

up for her benefactors who aided her, though she had to depend mainly upon her own exertions. After a time she joined the school of the Rev. Joseph Emerson, at Byfield. That gentleman's views and plans of female education seem to have been a good deal in advance of his times, and doubtless his instructions contributed largely to give the right direction to Mary's mind. But at that school, twenty-eight years ago, she came under the influence of an individual — an assistant teacher then, and afterwards through life an intimate friend — who probably had more to do in the formation of her character, and especially in fitting her to become the founder of a new institution, than any other person — I had almost said, than all others. That lady was Miss Z. O. Grant; concerning whom, as she is still living, propriety forbids me to say all that I could wish. But I may say that under no influence could Miss Lyon have come better adapted to prepare her for her work than that of one so fitted by nature, by education, and by grace to be a pioneer and a guide in improving and elevating the system of female education. It was during their connection at Byfield two years, at Derry, New Hampshire, five years, and an equal period at Ipswich, that the leading principles on which the Mount Holyoke Seminary was founded were suggested, discussed, and prayed over, and, what is more important, were experimentally tested — so far, at least, as the mode of instruction was concerned.

Thus it appears that the whole course of Miss Lyon's life, and all the circumstances in which she was placed, were only a continued school of discipline for the work assigned her. She could not have seen the bearing of events at the time they happened; but, from the standpoint which we occupy, we can see how almost every minute and often seemingly casual circumstance in her history was important to the final