THE LADIES' MENTOR.

Schools for Young Ladies.—St. Mary's Hall, Green Bank, Burlington, New Jersey—Linden Wood, St. Charles, Missouri—Miss Draper's Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut.

We have before us the plans of the above schools, and are happy to say that each one is worthy of commendation; each one is elevated by that acknowledged female influence which should pervade the place of education where female youth are trained. We would not be mistaken in this matter. We do not claim for female teachers a superiority of mental power; no, we are ready to acknowledge that in learning, or more properly science, they are, as yet, rarely found equal to men; in some departments of science we would certainly prefer a gentleman teacher to a lady. But we would impress on every mind this truth, that it is not knowledge, properly so called, which makes men or women truly wise and good—it is the right application of knowledge which is needed to be understood and practised. This right application depends almost entirely on the bias which the moral feelings receive during the process of education. That the moral powers of women are, by nature, more pure and delicate than those of men, is allowed by almost all philosophers and moral writers.

"Females are respected wherever moral feelings are esteemed," says Dr. Spurzheim; and all "good great men" make the same acknowledgment. Now the object of female education should be to impart such intellectual light as will enable women to use their superior moral powers for the improvement of society. But this application of their knowledge must be made in their own sphere, and by means becoming their feminine character. The pride of learning, the ambition for intellectual honours, the thirst for popular renown, even when gained by labours in a great and good cause, should not be made objects of desire in their literary progress. Yet these things are eagerly sought by men, and in all systems of education yet prepared by men, the object of eliciting great talents for public display, rather than unfolding and directing the moral powers to promote happiness in private life, is considered the highest result of academical skill. It is, therefore, because that men prize intellectual acquirements above moral graces, that we object to their being allowed to hold the supremacy in female Institutions. But the subject requires a volume instead of a paragraph; a volume that we hope sometime to have leisure to indulge, unless some able pen anticipates our purpose. That the themes of our Mentor are exciting great interest we have almost daily proof in the letters of our friends and correspondents—and that our views are just, the testimony of men, who are themselves at the head of establishments for the education of

"Young Ladies," might be added. They candidly acknowledge that "woman is the proper, the best teacher for her own sex," but they urge that women are not yet sufficiently educated for the office. Well, it cannot but be of advantage to have right opinions on this subject, and so when ladies are properly qualified, we may trust that the men will be willing to resign the guardianship of the female mind to its legitimate directors.

"Your Lady's Book," says Mrs. Sigourney, in a late letter, "takes just the stand that it ought. I thank you for speaking out with such independence as you have done, about the 'lordly sex' taking charge of female boarding-schools. It never ought to be so. Continue to lift up your voice on the right side, and posterity will bless you."—Yes, we trust that a few years will work the change at which we aim. We do not wish to banish the influence of masculine talent from female education. Our beau-ideal of boardingschool advantages for young ladies would place at the head of such institutions a lady of discreet judgment and great moral endowments of heart and mind; she should be able to awe by the dignity of conscientious virtue, and persuade by that goodness which is the result of benevolence and affectionateness of the natural disposition. Great talents and profound learning are not so necessary for her as that strong sense which can discriminate and judge the uses of knowledge, and that tact which can seize on the appropriate themes for her own sex, and illustrate and enforce the truths of science in their application to woman's duties. We wish this lady assisted by accomplished teachers of her own sex, and in several departments of science by men of the first abilities and learning.

The school of "Miss Draper," named at the head of this article, is conducted on the system we think in accordance with reason and propriety. Miss D. is Principal—she has four female assistant teachers, and three male teachers. The responsibility of the moral management, the manners, and the literary habits and opinions of the young ladies, is as it should be, imposed on a woman—but this does not preclude the advantage of that thorough scientific course of study for the pupils, which men are doubtless, in some branches, better qualified than women to superintend.

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The Seminary at "Linden Wood" is also on a plan we highly approve—a family school it may be styled. At its head are Mr. and Mrs. Stanley. We honor Mr. Sibley, and trust that our sex will hold his name in great respect for the noble manner in which he has come forward to assist his wife in raising the standard of female education. He does not seem to fear that his fame as the Principal of an establishment for young ladies, will suffer, because he shares the literary reputation with a woman. The opening paragraph of the circular is a tribute of respect for the sex, which, though not original with him, yet as he has adopted, may be considered to express his sentiments. And these are his:

"Woman is the most important sex; and if but half of our race can be educated, let it be woman instead of man. "Woman forms our cha-

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racter: she is with us through life; she nurses us in infancy; she watches us in sickness, soothes us in distress, and cheers us in the melancholy of old age. Her rank determines that of her race. If she be high-minded and virtuous, with a soul thirsting for that which is lofty, true and disinterested, so it is with the race: If she be light and vain, with her heart set on trifles, fond only of pleasure, alas, for the community where she is so dear, alas.

We subjoin an extract from the letter we received from Mr. Sibley, explanatory of the manner in which the school at Linden Wood has been formed. It is an institution of which Missouri may well be proud, and we do hope her legislators will sustain, by liberal grants of land and money, these private exertions to diffuse information, and lay the foundation for permanent improvement in the character of mankind.

_Linden Wood, May 9th, 1837._

MRS. HALE.

Madam—I observe in some of the last numbers of the Lady's Book that you are collecting information in relation to the interesting subject of Female Education in the United States; and to comply with your general request, I use the freedom to send you the annexed circular. Mrs. Sibley and myself have no other object in view in our school, than to promote as far as our means and ability will allow, the proper education of our Female Youth. Occupying a lovely spot, and having much leisure time, we were persuaded a few years ago, to receive some of the young daughters of our relations and friends into our family; and Mrs. Sibley undertook to give them some instruction in the common English Branches, and in Music; and also in the important matters of Housekeeping and other domestic duties. Our friends were much pleased with our plan, and would have us, volens vel nona, to advance still a little farther, and a little farther, till by degrees we found ourselves actually embarked in the very serious enterprise of establishing a public school, which we, we have determined on it, I really hope we may be able to maintain. I have just had some additional accommodations as to house room completed, and have made arrangements for competent assistants, to enable us to announce (as this circular sets forth) our ability to take charge of forty Misses, at the opening of the next Session, on the 22d inst. Our School is materially different in several particulars from the ordinary plan of boarding-schools. It is intended to be adapted to the peculiar manners and habits, and necessities of our western people, and will probably succeed to as great an extent as it is desirable that any one school should ever be allowed to reach. It is the first school of the kind, and except some Jesuit numeraries that are so unsuitable, the first boarding-school established in this state. But we do most ardently hope, that by the blessing of Heaven, it may prove the forerunner of many others in our land; and I believe it will, for it is very apparent, that there exists an increasing disposition among our people to promote the intellectual and moral improvement of the better portion of the rising generation.

Geo. C. Sibley.

"St. Mary's Hall" is an Institution founded by the Episcopalians, with the express purpose of carrying out the plan, lately devised by some of the principal clergymen of that denomination, to provide for "female education on Christian principles." These clergymen have come out with an "Appeal" to Christian parents, to sustain this enterprise, and showing the reasons which make it necessary. These wise and pious men, searching for the causes which have retarded the spread of the Gospel, and weakened the influence of its principles on those who profess the same, have at last reached what is perhaps one of the most material of all the reasons in which the female mind has been kept in the consequent contempt in which her moral endowments have been held. And this ignorance they are preparing to enlighten—and whoever regards as truth the following sentiments, which the "Appeal" contains, must wish them success.

"The mother is the earliest teacher, and the best. Long before the Sunday-school, or even the Infant school is reached, she has given her imprint to the character—an imprint which deepens with our years, and, more than all human influences, makes our present life what it is, and gives direction to the life which is to come. Regarding the sex in this, its highest and holiest relation; regarding the delicacy, the difficulty, the responsibility which it involves; regarding the great end and aim of life, the divine image formed in the soul, qualifying it for the divine acceptance, through faith which is in Christ Jesus; regarding the sole means by which this end may be successfully pursued, religious instruction, religious example, religious influence—is it unreasonable to speak of an Institution for Female Education on Christian principles as a school for mothers? Is it extravagant to believe, that an enterprise, which by such means, aims at such an end, cannot appeal in vain to Christians, to patriots, to philanthropists, to men? can, least of all, appeal in vain to the parental heart?"

We hope not. We never would desire to see education made, either for men or women, a sectarian matter; but while legislators entirely neglect to provide places of education for females, and while the moral advancement of society is so materially affected by the mental darkness in which women are consigned, we cannot fail to feel it incumbent on all who profess to be Christians to take measures for founding and endowing private seminaries; and we believe that the increase and influence of the different religious sects in our country will, materially, be advanced by the employment of cultivated female intelleet. That denomination which shall best and most judiciously avails itself of the "help meet for man," will secure the ascendancy over mind.

The Episcopal denomination has had many bright female ornaments; many, indeed most of the distinguished English female writers belong to that church, and great has been their influence on morals. It, therefore, owes a peculiar attention to the culture of the female mind. This school at "Green Bank" promises to be a bright star in our moral horizon. It owes its origin, principally, to the exertions of the Bishop of New Jersey, Rev. G. W. Drase, formerly Rector of Trinity
Church, Boston. The seminary is under his supervision. It was opened in May, and every provision requisite for its success seems to have been made. At its head are placed the Rev. Asa Eaton, D. D., and Mrs. Susan Eaton, his wife. There are, besides, a number of teachers, all females—and provision is made for courses of Lectures, annually, in Chemistry, Philosophy, and Botany. A Library is also provided, and apparatus for illustrating the different branches of science. We should remark, that funds for this Institution, to the amount of $25,000 have been pledged by private munificence; it may, therefore, be considered as the first permanently endowed female seminary in our land.

May the desires of its founders be realized, and may it render its pupils, "by the due cultivation of the mind, the manners and the heart, true Christian ladies, prepared, through grace, for usefulness here, and for "glory, honor and immortality hereafter."

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