

they should be more at a loss for self support than their sisters in other parts of the country? The difficulty does not lie in the misfortune of the sex, but in the unfortunate fact that prejudice and long established custom have closed the doors of remunerative employments, drawn a cordon around woman and said to her not only in the south, but everywhere, "So far shalt thou go and no father." "Step beyond the line which public opinion allows you and you forfeit the respect of all good men." And woman has passively acknowledged the restrictions, for few will take the risks of doing violence to established customs, for they would rather fall back upon their power of suffering and endurance.

The self-sacrifice of woman is so great that, combined with the love for father, husband, son, she will go into the valley of death for them. She will cling to them when a wall wider than death separates them from the rest of mankind. For there is nothing that a woman holds dearer than these holy relations, and there is no sacrifice too great for woman to make for those holding these relations to her.

In her devotion to them she has submitted to restrictions and been governed by prejudices that have narrowed her sphere and curtailed her privileges, until now, as she shrinkingly stands behind the barriers that have been built up around her, comes the plaintive cry "what may I do?" Woman is not today asking "what can I do? but "what may I do?" What will public opinion allow me to do?" What can I do and yet not lose my prestige as a woman?" Like the goddess carved by an Athenian sculptor in the immovable rock on the wild coast of the Egean sea, woman has long sat unmoved inseparable from her hidden shrine.

The teeming, seething, struggling throng is close upon her seclusion, and the demand is that she step out from the place carved out by human hands and take her God-given liberty with the moving throng.

New duties, new responsibilities are being laid upon woman. The moral reform movements of the day need the impulse of the highest type of womanhood.