

when any plan was under consideration that would not be generally approved ; but when, upon careful examination, she saw clearly its practicability and importance, she nailed the colors to the mast ; and though the enemy's fire might be terrific, she stood calmly at her post, and usually saw her opposers lower their flag. She possessed in an eminent degree that most striking of all the characteristics of a great mind, viz., perseverance under difficulties. When thoroughly convinced that she had truth on her side, she did not fear to stand alone and act alone — patiently waiting for the hour when others would see the subject as she did. This was firmness, not obstinacy ; for no one was more open to conviction than she ; but her conversion must result from stronger arguments, not from fear or the authority of names. Had she not possessed this feature of character, Mount Holyoke Seminary never would have existed, at least not on its present plan. The peculiarity of its domestic arrangements, especially, was pronounced injudicious and impracticable by a large part even of the friends of female education, and made a subject of ridicule by the enemies of the institution. I once asked a judicious friend, who was opposed to this feature, how long the experiment must be successfully tried before he would believe it practicable. Five years, said he. Before his death the plan had been in successful operation nearly twice that time ; and yet he was not convinced. It has now gone on prosperously for twelve years ; and never were the prospects of its continued success brighter than now. Like every thing human, it may be changed — as it could be without endangering the prosperity of the seminary. But its triumphant success for one third of a generation is a striking illustration of the far-reaching sagacity and accurate judgment of its originator.