

quarry. Therefore God placed her in circumstances appropriate to the desired discipline. He brought her into existence in the alpine regions of Massachusetts, where the pure water from the rock, and the atmosphere uncontaminated by pestilential miasms, send health bounding through the veins; where the deep ravines, the broad mountain slopes, and the vast prospects that stretch away almost illimitably over a sea of mountains elevate and expand the soul, and fit it for large and ennobling plans and purposes. There, too, away from the vices of a dense population, a religious influence predominates, and the manners, habits, and piety are in an unsophisticated state. In those plain and humble dwellings which city opulence might suppose the abodes of poverty, you will, for the most part, find the answer to Agar's prayer, *Give me neither poverty nor riches*. The parents of Miss Lyon were just in that state of moderate competence (not of deep poverty, as has been represented) which enabled them to make their daughter comfortable and happy at home with industry and economy, but which could not provide for her education abroad. But they possessed one thing of far higher value, and that was devoted piety; and their prayers and labors for their daughter were rewarded by her conversion. That happy home she has vividly described in her *Missionary Offering* — the dying scene of the beloved father, and "the extraordinary prayers of the sorrowing mother" during "that first cold winter of widowhood." Ah, it may be that the father was taken away in order to excite those prayers, and that they were necessary in God's plans to the future eminent usefulness of the daughter; and that, on the heavenly Mount Zion, they are now rejoicing in the retrospect of God's providence.

The marked preëminence of the young Mary soon raised