Commencement Thesis.

Subject: Woman in Journalism.

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Woman in Journalism.

"Blessed is he who has found his work; let him seek no other happiness," says Carlyle. And may we not say as much for woman—blessed is she who has found her work? Perhaps no our but the woman who toils daily for her bread knows better how disagreeable it is, what a burden life is, when she must follow an occupation which is displeasing to her; when she cannot be allowed to choose that profession which alone has its peculiar charm for her and make it her life-work. A popular writer on this topic has said, "How much happier that woman is, who can cheerfully take up the work she likes, than the one who toils daily at uncongenial employment."

The time has come when woman is expected to know at least our thing well, whether she is obliged to follow that vocation or not. Woman is no longer content with only a light knowledge of housework, a little of this and a little of that, in order that she may appear well in society. Society calls for more, yea, demands more. To our fair sex, and how quickly she does respond to the call.
The day has past and gone forever when a
woman who enters any industrial pursuit
loses caste.

In taking up this subject,
it seems necessary to devote a little space to
Journalism in general, giving its nature and
importance. Mrs. Mackay Hutchinson, a
special writer on The New York Tribune, has
written a very liberal article on "Woman and
Journalism" in the Galaxy Vol. 13. From
that article we quote the following: "Journal-
is an instinct, a genius, a gift, the individual
as sculpture or painting. Any clever man
who has the trick of expression may write
for the newspapers, but that does not
necessarily make him a journalist. Trained
proficiency of thought, exquisite literary art,
humor, the richest judgment. The most skil-
do not of themselves insure success in
this moral photographic profession. To seize
impressively, with keen clear vision the
daily truth or idea which it or should be
of highest public importance and interest;
and to picture it in sentences short, live,
vigorous—perception, reflection, and
execution in our happy flash—that is
Journalistic genius in its highest and most serviceable manifestation.

Thirty or forty years ago a woman who wrote for newspapers was considered more of a curiosity than a genius. Non-de-plumes were used to cover real names from public gaze. The following verse is a specimen of the ridicule of a woman who would do far forget herself and her position as to be known among the writers of stories and poetry. "To be a lady of such taste Is abominable, is shocking; Your pen and poetry Clay me, And learn to darn your stockings." But to the woman who had the genius and the determination to become a journalist such petty discouragements had no material effect.

There used to be, and is yet, though to a lesser degree, a strange misunderstanding about the work and natural ability required of a journalist. An amusing instance is recorded of an excellent housekeeper who decided one of her boarders, a bright young lady reporter, was having a much easier lift than she, so she...
housekeeper determined to give up her regular work in the kitchen, in the garden, and among her chickens, to write for the paper. Her productions were, as one would naturally suspect, miserably written and ill-spelled. The following is an example of her genius: "Dear Mr. Editor—

I stop my moaning to inform your readers how to keep children from getting into hot water. She says, 'tells how to have the water 'sprim,' and if the child falls in, it will not 'scald.' For all this valuable knowledge she demanded only five dollars. From this contribution, and this is not the only one of its kind, we see the necessity of first knowing that one had the natural ability and then making the needed preparations and studying to follow such a vocation.

Among the many woman journalists that have succeeded in that work, we recognize the names of Emily C. Chubbuck, Sarah Clarke, who wrote for many different papers and edited a magazine for children, Mrs. Sarah Hale, editor of Godley's Lady's Book.
for forty years, who was thought to have been the first to establish in this country a magazine devoted entirely to the manufac-
tures and interests of women. Miss Middy Morgan, the successful hair-stock reporter for a
number of New York daily papers, is certainly worthy of mention here. Though her work
is of peculiar kind for women, yet she has purchased horses in France for the
King of Italy's stable, and no one has ever
molested her in any way; they rather commend her for her fearless pluck and
her excellent journalism.

Women reporters are now found in
every large city, and in some smaller onest. The New York Sun has for years
employed a lady reporter. The matter
furnished consists of local news, sermons,
short sketches, long stories, household notes,
fashion letters, book reviews, art criticisms
etc. As a rule a woman reporter has
night, agreeable work, and often times her
duty as a reporter is quite singular.

In Los Angeles the daily papers employ
a woman as face-valve reporter. Another
paper, The Chicago Inter Ocean, has a
woman might report, Mrs. Fitzgerald. She
gets into the office at midnight with police
news and is never questioned or questioned.
The salary for such a position is about
two dollars per week. Perhaps one of
the best illustrations of female journalism
is the position held by Miss Mary Booth,
editor of Harper's Bazar. Her salary is
three thousand dollars yearly. Of course
only a few could secure such positions,
but there are always hundreds of others
grades of places for the woman who has
special genius for this work. Many
women have planned to enter the journalistic field in order to replenish the pocket
book or to take a trip which otherwise could
not have been taken, nor receiving to ask,
"Have I any talent, genius or capacity for
this work?" Mrs. Payne says of such
women: "The one who seize the work
to relieve the expectancies of her pocket
instead of the fullness of her mind, has
far better save her postage stamps.
Newspaper correspondence should be a
work of significance and the woman
who regards it as an easy way of
earning money has of its scope too little comprehensive to invite further discussion."

Elizabeth Mallet, a London woman, has the honor of having established and edited the first daily newspaper in the world. Her object was "to spare the public half the impertinences which the ordinary papers contained."

As early as 1742 she founded her own conductory newspaper in Spain. The illustrations in many of the ladies' magazines were with steel engravings and fashion plates which were very creditably executed.

Frederick Husdon, in speaking of the modern class of publications for women, says: "They are above fashion, above the small talk of the tall-room, or the gossip and envy of the reception-room. Some of these papers are edited by strong-minded women, seeking a higher sphere for female labor and the right of women to vote, to buy and sell stock on Walstreet to illuminate from the pulpit, to visit sickrooms as physicians as well as nurses, to serve in Army and Navy, in Congress,
on school committees, etc. etc. There is now the "Woman Journal" and the "Revolution" to urge these social changes on the world. They have taken the place of old lecturers, and talk to the millions. They are active and persistent workers, full of spirit and poetry, boldness and beauty, in pushing their plans of reform before the Un quer public.

Our Susan B. Anthony was for some time editor of the "Revolution," a woman's right paper. This was a very radical paper and took the pessimistic view of life for woman unless—more rights were granted to them.

In Baltimore, there is published a paper, The True Woman, which opposes all the doctrine of the "Revolution" and makes its own policy. To make woman more womanly, to elevate her and make her, in every way, good and noble.

In comparing the ability of the woman journalist with the man journalist, I would say, intellectually, she is equal, but not equal physically. This is of course not true of all women. But, as a general rule, men are more capable of enduring the hard strain of night and day labor.
Many persons hold the view that women should not enter the journalistic field. The reasons given are numerous. Let us consider some of them. Perhaps the first one which would present itself is her physical instability. She cannot stand the nervous strain which must come. Also the sudden emergencies which only the strong journalist knows how to meet and keep going meanwhile are beyond frail woman. The anxieties of home and of the press room confused, and she is not able to compete with her brother journalist. And again, woman's very nature is against her in such work! Political experience is necessary to carry on a newspaper successfully, and this experience must be constant and up to date. The social position of woman will not allow her to carry on this work and keep her standing in society. Still this latter point is not so much against her at present as it used to be. Some say woman should not enter this field because there is no necessity for such enterprise on their part, and that public sentiment is opposed to such work for
the fair sex. This does not seem to be a very strong argument against, yet to come in the light of the reasons given to keep them from the work. Lastly, we might say, in her position as a journalist, she excels in influence on her sex which is not for the best. She is thought to lose her womanliness, her loveliness, and her charm, and hence her power for doing good in the world. And now in conclusion of this phase of the subject, I would say, that while some of these reasons may be good ones, yet they are not as a whole stronger than the reasons why she should become a journalist, provided she finds her calling and her duty.

In regard to some of the reasons why women should be allowed this privilege, the same as the privilege to clerk in a store, I would place first, her natural ability; second, the good done in this profession will more than balance the harm done. Education now gives her a special fitness for writing on social and literary topics. A concern...
call to do this work and means suggested.
The desire to free her sex from many
grviences and wrongs, and her desire to
use her influence on the public to
some desired end also appeal to her.

Woman journalists are pure and
right; they are influential, many are
beautiful, talented, experienced and useful.
and can quite often do what men could
not accomplish.

Thus we would encourage women
to continue the good work which is so
important, for the newspaper is said
to be the most appreciated of all
human productions. The journalist
is truly the "Secretary of Time."
Bibliography.