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WOMEN'S LEARNING HAS LIGHTED THE AGES; MANY HAVE LED IN THE FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR

Although the masculine half of mankind has always been prone to agree with Dr. Johnson's cynical view of women's accomplishments in other than purely feminine fields—"a woman's preaching is like a dog's walking on his hind legs; it is not done well at all"—a study of the works of collected biography shows a large number of women who have cultivated with astonishing success many fields of learning generally believed to be reserved for men.

Yet the ordinary reader has never heard of most of these learned and famous women. For examples, there were Marie Agnesi, the Italian mathematician; Lady Anne Halket, the English physician; Caroline Merschel, the English astronomer, says a writer in the Boston Herald.

Had Command of Latin at Nine Years. Maria Gaetana Agnesi was one of the most famous mathematicians of either sex of the Eighteenth century. Her treatise on "Analytical Institutions" is still consulted. She was born in Milan, Italy, in 1715, and was an infant prodigy, having a good command of Latin at nine. She delivered then an oration in Latin, in which she maintained that the study of the ancient languages was a proper one for girls and women—a proposition that was gravely disputed by many of the women and men of the time.

Maria is said to have spoken Greek in her eleventh year as fluently as she did her own mother tongue. Having conquered Latin and Greek, she proceeded to the study of the Oriental languages (acquiring enough of them to become known as a "polyglot"), geometry and speculative philosophy. Before she was twenty she composed a treatise on comic sections, a branch of the higher mathematics, and in her thirtieth year she published her "Analytical Institutions." These works brought her so much fame that in her thirty-second year she was chosen to fill the chair of mathematics at the famous University of Bologna. But too much study and work affected her spirits, and the latter years of her life were passed in the seclusion of a convent. She died in 1799.

Lady Anne Halket enjoyed a high reputation as a physician in England in the Seventeenth century. She was a daughter of the well-known Murray of Tullibardine family, of Scotland, and her father was one of the teachers of King Charles I. Anne received a liberal education, far beyond the ordinary schooling of Scottish or English girls of her time; her favorite studies were theology and medicine. Her skill in the healing art was so great that her reputation spread to other countries, the ailing men and women resorted to her home, from The Netherlands and elsewhere. She was born in 1622 and died in 1690.

Famous Astronomer.

The famous astronomer Carolina Lucretia Herschel, was the aunt of one distinguished student of the heavens and the sister of another. She herself stands very high on the list of the world's astronomers. Her brother, Sir William Herschel, began his active life as a musician; becoming interested in astronomy and mathematics, he constructed for himself a telescope with which he scanned the heavens to such good effect that he discovered a planet, became the king's astronomer, and added to the world's knowledge more than 5000 stars, nebulae, etc. Caroline assisted him in his earliest astronomical researches, and became his secretary. Between 1786 and 1797 she discovered eight comets, five of which had undoubtedly never been observed before; many of the smaller nebulae and star clusters included in her brother's catalogue were found by her. An old biographer says that "she executed the laborious numerical calculations necessary to render her brother's discoveries available to science, and labored in the cause of astronomy with an ardor and activity which neither the fatigue of the body nor the inclemencies of the season could exhaust." She was elected an honorary member of the London Astronomical Society, and in 1828 she received its gold medal. She died twenty years later.

Of living women astronomers, probably the most distinguished is Isabel M. Lewis, of Washington, who is connected with the government service. Next to Caroline Herschel in rank among recent women star gazers and mathematicians was the late Maria Mitchell (1818-1899), who made many valuable discoveries.

Famous as Botanist.

Eleanor, Marchioness, of Fonseca, of Naples, was an Italian lady who won renown in botany, and acted as assistant to Lauro Spallanzani, the greatest Italian naturalist of the time. The life story of the marchioness is one

of romance and tragedy. She was famed for her beauty no less than for her talents and learning, although her span of being stretched over only thirty-one years, from 1768 to 1799. Despite her aristocratic birth and marriage and her connection with the court of Naples, she made herself prominent as an ardent supporter of the French revolution. When the royalist court triumphed in Naples, she was arrested and hanged, despite her hosts of friends, her personal beauty, her fame and her talents.

Spallanzani, teacher of the Marchioness of Fonseca, had a cousin, Laura Bassi ((Signor Verati)), who was a very learned woman, and won the degree of doctor of philosophy, rarely conferred on women in the Eighteenth century. Her high mental accomplishments were displayed in a series of lectures on experimental philosophy. "Her private life was also deserving the highest encomiums, and exhibited her as the possessor of every amiable virtue," says an old chronicler.

The name of Rosa Bonheur, the painter of animals, and her work, are well known, of course; before her time one of the most famous of the world's women artists was Angelica Kauffmann, who won the distinguished honor of election to the British Royal Academy. She was born in Switzerland in 1741, and died in Rome in 1807. She was taught how to paint by her father, a mediocre artist whom she soon surpassed. In her early years passed in Italy, she was recognized as a painter of talent, but it was not until she went to England, in 1766, that she reached the pinnacle of her success. One of her warmest friends was the great Sir Joshua Reynolds. She painted many pictures that are hung in the principal galleries of Europe, and is also noted as an engraver.

Famous Grecians.

Greece in the olden days produced many women philosophers, besides the famous Aspasia, Hypathia and Eudocia. Modern nations have also had their female philosophers, who proved their right to places among the wisest of human beings, male or female. One of the most interesting of them was Elizabeth Carter, an Englishwoman, who was born in 1717, and lived almost a century, dying in 1806. She was the daughter of a clergyman, and under his guidance acquired a knowledge of Latin, Greek, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Hebrew and Arabic.

In her lifetime she translated several abstruse works on philosophy into English, such as Algarotti's explanation of Newton's philosophy, and the works of Epicurus. After her death six volumes of her correspondence were published and were received very favorably by the learned men of the time. A French woman philosopher of high renown in her own country was the Marchioness of Chastelet, who translated the "Institutes of the Philosophy of Leibnitz" into French, and also the philosophy of Newton, the "Principia." To the latter she added an able commentary. Another of the most learned ladies of recent times was Helena Lucretia Cornaro, a member of a celebrated Venetian family. It is recorded of her that her fame for learning was so great that visitors to Venice were more anxious to see her than all the art works and famous buildings of the city.

Won Fame in Entomology.

Entomology was the branch of science that claimed the attention of Maria Sybilla Merlan, a German woman of the Seventeenth century. She was also a skillful artist. At a time when a voyage to South America from Europe was a matter of great moment, and attended with much bodily risk and discomfort, she visited Dutch Guiana, to draw the insects and reptiles peculiar to that country. She wrote a book on "the Generation and Transformation of the Insects of Surinam." Her daughter followed in her footsteps and won some fame in similar lines.

Female historians have not been plentiful, or highly distinguished; one of the most famous was the Englishwoman, Catharine Macauley, who wrote a history of England that was highly praised by the critics. She had interest for Americans because she visited the United States, and was a guest of Washington for ten days at Mt. Vernon, in 1785. Lecky, the famous English historian and philosopher, called Catharine Macauley "the ablest writer of the new radical school."

Anne Lefevre Racier is one of the shining lights in France's study of the classical authors. She was born in 1651 and died in 1720. She was a student of the classical languages at a very early age, and before she was twenty-two had published an admirable edition of "Callimachus." This

A SONG OF EARLY AUTUMN.

When late in summer the streams run yellow
Burst the bridges and spread into bays;
When berries are black and peaches are mellow,
And hills are hidden by a rainy haze:

When the goldenrod is golden still,
But the heart of the sunflower is darker and sadder
When the corn is in stacks on the slope of the hill,
And slides o'er the path the striped adder;

When butterflies flutter from clover to thicket,
Or wave their wings on the drooping leaf;
When the breeze comes shrill with the call of the cricket,
Grasshoppers' rasp and rustle of sheaf;

When high in the field the fern-leaves wrinkle,
And brown is the grass where the mowers have mown;
When low in the meadows the cowbells tinkle,
And small brooks crinkle o'er stock and stone;

When heavy and hollow the robin's whistle
And shadows are deep in the heart of noon;
When the air is white with the down of the thistle,
And the sky is red with the harvest moon;

O then be chary, young Robert and Mary,
No time let slip, not a moment wait!
If the fiddle would play it must stop its tuning;
And they who would wed must be done with their mooning;
So let the churn rattle, see well to the cattle,
And pile the wood by the barnyard gate!
—RICHARD WATSON GILDER.

THE TROUBLE WITH REFORMS.

Will H. Hays, the mogul of the movies, was condemning a mooted reform.

"The trouble with this reform," he said, "and the same trouble marks a good many labor and commercial and other reforms, is that it's based on selfishness."

"It reminds me of a little girl who was thinking about life."

"Mamma," she said thoughtfully, "why can't the candy shop man and the toy shop man call for orders every morning the same as the butcher and grocer do?"

P. S. Arscott of Saint John is a guest at the Queen.

Mussolini Men and Management.

was followed by translations of Homer, Anacreon, Sappho, Terence, Aristophanes, Plautus, etc. Since her time her translations have been reprinted repeatedly, with her notes.

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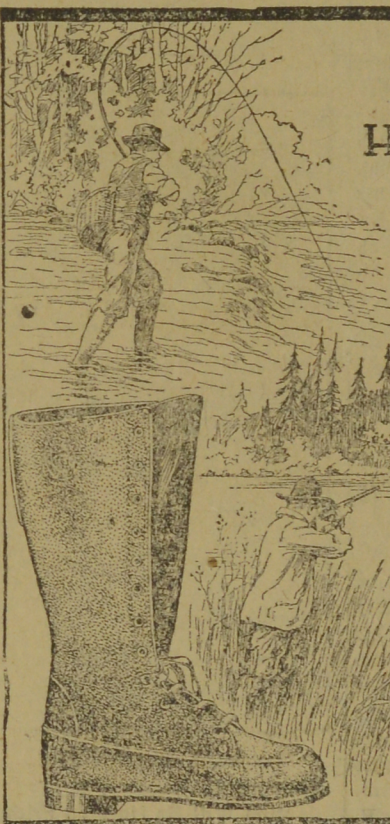
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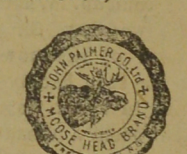
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