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WOMEN EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

New educational standards for women form another influence which has been at work affecting their position and interests. In the first half of the eighteenth century fewer than 40 per cent of the women of New England who signed legal papers wrote their name; the others made their mark [1].

The “dame school” provided a few crumbs of learning for the girls. Mrs. John Adams in her letters says that female education in the best families went no farther than writing and arithmetic, and it was fashionable to ridicule female learning.

Girls were not admitted to the public schools of Boston until 1769. It was not until 1852 that a public high-school education of any kind was available to Boston girls, and the opening of the Girl’s Latin School in 1878 gave them their first opportunity to be fitted for college. In Philadelphia no girls could be prepared for college in the public schools before 1893 [2].

Although the facilities for advanced public education were thus slowly developed, the movement for the establishment of private academies and seminaries for girls was a part of the general educational revival in the early part of the nineteenth century. Free elementary and secondary schools were established quite generally in the few decades preceding the Civil War. The employment of women teachers in comparatively large numbers can be traced to the effects of the Civil War, which made heavy drafts on men for other forms of service [3]. The opening of higher institutions of learning to women began in 1833 with the founding of “Oberlin Collegiate Institute”, which from the beginning admitted women as well as men. Antioch College followed in 1853, and the state universities beginning with Utah in 1850 have all opened their doors to women, with the exception of Florida, Georgia, and Virginia. In many colleges and universities women hold teaching positions, although as yet mostly of inferior rank, always with slow promotions, and frequently with salaries lower than those

given to men of the same rank. A large number of fellowships are open to women, some even in institutions primarily for men, as Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania [2].

As late as 1882, when sixty-six women from eight different colleges organized the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, they met as pioneers determined to advance educational standards and to give aid, counsel, and encouragement to the few scattered girls who were longing for sympathy as pressed forward to take advantage of new opportunities. The movement for collegiate education met with difficulties and obstacles at every point. One after another they have been removed [3].

In the face of these objections, the movement proceeded with a force which marked it as one of the great characteristics of the last century and made it a contribution of the history to civilization which has aroused the admiration of the world.

Literature

1. G. H. Martin, *The Evolution of the Massachusetts Public School System*, New York, 1894, p. 75.
2. Ida M., Tarbell, "The American Woman", *American Magazine*, December, 1909 p. 12.
3. Marion Talbot // *The Education of women Chicago* // The University of Chicago Press 1910, p. 16.