

unless means are provided for the thorough education of the female mind. Yet it was not till a comparatively late period that this truth began to be admitted and appreciated. Nay, through many a dark century did the opinion prevail — would I could say it has even now entirely disappeared — that woman was not capable of that discipline, enlargement, and vigor of mind which man has exhibited, and therefore her education was comparatively of little consequence. Man first monopolized all the means of intellectual culture to himself; and then, because the neglected female mind did not manifest equal mental power and development as his own, he very sagaciously inferred its inferiority. To show the absurdity of such an unphilosophical inference, God has suffered, from time to time, such a woman to appear as Mary Somerville, the author of the *Connection of the Physical Sciences*; and to give to the sex generally an opportunity to show what are their mental characteristics, he has, in recent times, raised up such women as the five Misses More, to open seminaries for the education of their sex, and to give to Hannah, the youngest, a power with the pen rarely equalled as a means of doing good among all classes and both sexes. Gladly would I linger to show how finely adapted she was by nature and by discipline for her important mission. But time will not permit.

We may observe the same principles of divine Providence in bringing out discoveries in the arts as in the sciences. Neither the men who have made these discoveries nor their contemporaries have been fully aware of the part they were acting, or of the wide ultimate influence of their dimly-seen and imperfectly-developed conceptions; nor did they imagine that Providence had any thing to do in the business. It seemed a small matter when the Marquis of Worcester, in