials from earth and sky until it fashions itself into the majestic tree. It will not become a rose or an elm. So it is with the higher animals and man. The lines of their progress through life are distinctly marked off. But within the limits special to each class, there are different degrees of perfection. All the individuals seem to strive after an ideal which none attains, to which some come very close, and to which all more or less approximate. Man has also his ideal, but in addition to the instinctive power of soul which strives after the ideal, he has the faculty of being conscious of the ideal and of consciously striving after it. What is true of man, is true of woman. What is the ideal of