

**THE FUTURE OF EDUCATED
WOMEN, AND MEN,
WOMEN, AND MONEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649352708

The Future of Educated Women, and men, women, and money by Helen Ekin Starrett & Frances Ekin Allison

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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HELEN EKIN STARRETT & FRANCES EKIN ALLISON

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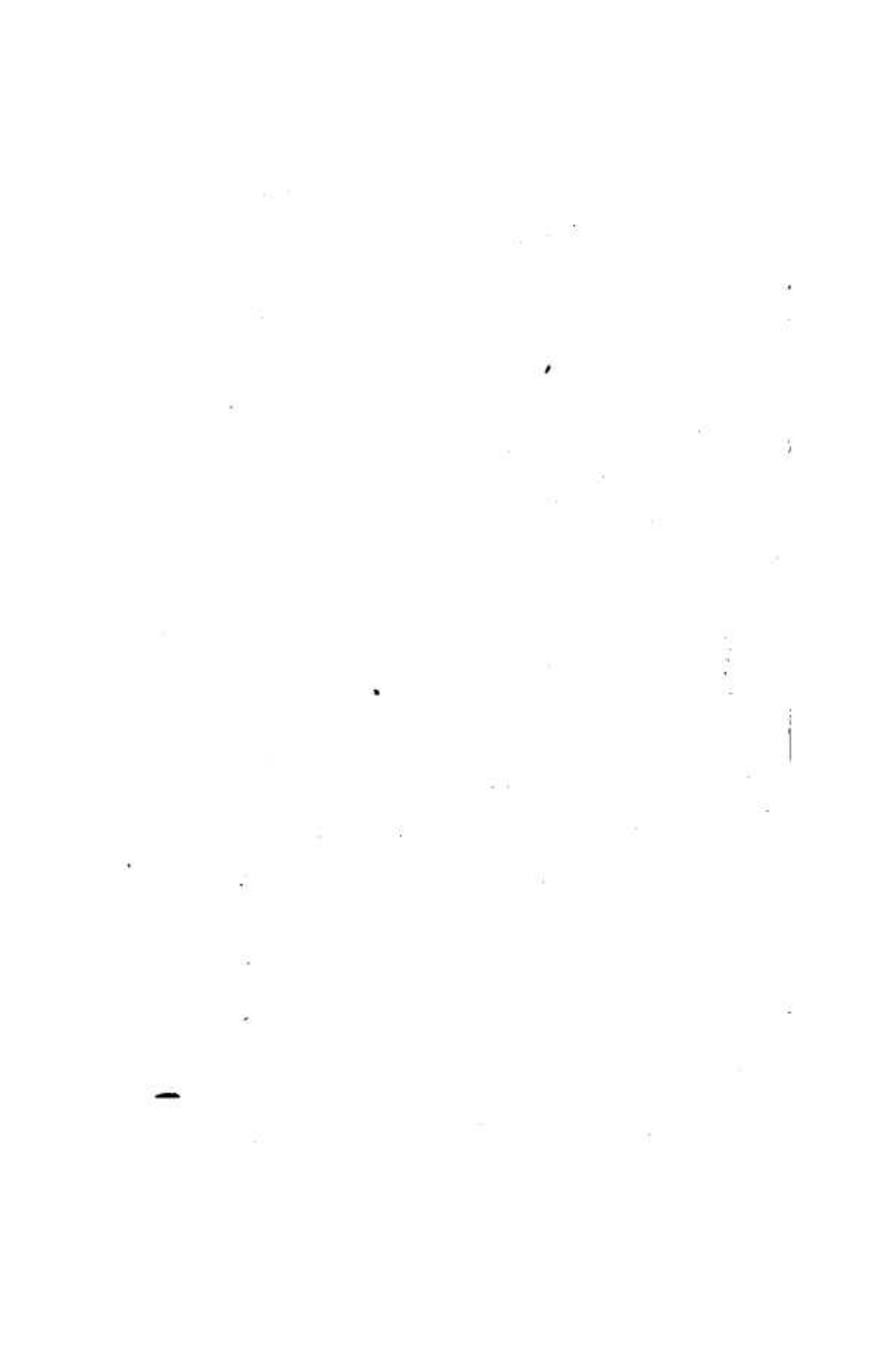
By FRANCES EKIN ALLISON.

CHICAGO:
JANSEN, McCLURG, AND COMPANY.
1885.

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TO THE MEMORY OF
OUR FATHER,
THE LATE REV. JOHN EKIN, D.D.,
WHO, MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, LOOKING
UPON HIS FAMILY OF FIVE DAUGHTERS, THOUGHT
OUT, FAR IN ADVANCE OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES,
ALL THE CONCLUSIONS EMBODIED IN THESE ESSAYS,
THEY ARE AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED BY
HIS DAUGHTERS.

Re-classed: 8-26-31 A V/71



THE
FUTURE OF EDUCATED WOMEN.

During the year 1878 there appeared in that highly esteemed English periodical, *The Nineteenth Century*, two notable articles written by two representative English women, Mrs. Sutherland Orr, and Mrs. Milicent Garrett Fawcett, wife of the eminent Prof. Fawcett, which were, apparently, a summing up of all that is to be said pro and con on that subject which, as Mrs. Fawcett says, for want of a better name, is called "The Woman Question." The article by Mrs. Sutherland Orr entitled "The Future of English Women" was republished by the Appletons in the final issue of their supplement to the *Popular Science Monthly*. Mrs. Fawcett's article in reply to Mrs. Orr has never, I believe, been republished in this country, but both articles attracted very wide attention at the time and excited much comment both among English and American readers. Ever since their appearance I have expected that some student of sociology and observer of the evolution of society

would take up and point out more fully the fundamental weakness of the first article on the Future of English Women, and also add somewhat to the reply of Mrs. Fawcett. No such attempt, in so far as I know, has yet been made; and believing that in reality the vital reason of "the movement" has not yet been fully set forth nor its most important consequences foreseen or predicted, I bring my contribution of observation, experience and conviction towards the farther solution of the problem. That it is one of the most important problems engaging the attention of thoughtful men and women cannot be doubted, involving as it does the right adjustment of the complex relations of women to social and domestic life and the compensatory employments of civilized society.

The article on the Future of English Women by Mrs. Sutherland Orr purports to be a calm, dispassionate, philosophical consideration of the certain results of what she is pleased to call "female emancipation;" this being accomplished as she avers by the full admission of women to the medical profession. She says, and truly:

"When once the medical profession has been thrown open to women the question of sexual disabilities is at an end. The line which may still be drawn between the female doctor whose functions

are exercised in the sick room and the woman whose professional arena would be the church, the law-court or the chamber of legislation, holds good in theory but will be found to be non-existent in practice. The suffrage may be withheld and if so there will be no female members in Parliament, and, what is more to the immediate point, no direct female influence in political life. But whether politically represented or not, the destiny of women will be the same. They will triumph by reason of their social independence, which will be an indirect political power. Directly or indirectly, actually or potentially, for good or for evil, the battle for female emancipation will have been won."

The whole drift of Mrs. Orr's long and carefully considered article is to prove that it will be for evil. She very candidly admits that up to a certain point the movement for the emancipation of women has been a beneficent one; she admits that thus far it has borne excellent fruit in the elevation of the character and intelligence of women; in enlarging the scope of their vision; in increasing their self-respect; and as a consequence commanding for them the increasing respect of men. Nevertheless she deplores that the leaders cannot be induced to call a halt; she laments that they do not see that they have gone far enough; she wishes they could be induced to stay the rising tide of progress and say, 'thus far and no farther;' for in her opinion, car-