

**WOMAN'S UNFITNESS  
FOR HIGHER  
COEDUCATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649315390

Woman's unfitness for higher coeducation by Ely Van de Warker

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Cover @ 2017

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BY

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THE GRAFTON PRESS  
NEW YORK

LC19037

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To

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MRS. EMMA HART WILLARD,

Born at Berlin, Connecticut, in 1787, who, believing that American women were in need of higher and broader education, founded an institution of college rank for women at Waterford, New York, which at the solicitation of the citizens of Troy, New York, was transferred to that city in 1819, and became famous as the Troy Female Seminary and spread abroad a high and liberal culture which has inspired and refined thousands of homes throughout the land, was the first to write upon the education of her sex, was the author of many learned works and died, honored and lamented, in 1870, this book is reverently inscribed by

THE AUTHOR.

M94409

## PREFACE

THE following pages were written in the interest of the higher education of women. It is the sincere belief of the author that the method of coeducation, as realized in practice, has been brought to its logical conclusion. The commingling of the sexes on an educational basis was at one time a matter of education of the higher kind; but so energetically has the idea been forced into college life, and so deeply have thinking people been stirred by a discussion of its relative merits, or possible dangers, that it is now a problem in sociology. It has got beyond the grasp of the educator, who has heretofore claimed the right as such to decide upon its merits, and has passed into the hands



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of those who, with a broader and deeper knowledge of human life, must give the verdict of its fitness and utility as a form of education.

The writer will never forget the picture of a woman who, in 1819, sought education under that wonderful educator, Emma Willard. This woman lived to the closing decade of the last century, and throughout that long life the culture there gained, and the inspiration to always seek the true and the beautiful, never left her. The high ideals acquired there sustained her throughout a life of self-denial and toil. Is not this the best that education can do to elevate and dignify the work that lies ready for willing hands, with hope blossoming perennially in a sane and healthy mind? A few more years will complete a century since this woman sought and found higher education at the Troy Female Seminary. Has coeducation anything to offer that will equal it in

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results? Is it not the truth that higher education for women has fallen back a century in utility and fitness, if coeducation is to represent its best form?

This book is offered as a document to that great and discriminating public to whom must be referred all questions of public policy, and upon whose judgments coeducation must either stand or fall.

E. V. DE W.

