

THE DAWN OF WOMANHOOD

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The Dawn of Womanhood by Gabrielle E. Jackson

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GABRIELLE E. JACKSON

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The Dawn of Womanhood

by
Gabrielle C. Jackson

Author of
"Mother and Daughter"
"The Three Graces"
etc. etc.

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PREFACE



THE aim of this work is, primarily, and above all others, to help our American girls become American women. I use the term advisedly because I am confident that no nation on earth holds such possibilities for women, and it rests with the older women to make the younger ones realize this.

Not that the women of other lands lack opportunities to stand for a vast deal to their fellow-beings, and to hand down to posterity a priceless legacy if they will, but in other lands women have many traditions, many customs, many usages to reckon with. It is harder for the younger generation to act independently. If this little book can give a helpful suggestion to the girls dwelling in other lands it certainly will not have been written in vain. If it can help them, as well as our own dear American girls to understand the immeasurable power they hold for future generations, and why they cannot afford to toy with



Preface

that power, or underestimate it, certainly a step will have been taken in the right direction.

We want our girls to realize from their early girlhood that such a power is a sacred trust, and that the manhood of all the land can be shaped by it. That the purity, beauty, truth and dignity of *their* characters, their joyousness, their spontaneity, will surely be reflected in posterity for many generations.

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The Dawn of Womanhood

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OUR AMERICAN GIRLHOOD



O not the very words, "The Dawn of Womanhood," conjure up before you a beautiful picture? They make the writer wish most earnestly that she were an artist, with an artist's power to put upon a canvas the mental picture she has before her. Since she lacks this power, she will try to make a pen-picture, and draw it very vividly in the hope that some day some one far cleverer than herself may put it in colour and thus give to the world the little allegory which, more than once, has brought a happy smile to her lips. Now for the picture :

The background is a glorious, rosy, mid-summer's dawn, with the sun just rising and filling all the world with promise. Little fleecy clouds, silvery and golden, hover close upon the horizon and cast opaline reflections upon the vast, limit-