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DEDICATORY EXERCISES OF  
REBEKAH SCOTT HALL

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE



SPECIAL BULLETIN

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# Agnes Scott College

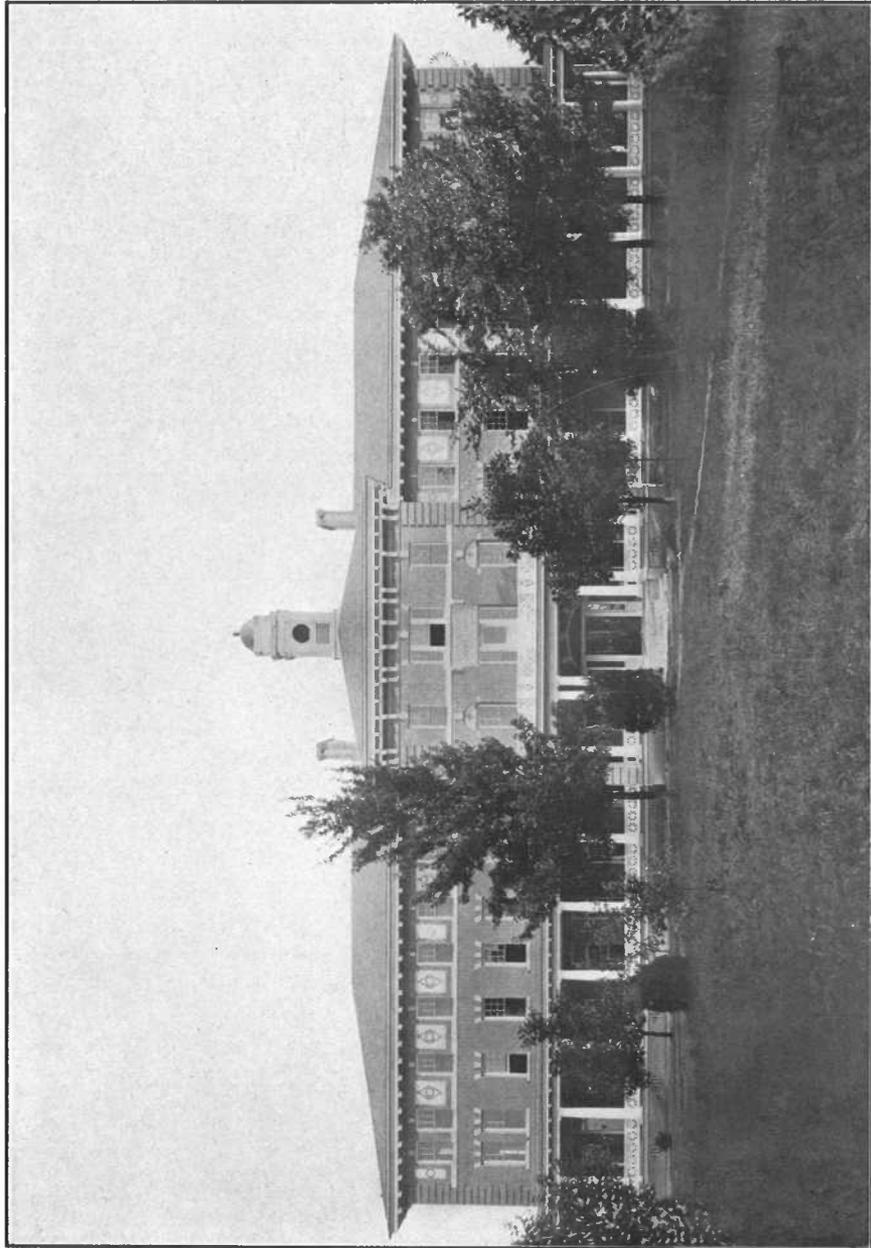
## SPECIAL BULLETIN



ISSUED QUARTERLY BY

AGNES SCOTT INSTITUTE

DECATUR, GA.



REBEKAH SCOTT HALL

## INTRODUCTORY

John Temple Graves

When a noble institution, founded upon broad and consecrated lines of character, begins after patient and faithful years, to reach in part the ideals, material, mental and spiritual upon which it was set, there is occasion for rejoicing not only among those earlier and later factors in its progress and development, but as well to the great public of which it is at once a servant and a benefactor.

Nothing was ever more clear in the minds of those who originated the Agnes Scott College for girls than the ideals which seem to day about to be realized completely in the lofty and uplifting influence of the Institution. Character is not more a quality than an achievement. It is sometimes born, but it is more often acquired by man or woman, and character has in itself that breathing essence which impresses all with whom it comes in contact, and character exists in aggregations of men and women as it does in men and women in themselves.

There is about the Agnes Scott College an instant suggestion of thoroughness and consecration to character which creates a wholesome feeling of respect and confidence among all who come in contact with it. The structure of the school, the set of the buildings, the simple but substantial equipment which it has already attained, all these, beyond the higher essential leave the mind rested and comforted in the atmosphere of genuine worth and character. This impression ran like a silver current through the last commencement exercises of this famous school. The large and beautiful building dedicated upon that occasion was no more a part of the

material realization of the dreams of its founders than was the unmistakable impress of character, cultivation, and achievement written in the faces of the young women who were the center of the scene.

The largest benefactor was Col. George W. Scott, philanthropist, Christian and gentleman, whose big business brain, and great broad mind, and noble heart have contributed so much to the happiness and welfare of the generation in which he lived.

To this good and great man came at the psychological moment, President F. H. Gaines, who was himself the joint creator and the executor of the ideals and policies of the institution, and at the same time Miss Hopkins, that ideal teacher and gentlewoman. Around these men and this good woman was gathered a noble and undivided body of strong and influential citizens, who entered intimately and immediately into every high plan and purpose of the school, and from these sources there was assembled the only kind and class of teachers with which these ruling forces would have been content to work out the destiny which they had mapped for the young women of the state.

As an outsider and an impartial observer, one can not fail to be impressed with the fidelity and effectiveness with which high ideals have been crystalized here into settled policies and actual achievements.

I am convinced that the thoughtful reader of that portion of the last commencement exercises which follow here, will be impressed with the saneness and soundness of the spirit which pervades the institution.

The speech in which the Hon. Chas. Murphy Candler presented Rebecca Scott Hall to the trustees of the college is a model of tender, tactful, and truthful eloquence, paying tribute to the great forces in the past

and present life of the college, and yet not overstraining comparison or taxing eulogy for excessive tribute.

The strong, kind speech of President Samuel M. Inman of the Board of Trustees leaves upon the mind the same impress of fidelity, devotion, and consecration to great ideals.

The brief words of President Gaines rang true from the loyal heart and generous mind, and the distinguished American engineer, Mr. Shonts, who traveled a thousand miles to bring his brief message of greeting and encouragement, speaks in wisdom, in earnestness and in truth.

In something better than the work and worth of the college arches above the portals the inspiring legend,

*For God and Our Daughters Now*

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Address of Hon. C. M. Candler, Who on Behalf of Building Committee Delivered the Keys of Rebekah Scott Hall to the Chairman of the Board.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As a member of the Building Committee of the Board of Trustees of Agness Scott College, the duty has been assigned me of formally delivering to you in the presence of these friends of the Institution the keys to this beautiful structure in which we are assembled.

The proprieties of the occasion, and the knowledge I have of the delightful entertainment promised in the exercises to follow, forbid any attempt on my part at speech making.

There are, however, one or two observations, which a sense of duty and the promptings of my heart, demand that I should make.

The founder, Trustees and Faculty of this Institution, have from its inception, had in view the building of an *ideal college* for young women. They have ever believed that our daughters should enjoy educational opportunities equal to those provided for our sons, or offered by any other section of our country.

They have from the beginning, indeed before the beginning, recognized the following as *essentials* of such an ideal.

1. A broad and liberal curriculum, with a high standard of scholarship, and the Bible a text book.
2. A full and competent corps of instructors, selected solely because of their Christian character and special qualifications for teaching.
3. A modern and complete physical plant and equipment.
4. An ample endowment, that the work to be done might be carried on along independent and liberal lines.

May I not in the glad hour of the accomplishment of another step toward the attainment of our ideal, briefly sketch the progress made toward its hoped for early realization.

Agnes Scott College had its inception July 17, 1889, when, at a meeting of nine members of the Decatur Presbyterian church, at the invitation of its then pastor, Dr. Gaines, Elder George W. Scott, offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, that we *determine to establish, at once a school of high character.*"

Permit me to emphasize the prominent features of this resolution, so characteristic of its author, to-wit: "*determine,*" "*establish,*" "*at once,*" "*high character.*" Two committees were thereupon appointed, one to report a plan of organization—the other to canvass for

a suitable location and patronage.

Within forty days after the adoption of the resolution, on August 27th, 1889, a charter was obtained, incorporating the "Decatur Female Seminary;" the capital stock was fixed at \$5,000.00; it was all promptly subscribed and a Board of Trustees elected.

The Trustees subsequently elected Miss Nannette Hopkins, Principal; Miss M. E. Cook, Assistant; Miss Fannie Pratt, teacher of Piano, and Miss Valeria Fraser, teacher of Art and Physical Culture.

And with these *four* teachers, the Seminary opened its doors for the reception of pupils, on Sept. 17th, 1889, in a rented frame building—exactly 60 days after the adoption of the resolution to establish a school of high character.

To day, we have seen this child of our love and our faith, this institution of 17 years of consecrated growth, *christened* as Agnes Scott College.

And for its faithful nurture, under God's blessing, I pause to render what is due, the thanks of the friends of true Christian education, in this vicinity, in this State and all over our Southland, to the President and the Principal, Dr. Gaines and Miss Hopkins—with us at its birth, with us at its Christening, to be with us, I trust, at its full grown maturity, and already enshrined in the hearts of more than 2000 girls who have sat under their faithful teaching during these 17 years.

To them, and to the consecrated faculties, associated with them during these years, Agnes Scott College, owes much, and on them, its friends pray God's richest blessings.

I have just been looking over the *first* annual catalogue and announcement issued by the Seminary at the close of the first session, June 19th, 1890. A compari-

son of the studies set forth, with those given in the *first* announcement of Agnes Scott College, just from the press, strikingly demonstrates the progress the Institute has made in the attainment of the first essential of our idea—a broad and liberal curriculum.

The Standard of Scholarship has also been strictly adhered to and steadily raised.

The criticism of Agnes Scott, most often heard, has been that its Standard was too high.

The truth in this criticism, lies in the fact that the Standard of preparation for entrance, and the aspirations of patrons, have been too low, and unfortunately Agnes Scott has had to strive to educate many patrons to appreciate the work it aims to do, as well as carry on the actual work.

In the face of criticism, frequently at the expense of patronage, it has steadily kept in view its high ideal, and as a result of constant, never wavering, lofty endeavor and high aims, this College has won universal discriminating recognition among educators throughout the entire country, as an institution that does honest work, good work, true work.

The third essential of an ideal College, is in a complete physical plant and equipment, and this beautiful home for girls, is simply another step toward our ideal, in this direction.

The Seminary enrolled during its first year, 60 girls of whom 3 were boarders. During its second year it enrolled 138 pupils of whom 22 were boarders.

Thus in less than two years it outgrew its accommodations.

Realizing this, in May 1890, Col. Scott proposed to the Board to buy a site and erect, equip and donate a suitable building to accommodate at least 150 pupils. The

Board accepted his offer, and in recognition of his generosity, changed the name of the Seminary to that of Agnes Scott Institute, in memory of his mother, Mrs. Agnes Scott.

On Nov. 12th 1891, Agnes Scott Hall was dedicated to the cause of Christian education, in the presence of the Synod of Georgia, then in session in Decatur. The cost of the plant and equipment that day conveyed to the trustees by Col. Scott was \$112,500.00.

The growth of the Institute continued and there has not been a year since 1890, that has not been taxed to meet the demands upon its dormitory and teaching capacity, and every year the problem has been where to find a place for the scores of girls seeking entrance.

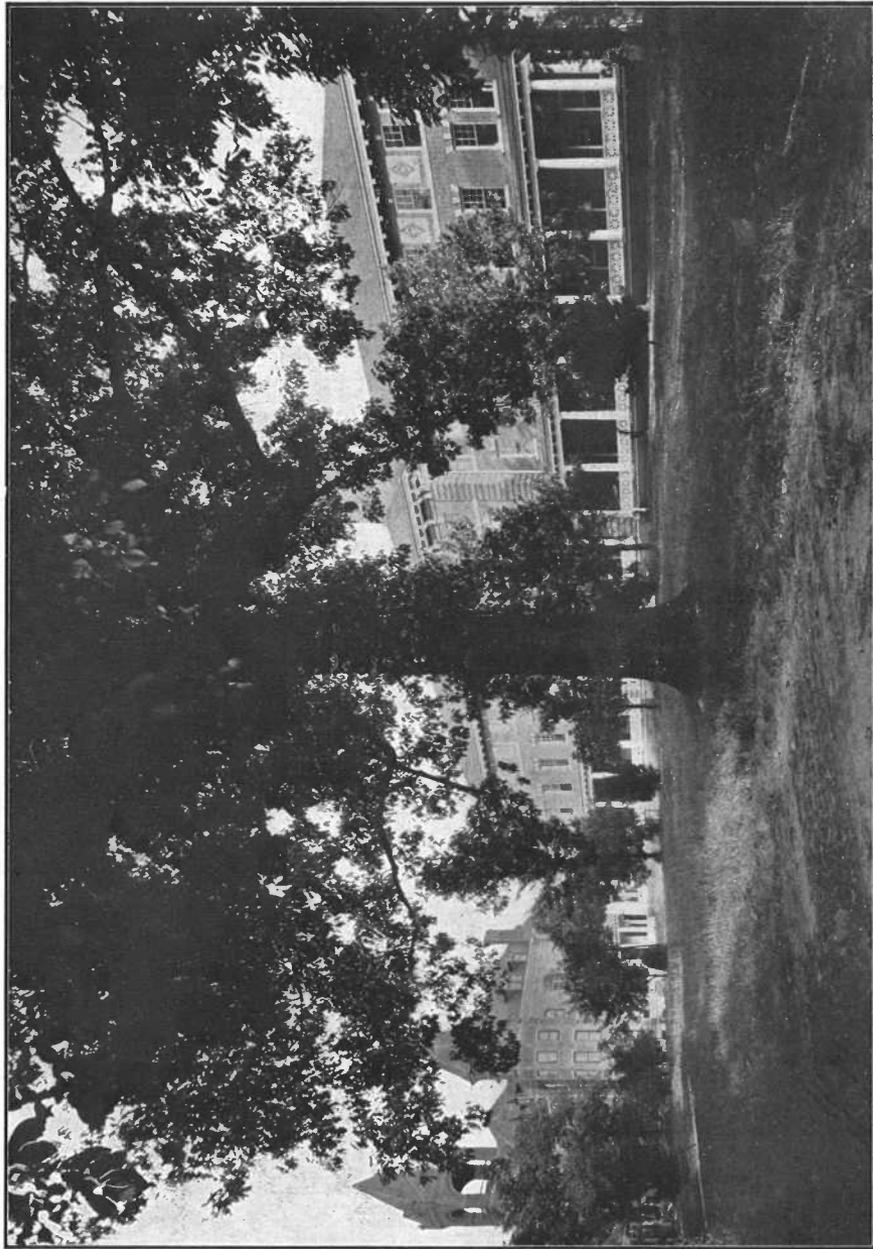
The White House was enlarged to accommodate forty or more girls and leased to the Institute.

In 1900 Science Hall was erected and equipped for the use of the Science schools.

In 1903 the Gymnasium building was erected—these two buildings costing about \$20,000.00.

In 1904, the comfortable cottage, now known as the Alumnae Infirmary, was purchased, enlarged and furnished at a cost of about \$6,000. This building was partly the gift of the enthusiastic and devoted Alumnae of the Institute, and has proven, possibly, the greatest individual improvement made to the physical plant—a place where they tell me it is almost a delight to be sick—especially if such “*ill*” luck falls near examination periods.

A growing institution always has needs, and as this one grew in favor and confidence, so have its needs grown. The past year it has enrolled 303 girls, of whom 179 were boarders. About 25 applications for entrance had to be refused for lack of dormitory room.



PARTIAL VIEW OF MAIN BUILDING AND REBEKAH SCOTT HALL.

The great work that has been done—the greater work yet to be done—the field of opportunity ripe for the harvest, impressed generous friends of Christian Education, who believe that the hope of our country and the highest development of our civilization, lie largely in an educated, Christian *Womanhood*, and as the result, we today dedicate this magnificent home, the foundations of which were laid last summer, and which has cost, exclusive of site and furniture, in round numbers \$62,000.00. The site upon which it stands, was the gift of a consecrated Christian lady of Atlanta, Mrs. Josephine Abbott, for years one of Agnes Scott's best friends, and the golden hearted friend of all good causes, who presides on this occasion and whose name will ever be enshrined in the hearts of every friend of Agnes Scott College.

The fund for the erection of the building was contributed by these two friends, and Miss Jennie Inman, Capt. R. J. Lowry, Capt. J. W. English, Sr., Mr. H. M. Atkinson, Mrs. Frank M. Inman and Col. J. W. English, Jr. all of Atlanta, and by the family of Col. and Mrs. Scott.

The results that will flow from this consecrated investment of \$60,000,00, in the years to come, no man can estimate.

Generations yet unborn, shall doubtless enjoy the benefits that follow such giving, and children's children shall rise up to honor these donors and call them blessed.

Mr. Chairman, I believe it was at your generous suggestion, that this home has been named by the Board of Trustees, "Rebekah Scott Hall."

To you, and to each of the Trustees, speaking for the children of their now sainted mother, I tender inexpressible thanks.

I would that I could find in all the vocabulary of gratitude, some word, which in a measure, would fittingly express their appreciation of your action in thus perpetuating her memory,

Sir, for twenty odd years it was my honored privilege to enjoy the most intimate association with the founder of Agnes Scott College. I knew his great heart. I was impressed by the depth of his surpassing love for his companion and helpmeet of forty-five years, who almost as a girl left home and friends and kindred in a far distant State and joined her life with his in his adopted Southern home.

I knew his truly beautiful and eager appreciation of even the slightest courtesy or kindness shown him or his loved ones, and today, I believe, his sanctified spirit looks down with beatific joy, on this scene and this dedication, and some glad day, in God's own time, I know, he will remember to tell you of it.

May I add one word more.

This building is to be a *home* for young womanhood. As such, it shall bear no inappropriate name. Mrs. Rebekah Scott was the idol, the centre, the life of *her* home.

To making it happy and God loving, she consecrated her life, and its early established altars were made sweet with the incense of her daily prayers.

She never concerned herself with woman's rights: She believed that woman's supreme sphere and woman's God appointed duties were in the *home*, and there she lived her life.

She was passionately fond of young people; to them her home and her heart were ever open, and on them she lavished the tenderest sympathies of a motherly heart.

I trust I show no unseemly partiality, nor violate

any rule of propriety, when I say in simple and unexaggerated truth, as I recall today in tenderest affection, her many beautiful traits of character, her Dorcas like benevolence, her loving administrations in every opportunity, her perennially sweet disposition, her affectionate sympathy with the young, her life of daily consecration to the Master's service, that upon this Christian *home* of young girlhood, you have bestowed the name of a mother in Israel, whose life was an inspiration and a benediction to every one who felt its influence.

I now hand you, Sir, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, at the request of the Building Committee, the keys to Rebekah Scott Hall, with the prayer that it may stand for ages, and that from it shall flow many streams of sacred influences that shall make glad the City of our God.

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#### MR. INMAN'S REPLY.

"The Board of Trustees of Agnes Scott College accept at your hands this beautiful building, which is to stand for all its existence as a tribute to the noble founder of this institution, and as a memorial to his sainted wife, whose heart and sympathies were with her husband in planting this perpetual benefaction to the young women of our country.

"We can imagine they are both with us in spirit today as we establish another landmark of our growth and progress. This building, in all its beauty and perfection, may almost be called the handiwork of your committee. Your labor of love has been well done. Through many months you have watched and worked, and the thanks of this board of trustees as well as all those interested are due you for what you have done.

"Agnes Scott College founded in prayer and in the

spirit of purest Christian philanthropy, is through the efforts of its board, its president and its devoted faculty rapidly fulfilling the hopes of its founder, and taking its place in the forefront of Southern colleges for the Christian education of young women.

"The board of trustees, of which your committee are most worthy members, feel that this is only the beginning of a greater and more useful career. In the near future we hope to have more buildings like this. We will not be satisfied until double the present attendance receives the blessing of the institution. Founded in the faith of the fathers we propose to keep it true to the teachings of the Bible and to the cause of education.

"Again we say, gentlemen of the building committee, you have done your work well, and the board of trustees, together with the friends of the college, thank and honor you."

#### Mr. Shonts Introduced.

A vocal solo by Miss Leinbache, which was fully deserving of the ovation and hearty applause which followed, proved to be another of the many enjoyable features of the delightful programme. Then followed the address of the day by Mr. Shonts, who was introduced by Mr. Inman, who said:

"If the question were asked, 'Who is at the head of the most stupendous physical enterprise in the world today, one which will change the trade current of the world and be of infinite blessing to mankind?' the answer of the American people and the world would be the man who is our guest and will address you today.

"When President Roosevelt, by the greatest feat of diplomacy and statesmanship of this generation, secured the right of an American canal on American soil across

the isthmus of Panama, he, with unerring judgement, in looking over this republic, selected as his lieutenant to lead in the work the man who is before you.

"There is a Napoleonic legend that in one of his greatest battles the emperor sent his favorite marshal by a long detour to lead the attack upon a vital point in the enemy's lines. He listened long and anxiously, and hearing the roar of his guns at the right point, said, 'It is victory,' and going to his tent he slept for hours while his plans were carried to victory.

"We believe the president may, in the same restful confidence, leave results in the hands of his leader, if this leader is left untrammelled. And it is encouraging to us to know that in the nature of this leader of men are two great forces—on the one hand the great business judgement and genius for administration which moves men and armies; on the other hand that love for the higher things of life; the intellectual development of his fellowman, and the sweeter humanities which are, we flatter ourselves, responsible for his presence with us on this occasion.

"Even in his great work there must come to him visions of ultimate blessings to his fellowman, in the midst of the turmoil and strife of material things. Let me name one. If any of you have ever read of the sufferings of the sailors of the world as they undergo the dangers of the South American coast and the storms, snows and shipwreck of rounding the Horn through one of the stormiest seas of the world in their journey to northern latitude you can understand, when this canal is completed, how it will bring relief to thousands of the 'toilers of the sea.' In that great work, as in more quiet fields there is the compensation of working for humanity. He who seeks to encourage and help his

fellow men comes nearest to his true destiny. Something like this has been said:

“Who'er foresees on fields of wintry snow  
The glorious harvest of the summer grow  
God's will doth know.”

“And I believe that the devoted teacher in his or her daily task of moulding the intellectual and moral life of the child as well as all those who help and encourage the moral and physical elevation of the world are among the seers of the future and the interpreters of God's will to men.

“It is a pleasure to have our honored guest with us today, bound to us as he is by the ties of sympathy and the fact that those he loves have lived among us; and there is no one to whose words we can listen with more interest than from the gentleman whom I now introduce.”

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#### ADDRESS BY MR. SHONTS

#### AT THE DEDICATION OF REBEKAH SCOTT HALL—AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE

I consider it a great privilege to be here today, and to participate in the exercises of this proud and joyful occasion. Agnes Scott was the home of my children for four years. They came here strangers, and you took them in; sick, and you ministered to them; lonely, and you comforted them. They lived here happy and contented lives, growing constantly in knowledge and strength, and left at last with genuine regret. Agnes Scott is, therefore, to all of us a place of pleasant associations and tender memories. We feel we owe you much.

The erection of this beautiful building calls attention in convincing form to the increasing influence of this institution for the superior education of young women. It shows that Agnes Scott College is in good hands, that a just appreciation of the excellent work it is doing exists in many minds, and that it is taking its place in the first rank of similar seats of learning throughout the country. Knowing as I do the high merits of the institution, I rejoice deeply in these evidences of its widening influence, for I can conceive of few things of greater value to the State and to the Nation than the existence of such enlightening and elevating agencies as schools of this character are.

It has been well said that the position which women hold in a country is a test of its progress in civilization. It has been said also, and with truth, that in no other country are women, and especially young women, made so much of as they are in this; that the world is at their feet. It is an established fact that the provision for women's education in the United States is ampler and better than in any European country, and that the making of such provision has been far more distinctly recognized as a matter of public concern. Mr. James Bryce, commenting on these conditions, remarks that, as a result, women feel more independent, they have a fuller consciousness of their place in the world of thought, as well as in the world of action. The truth of this deduction will not be disputed. Mr. Bryce goes on to argue that the reason why American women have a superior position to that held by their sisters in Europe is due to the American notion that all men are free and equal, possessed of certain inalienable rights, and owing certain corresponding duties. He says:

“This root idea of democracy cannot stop at defin-

ing men as male human beings. For many years the Americans believed in equality with the pride of discoverers as well as with the fervor of apostles. Accustomed to apply it to all sorts and conditions of men, they were naturally the first to apply it to women also, not, indeed, as respects politics, but in all the social as well as legal relations of life."

That is to say, we give the women the rights of the Declaration of Independence. We say to them that they are born free and with an equal chance with men to show what they can do with their brains and hands in the world. In this way a wider life and a more varied career have been opened to them, and Mr. Bryce, who is an outside as well as competent observer, says that the special graces of the feminine character do not appear to have suffered. In that opinion all American men will concur without reservation.

Why should woman's special graces suffer by having her mind expanded and illuminated with learning? Is she not a more agreeable companion for men, in a country in which equality of sex is recognized, if she is the intellectual equal of men? Englishmen who visit us remark that American men exhibit a different attitude toward American women in society from that which Englishmen show to their country-women, that they treat them as equals and converse with them on serious subjects without condescension. This is quite true, and it is due to the fact that the intelligent or intellectual man in America knows that the intelligent or intellectual woman with whom he is about to talk can meet him on his own ground, not only on equal terms, but with fair chances of giving him points. He has learned from experience what good old Samuel Rogers discovered a century ago, that "women have the understanding

of the heart, which is better than that of the head," and that when the two are combined it behooves man not to be arrogant of spirit.

The education of the woman should be in harmony with her womanhood, not antagonistic to it. "A woman impudent and mannish grown," says Shakespeare, "is not more loath'd than an effeminate man." She forfeits the highest and purest of her powers for usefulness when she steps out of her own sphere. The real woman carries her womanhood with her into whatever field of activity she may enter, and armed with that she commands the respect and the willing co-operation and cordial fellowship of every true man that she meets. She is indeed his equal and his fellow-worker. Her association with men in various kinds of work, social, charitable, religious and other, has helped to disseminate sound ideas as to the way in which she should be educated. She is treated more and more as a man is, that is, she is made to look upon education as a serious business, to apply her mind to it in a serious way, in order that she may attain an intellectual development that will make her the equal in fact of the men whom she is to meet. I have spoken of her work in charity and religion. In no country do the women perform service of such inestimable value in these fields as they do in America. In our great cities the enormous burden of charitable work rests largely upon their shoulders, and they bear it with a fortitude, patience, persistence, and wisdom that cannot be praised too highly. In this work the educated women lead because their training fits them to do so. I know of no one who has written with more penetration or with more just appreciation upon the subject of woman's education than Ruskin. "It is of little consequence," he says, "how

many positions of cities she knows, or how many dates of events, or names of celebrated persons—it is not the object of education to turn the woman into a dictionary, but it is deeply necessary that she should be taught to enter with her whole personality into the history she reads, to picture the passages of it vitally in her own bright imagination; to apprehend, with her fine instincts, the pathetic circumstances and dramatic relations, which the historian too often only eclipses by his reasoning, and disconnects by his arrangement; it is for her to trace the hidden equities of divine reward, and catch sight, through the darkness, of the fateful threads of woven fire that connect error with retribution.”

It is because of her nature, her heart, her superior powers of intuition, that woman is not only the equal of man, but so far his superior in many fields that she is his strongest ally and helper. It is the high and sacred function of schools like the Agnes Scott College to fit her to do her work in the world to the fullest advantage, to make her

“A noble type of good, Heroic womanhood.”



