

at a period when we were devoting more time to studying books and travelling in other lands and the pursuit of what we call culture than any other nation ever did, The fact is we have in the country an extraordinary machinery - the most complex - complete and costly the world has ever seen for training boys and girls and it has not prevented a general materializing and vulganising of ideals. Personally I believe the correction of this condition lies almost solely in the hands of women, - that it can be reached fundamentally only by the mothers in their homes and the teachers in the primary and secondary schools. The training of boys and girls in the really critical and impressionable years of life lie almost exclusively with women. It depends on women in the very nature of things whether boys and girls are able to do their own thinking or whether they imitate other people's thinking, whether they are willing to adopt opinion by which they ingratiate themselves into the favor of some desirable person or circle or whether they value their own opinions more than any patronage or social advantage. There is no question today before American women which approaches in importance the question of whether they are training the boys and girls within their reach to give what is in their minds or to conceal it- whether it is intellectual integrity or intellectual flub-dub they are fostering. We women are apt to forget today in our rampant individualism that the reason we asked 125 years ago for larger educational advantages - the reason our early men and women labored and sacrificed to get them for us was just that - that we might be prepared for

a service which was vital to Democracy - and that was this training to honest and disinterested thinking. It was clear to the men who founded this republic that the government must go to pieces if the people did not know how to think clearly and honestly. They said quite frankly -- Here is where the women come in. They must prepare themselves to fit the young for their duties. The whole American system for the general and higher education of women is built up on the theory that they were to do the training which would fit for loyal and high-minded citizenship. As a woman I say in humiliation that I believe that no small part of our present low political and commercial standards is due to the fact that we women have not realized the fundamental and all important character of this public duty to our country. For my part I believe it is a duty in which we must take a fresh hold - for which we must get a fresh baptism - a fresh enthusiasm or we shall be counted guilty of the same treason to our country as those who corrupt youth by vicious political and business practices.