

Besides this seminary, the most striking example of the inventive powers of our friend is that only volume which she has left us, — I mean the *Missionary Offering*, — called forth by an exigency in a cause which she dearly loved, and whose most striking characteristic is its missionary spirit. Yet it is, in fact, a well-sustained allegory, demanding for its composition no mean powers of invention and imagination.

Miss Lyon possessed also the power of concentrating the attention and enduring long-continued mental labor in an extraordinary degree. When once fairly engaged in any important subject, — literary, scientific, theological, or economical, — there seemed to be no irritated nerves or truant thoughts to intrude; nor could the external world break up her almost mesmeric abstraction:

This almost total absorption in a favorite subject did, indeed, operate sometimes to render her conversation less inviting, and even tedious, to others, because she dwelt upon a subject too long and too minutely for those who were less interested. I think this was one of her defects as a teacher; for the best instruction consists in saying just enough about a subject to make it clear and impressive, while there is danger of saying so much as to confuse and mystify. But it must not be forgotten that teaching was only one of the great objects of our friend's life. And this power of concentration and absorption was essential to accomplish the other grand objects of her existence.

It has been also complained, and probably with reason, by those in feeble health, that her great power of physical and mental endurance led her to expect too much of her pupils. She tried, I know, to guard against this tendency, being well aware how natural it is to estimate the capabilities of others by our own. And it should also be known that it was not