

1900

by Mary B. Welch

Woman in the Home -

Read before Y. W. C. A.
March 15th, 1900 ^{Los Angeles}
city

Mothers Club East Los An-
giles - April 19 - 1900

Ethical Club - May 14, 1900

Mrs. Kellogg - Sept. 25, 1901

University School - Jan. 8 -
1902

Mothers Club Harper School - Jan 21
1902

Roman in the Home.

It is a broad and yet a narrow theme,
— as old as the garden of Eden, as new
as the latest development of modern
science, as true and common place
as the multiplication table, as fresh
and full of surprises as the morning
dew, as elusive as a humming
bird, as practical as a honey-bee.

No question in religion or politics
could call forth more divergent
opinions, or give rise to more
heated debate than the seemingly
innocent query "What preparation
best fits a woman to create and
govern a home". Of you could
realize how I have wrestled
with this subject, what essays
I have read, what sermons I
have studied, what theories I
have pondered, how it has
haunted me through troubled

days and sleepers nights; you
 should be sure at least that
 I have honestly tried to treat it
 intelligently and candidly.
 From one point of view the course
 covers every art and every industry
 possible to man - from another
 it embraces only those activities
 that relate directly to the material
 interests of the home - Both depend
 on the proper definition of the
 word home. Is home simply
 a refuge for weary man after
 his daily struggle for existence,
 a place where he and his child-
 ren can be sure of warmth and
 clothing and food and a bed,
 a sort of domestic inn, where
 the service is stallent, and ma-
 terial comfort in its most per-
 fect form is assured; or is it

be the ^{proper} perfect ideal, then the best
Cook, the nicest house-maid, the
most agreeable temper, and the
hardest-worked drudge blended
together make the Model Woman
in the home.

If however, desirable as
these are, something else, more
complex, more subtle, more
essential, enters into the highest
thought of home, and makes that
which conduces to maternal com-
fort-subordinate in importance,
we must readjust the camera &
change the focus, and make al-
together a different picture of
its presiding genius.

If I should
ask each of you to define
the word home I should get,
I presume, as many different

answers as there are persons
present - But if I should
set a little child in the midst
and ask him "What is a
home?" doubtless he would
say at once, with the mar-
vellous wisdom of child hood,
"The place where I and ^{Father} ~~the~~
and ^{Mother} ~~the~~ live" - His answer
strikes the key note of history
and of progress - It is a
vain saying, you have heard
it ad nauseam, that the world
revolves around man - It
would be truer to say it re-
volves around motherhood -
The woman plus her baby are
indeed acknowledged to be the

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potent forces that have made for
the evolution of humanity from
barbarism to civilization. Man,
say the philosophers, was for
long centuries too much engaged
in giving and taking hard
blows, to spend much effort
toward growth in grace. The
woman, through the helplessness
and dependance of infancy, has
been compelled to exercise the
virtues of self-denial and sac-
rificer, she can never be capable
of raising the sodden lump
of barbarism into a higher
form of existence, and this,
acting on man has com-
pelled his admiration, his
affection and finally his sym-
-

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emulation, until by slow and
painful degrees, we have come
to our present condition -

The Mother and Child are to-day
what they have ever been, the
hope of humanity. Did not
the all-wise Creator put the
infant Christ into a Mother's
arms, and reveal through his
life and teachings the immense
and irresistible power of will-
ing and absolute self-sacrifice?
Home then does not mean a
house or a hotel. It means a
family ~~plus~~ ^{together with} its place of abode.
Woman in the home means
therefore woman in the family,
and if the family be, as we are
told it is, the unit of our civi-
lization, its average character

must both determine and
reveal the average value
of that civilization. The influ-
ence and power of woman
in the home is the measure
then of her responsibility for
the spirit, the ideals, the facts
of our present environment.
When and where are habits
formed, prejudices created, be-
liefs acquired, convictions
crystallized, character evolved,
largely during youth and
in the home. Who first comes
into closest touch with the
children there? Whose influ-
ence, conscious and un-
conscious, unfolding them
almost as completely as the
atmosphere we breathe sur-

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wounds us, & exercises the greatest
power over children during
the first five years of life, the
period during which they
learn more than is ever
duplicated in the same length
of time from youth to old
age - Undoubtedly that of the
woman who most constantly
cares for them - The impress-
ion she makes on their unfolding
minds and sensitive hearts is
as imperishable as truth and
as lasting as Eternity. Milton
says "The Childhood shows
the man, as morning shows
the day". Religious beliefs, po-
litical bias, love for art, me-
dic. literature, philanthropy,
All find their roots in the impress-
ions first gained from the first
traces of

of Childhood. Back of Church
and State and Social Life is the
influence that molds character
and results in men and wom-
en. Samuel Smiles says, "The
Child's Character is the nucleus
of the man: all after education
is but super-position, the form
of the crystal remains the same,"
and again: "Law itself is but the
reflex of homes, the tiniest-
bits of opinion sown in the
minds of children in private
life, afterwards issue forth
to the world, and become its
public opinion, for nations
are gathered

out of nurseries, and they¹⁰
who hold the leading strings
of children may even exercise
a greater power than those
who wield the reins of gov-
ernment."

If the mother
in the home wields such
tremendous power, and
exerts such wide-reaching
influence, what manner
of woman should she be?
Ah! it would take volumes
to answer that question.
And much more time than
an evening^{afternoon} to discuss it
in all its bearings. One
great point will be gained
if the young woman of this

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generation can be roused
to anything like a just
estimate of his great power
and immense responsibility.
(As she faces, ever so temerari-
ly, his true place in a
coming hour of her own.)
Helen Hunt Jackson says
in her "Bits of Talk about Home
Matters": "Oh, if the world could
only stop long enough for one
generation of mortals to be
made all right. What a mil-
lennium could be begun in
thirty years." We hear a great
deal now-a-days about the
New Woman - a great deal
of ridicule, & nothing of

praise. Do you not think we
need a New Woman in many
homes? When we come to
know something of the sin
in the world, the avarice, the
lust, the drunkenness, we all
long for such women in the
homes as shall be able to give
to this same wretched world new
ways and new girls, to do
valiant-service in redeem-
ing it. What does all this
movement towards opportu-
nity and Culture and a more
symmetrical development
for women mean? Why is
it that business and the learn-
ed professions ^{now} offer her open
doors on every side? Why these

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Women's Clubs, these Home-Study
Societies, and these Women's
Colleges. No such fundamen-
tal change in popular belief
as has taken place during the
last fifty years, and the re-
sulting change in the activities
of women, the without-man-
ing and purpose. It is true
that such a radical revolution
in reference to womanly pro-
prieties and womanly work,
is necessarily accompanied
by some uncomfortable
and some unlavely mani-
festations. The bursting of
a tiny bud into blas-

20m is attended by the forcible
 disruption of ^{its} the enclosing fil-
 ament. Even a chicken cannot
 enter upon conscious life with-
 out destroying the shell that
 shut him in. And he is an
 unsightly little creature, is he
 not, as he struggles to exchange
 his downy coat for one more
 becoming a full grown fowl,
 but he could surely never de-
 velop into a plump well-
 feathered rooster, had he bed-
 ed quietly in his primitive
 environment. If this is the
 woman's Century, it is hers
 for a purpose. We have
 had ~~the~~ 1900 years of Christianty
 with man in the foreground.

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From and children ~~have~~^{seem}
seemed subordinate while
men were fighting great
battles, creating empires,
and developing such wealth
of material resources. The
World had ~~become~~^{apparently be-}
come intoxicated with power
and the love of money was
fast taking precedence over
the love of righteousness.
Where was the remedy to be
found? If man, who had
been given every opportunity,
could not solve the mighty
problems of life alone, who
was able to furnish him
the lacking element of
power? Woman? Not the
woman of fifty years ago.

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Because of her lack of sufficient training, and her consequent narrowness of vision. What could stir her to a knowledge of her ~~own~~ capabilities and furnish her a motive strong enough to ^{induce her} enter the struggle and prove her power? Nothing short of an overwhelming appeal to her sympathies and her moral sense. This was furnished first by the anti-slavery agitation, and the stringencies of the Civil War. These roused women to the use of hitherto unknown talents, all over the Union, North and South, and

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taught the world a new
Lesson in Sociology - "But
this has to do", you say
"with woman out of the
home. Your topic is Woman
in the home" - Wait a mo-
ment till I reach my con-
clusion. You know how
a pendulum works in
Mechanics - You send it
swinging far out of its
normal course by some
sharp movement and for
a time it describes much
more than its proper arc,
but give it a little time
and leave it to the influ-

force of the mighty force
 that controls its movements
 and gradually and beauti-
 fully it will settle finally
 into just the vibration ~~that~~
 calculated to effect the de-
 sired result. So with the
 providentially ordered and
 providentially guided
 human movement. ~~It is~~
~~and~~ Stimulated and stirred
 by untroubled freedom of
 thought and action, conscious-
 ness of talents hitherto checked
 and dwarfed. She has been
 tempted in some cases into
 license, mistaking that for

Liberty - Have you never
~~made the same unfortunate mis-~~
~~take?~~ But a reaction is al-
ready apparent, and every-
where now is heard an ap-
peal for better homes, better
trained children, more effi-
cient mothers. Women them-
selves are studying most
seriously, in clubs and at
home, the problems of home
management. Out of this very
forward movement have
come ^{the mothers' clubs} all the schools of cook-
ery and domestic science,
the training of nurses, and
like enterprises - They were
undreamed of fifty years
ago - At these ~~times~~
the young, active, eager,

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Enquiring women, once
become convinced of their
own highest value and power
and responsibility as
women, and a long step
has been taken towards a
higher and better civilization.
For the woman who goes
into a home of her own,
from close contact with
the outside world and a
large outlook upon life,
will be a very different
person from the one who
timidly and apologetically
stepped forth fifty years
ago as an ardent but ab-
solute untrained chemist—

What I call
the ²¹ of Roman's rights -
The ~~has~~ ^{been} during the stress
and conflict of these marvellous
years been - I say it
reverently - born again -
Quickened mentally by the
best schools, intelligent as
to all questions of public
moment, sobered by a sense
of responsibility, knowing
the value of money because
of a proper business training,
and in the large majority
of cases, thank God, guided
and controlled by ^{a deep} ^{religious} ~~faith~~ ⁱⁿ
~~God and in His Son~~, the ^{Principle}
have come to a beginning at
least of proper training for

her work in the home. So long as the popular ideal of woman was compounded of $\frac{3}{4}$ domestic drudge and $\frac{1}{4}$ doll-baby prettiness and helplessness, the woman who took a serious view of life was at a discount, but when, urged forward by love of humanity and the necessity of wage-earning, she initiated the evolution that has so astonished and bewildered the masculine world, she ~~has~~ reversed the old tradition, and the woman of affairs, and the woman of intelligence, the woman of liberal culture, the woman who respects her own sex and

and comprehends her own
 destiny and ~~place~~^{power} is the woman
 who commands the largest
 amount of ~~the~~^{Confidence} and ad-
 miration. When she took
 the first step towards the
 things that enter into the life
 of her husband and son,
 she took the first step ^{also} towards
 a full comprehension of
 what woman in the home
 should be — Far be it from
 me to say there have been no
 true homes and no good
 mothers in them until now.
 We should never have emer-
 get from barbarism if this
 were true.

There has ever been in the heart
of woman such depth of ma-
ternal feeling, such capacity
for self-denying affection,
such instinctive fidelity to
the great trust committed
to her care, that she has re-
sisted with amazing tenacity
every attempt to thwart the
design of Providence in her
creation. There is hardly to
be found on the face of the
earth a woman so frivol-
ous, so worldly, so ambi-
tious, so masculine, ^{in her tendencies} that
she cannot be converted
to better things if we put

a helpless infant into his arms.
The pages of history are
filled with accounts of
heroes, philanthropists,
saints and martyrs who
acknowledge their in-
debtedness to the wise and
tender training of good
mothers. The list is a
long one. It could not be
given in the time allotted
to our paper. The names
of Washington, Adams,
John Randolph, Lincoln,
Garfield, of Cromwell,

Sam'l Johnson, Sir Walter Scott. The Wesley's, 267,
Augustine, all bring to mind at once their loving
tributes to the memory of the Mothers who
moulded their early Characters - Tommyson,
in the Princess, speaks from *Drut & Jervine*
when he says -

"Happy he
With such a Mother! faith in woman kind
Beats with his blood, and trust in all things high
Comes easy to him, and though he trip and fall,
He shall not blind his soul with clay."

It is quite true said
Joseph de Maistre "that women have
produced no master-pieces. They have
written no Iliad, nor Jerusalem De-
livered, nor Hamlet, nor Phaedra,
nor Paradise Lost, nor Tartuffe,
They have designed no Church of
St. Peters, composed no Messi-
ah,

Carved no Apollo Belvedere,
 Painted no Last Judgment,
 They have invented neither
 Algebra, nor Telescopes, nor
 Steam engines; but they have
 done something far greater
 and better than all this, for
 it is at their knees, that up-
 right and virtuous men
 and women have been
 trained — the most excellent
 productions in the world!
 Samuel Smiles, who has
 written most exhaustively on
 Homes and Home Matters,
 and ~~and~~ enriched his essays
 by a great wealth of belief.

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and convincing illustrations
says "A curious illustration
of the dependence of the Char-
acter of Children on that of
the Mother, incidentally oc-
curs in one of Mr. Luffell's
School reports. He writes, he
observes, is so well established
that it has ever been made
subservient to mercantile
Calculation. "I was informed"
he says, "in a large factory,
where many children were
employed, that the Managers,
before they engaged a boy
always enquired into the

Mother's Character and if that
was satisfactory they were tol-
erably certain that her child-
ren would conduct themselves
creditably. No attention was
paid to the Character of the
Father. "And if good Mothers
have done so much in the
past, what ought they not
to accomplish for God and
humanity in the future? We
who are older and able to
contrast the present and
the past feel like saying
to the coming Mothers, O
Young Women of to-day, born
to so rich a heritage of
opportunity.

having such generous sym-
 pathy and encouragement
 in every effort you make
 towards a larger culture and
 a more completely develop-
 ed womanhood. What sort
 of women ought you to be
 in the homes you are to take
 charge of? No accomplishment
^{that can be} you can cultivate, no skill
^{that can be} you can acquire in any
 department of business, no
 knowledge gained of practi-
 cal affairs as teacher, clerk,
~~seamstress~~ or wage earner
 in any capacity, ~~will~~
 need be wasted in the home.

is a ~~supposed~~ ^{now} ~~now~~ ^{becomes an} ~~the~~ Economy ~~by~~ ^{mastered} article 31
If you are ~~learning~~ ^{outside of the home} economy
now, ~~you will doubtless~~ ^{be} ~~find~~ ^{find}
it useful ~~there~~ ^{in the home}, of self-denial
is crystallizing into a habit
now, ~~you are gaining~~ that
sort of self-mastery abso-
lutely essential to the highest
success ~~there~~ ^{in the home has been gained}. Habits of
punctuality, order, prompt-
ness, are all important in
the home. An independent
and courageous spirit,
gained in the struggle for
a livelihood outside of
the home, will help you
to ⁱⁿ exercising the sweet im-
partial, unreservedness

Authority and influence es-
 sential to the best interests of
 all concerned in the home.
 In short the whole discipline
 of life, and ~~you recognize~~
 its meaning, ^{is recognized} ~~well~~ ^{for} ~~for~~
~~any woman~~ - More and more, for the
 most responsible, the most
 dignified, the most holy po-
 sition possible in this
 world, that of a good Mother
 in a happy and well-
 ordered home.

And what does the
 good woman in a happy and
 well ordered home of her own
 owe to those outside her
 own home-circles. Has the
 Mother any duty to other

Children than her own? 33
Should not the ears of a tender
Mother be ^{the} most sensitive of
all ears to the pitiful cry of
the neglected children on the
streets and in the slums, and
her heart most responsive
to their need? If the Mother in
the home realizes what she
owes to her own children, she
must, it seems to me, realize
the claim of the un-mothered
waifs, ~~who, unless rescued,~~
~~to grow up into men growing~~
up in idleness, if not crime,
and consequent vice - I
believe in the ^{political} wisdom of
extending the suffrage to

Woman, but she can now³⁴
render service to the state
and nation as great per-
haps as is possible to man.
She can now help to reach a
solution of the tremendous
problems concerning the
Care and Uplift of the
submerged tenth that con-
stitute this nation, as she
assists in the preparation
for good citizenship of the
neglected and neglected
for children now down to
mature, unless rescued, into
tramps, criminals and
paupers. There is much work
more waiting for us here in our own

city. There is to be done a
 public effort being made by
 various benevolent organiza-
 tions and Missionary Societies
 to meet this need, but how many
 of the women of our churches
 even, realize their individual
 duty and responsibility in
 this direction. We as women
 and mothers should do vastly
 more for the unfortunate
 children of poverty and
 sin outside our homes -

And what is our
 duty and our privilege
 in regard to ^{the} large number
 of young men and women
 who are drawn from their

own homes and in the ³⁶ ~~day~~
 earning class, ~~here~~ - O. the
 homesick, lonely hearts in
 the stores, ^{factories} ~~shops~~
^{young men & women}
~~Kitchens~~ - Many ^{of these work}
 hard all day and go to char-
 less rooms in lodging and
 boarding houses for the evening.
 Little wonder that ^{places of amusement} ~~the theatres,~~
 saloons and variety shows
 are crowded nightly. The
 writer in the town can do
 much for these. St. Paul
 speaks of hospitality as a
 Cardinal virtue - Surely he
 did not mean that sort of
 worldly and selfish enter-

Training we indulge in
 that we may be entertained
 again! Christian hospitality
 means more than this - It may
 be made a potent force in
 helping many a young man
 or woman, not only to a
 happier experience but to
 a larger and more philantropic
 outlook on humanity, and
 to a true and juster appreciation
 of the real purpose and value
 of life - These are but a few hints
 as to the possibilities that are open
 to the true woman in the home -
 Let such of us as have children and
 homes magnify our office, en-
 large our sympathies, and lend
 a helping hand to those less
 fortunate than we -