

Autobiography: Mountain Climbing

This morning's paper reports the death of Anna Peck at eighty four and two years ago she was climbing mountains in New Hampshire. We welcomed her in the '90's after I had gone to the hut on Mont Blanc. I think she thought she would make a mountain climber out of me for she insisted on coming to live with me. Not only my constitutional objections to living with anybody frightened me out of this, but also an inward fear amounting to a conviction that if we became house ^{mates} ~~mates~~ nothing could keep me from joining her in effort to climb that South American mountain. The thing was in my blood, that call of the ^{Snow} ~~White~~ Mountain. It has been one of the two or three calls from ^{which} ~~I~~ I could never escape that comes over me always as a kind of a If Anna Peck had succeeded in persuading me to join her as a house ^{mate} ~~mate~~, I never could have resisted. It makes me homesick now to think how much I might have attempted in South America.

As a matter of fact I have known few women, there have been few women of her kind, that have so completely realized their ambition.

This article speaks of the letters she was constantly writing in her later years. Look these up in the Morgue. There ought to be some papers with spirited comment because there was nothing on which A P did not have her opinion. She was a fine example of the way ^{accomplishing your ambition} ~~accounting~~ gives the confidence that you ~~can conquer~~ everything. You are entitled to a hearing at least ^{in everything}.

These women I have known that should go into this list.- who do they include? Certainly Anna Shaw who I shocked by telling her she was the greatest coquette I had ever known - provocative.

What I want to emphasize is that it is the women who have seen the necessity of self-development of discipline and training belongs to chosen minds that have made the real contributions of our times.

Francis Perkins certainly is one, whether you agree with her position or not. I doubt if there is a woman ~~in Washington~~ in Congress who is making any real contribution.