

individual who could write such a history ; nor could even she give us an adequate idea of the toils and sacrifices which this great work has cost — how hard it was at first to gain the ear of the Christian public long enough to unfold the plan ; how much harder still to make even a few believe in its feasibility ; how the way seemed often so hedged up that prayer was the only resort ; and, what was worse to bear with a Christian spirit, how even influential fellow-Christians endeavored to put down the enterprise by scorn and ridicule. Even most of us, who have viewed it with deep interest from the beginning, will recollect how the pleadings of its eloquent advocate produced in us only faith enough to say to her, We admire the plan, and wish it might succeed, and any influence we possess shall be cheerfully given to it ; but you must expect a hard struggle to accomplish it. And, in fact, while we could not but speak encouraging words, there was within us a fainting of the heart in anticipation of defeat. We forgot the sentiment of Elliot, that “ prayers and pains through Jesus Christ can do any thing.” And as we look around us to-day, we stand rebuked for our misgivings and unbelief. Little did I ever imagine that my eyes would be allowed to behold one of the finest edifices in New England so soon completed, and with its two hundred inmates already exerting a strong influence in arresting the waste of female mind in our country. I had thought of it as one of the visions which the early Christian friends of this institution might be permitted to enjoy, long after they had gone to their final rest, as they came down hither on some errand of mercy. But to most of them the vision is granted this side the grave ; and to-day are they permitted to mingle their congratulations at the completion of this noble enterprise, and to unite in thanksgiving to that infinite Being whose blessing has crowned every effort to advance it with success.