
WRONG DONE TO WOMEN

The conditions necessary to reach the highest development in this world, for either man or woman, are independence and absolute equality of rights. This is the essence of justice, and the highest civilization is impossible where these conditions do not exist. Neither man nor woman can become really great while the other is kept subordinate. And the different peoples of the earth rank on the scale of progress according to the treatment their women receive.

Their condition is the lowest among the savages and barbarians, where they are compelled to do all the drudgery and to wait on their lords and masters as slaves; and it is the highest in the United States of America, where they possess the greatest degree of independence and equality of rights ever accorded women.

Men are gradually discovering that they cannot deprive women of equal rights without

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suffering themselves. They pay the penalty of occupying a lower grade of civilization.) The man who treats a woman as an inferior, and refuses to accord her justice, cannot attain the highest estate in this life. He stands on too low a plane.

There is no man living who holds a commission which authorizes him to sit in judgment on the rights of women.

Woman has precisely the same title and right to independence and equality before the law that man has. Both hold title from the same source. She has just as much^o right to sit in judgment on man, and limit his sphere and his actions, as he has to limit hers. Therefore any attempt by man to deny woman independence or equality of rights is simply the assertion of brute force.

Brute force degrades those who successfully use it. Every time it is resorted to, there is a reaction toward the brute creation.

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The story of the wrongs done to woman is as old as time, and the blight and curse of it has followed man through the centuries.

There is no more pitiable object than the weak, confiding creature, betrayed and abandoned, and a social outcast. No condition in life can be more hopeless. The path of degradation, vice, and misery, seems all that is left for her.

When we hear of a man thus abandoning a woman, we instinctively feel that there must be a hell,—else how shall such miscreants meet their just reward? But if we look deeper we find that Nature has fully covered the case, and she never yet has let a guilty one escape, unless he has made ample restitution. The man who ruthlessly abandons a woman who has believed and confided in him, destroys himself; and though he flies to the ends of the earth, the curse will follow him. He may have genius, and may seem to prosper; but

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sooner or later the dark shadow of wrong will turn his face from the sun, and lead him into the currents of destiny that will carry him to his just punishment.