

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

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Woman: Her Position and Influence in Ancient Greece and Rome, and Among the Early Christians by James Donaldson

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**JAMES DONALDSON**

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WOMAN;

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

BY

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## 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.



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## 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