

# Gertrude Bustill Mossell

## OUR WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT



Senator Blair's Work for the Education of the Race and the Elevation of Women--Observations on the Care of Children--Notes. This column will be devoted to the interest of women and will aim to promote true womanhood, especially that of the African race. Suggestions as to how this department may be improved and its usefulness increased will be gladly received. All success, progress or needs of our women will be given prompt mention. We shall be glad also to receive for exchange or for our book table such publications as may be deemed helpful. All communications or contributions for this department, should be addressed to Mrs. N. F. Mossell, 924 Lombard street Philadelphia. The third day of the present session of Congress was made memorable for us as the day upon which Senator Blair of New Hampshire presented the motion for an amendment to the Constitution of the United States conferring the right of suffrage upon women. We have especial cause for gratitude towards this gentleman inasmuch as he is also the author of the Educational bill favoring the education of the freedmen of the South through funds furnished by the United States Government. To have those who have thought little of the subject of Woman's Suffrage, Woman's Rights, Wrongs, etc., let me recommend the reading of the following publications: The "History of Woman's Rights"; The New Era, organ of the Woman's Rights Association; "History of Woman;" "A statement of Woman's position in all parts of the World during the past," and "The Subjection of Woman," by John Stuart Mill. We feel that a perusal of this book of Mr. Mill will lead those who have never thought upon the subject to see in it something worthy of their earnest consideration. Those who have thought, but unfavorably of the matter, will think more favorably; and those who have thought favorably will become enthusiastic in their efforts for the advancement of this cause. One of the bugbears held up to your women to prevent their speaking their thoughts upon this subject, or taking the advice of its champions, has been the fact of its causing them to be ineligible in the matrimonial field, but a reading of the "History of Woman's Rights" shows this curious fact, that most of its champions are married women. Whether they were married and their honorable partners submitted to the inevitable, or whether they were so weak, or so strong, as to take them as partners in spite of their predilections, history sayeth not. But bearing this fact in mind, ye timid ones, fear not, but "wade boldly, solemnly in." Mr. Mill in his work gives a fair statement of the subject at issue in the expression of this earnest belief: "I have long thought the legal subordination of one sex to the other wrong, and one of the chief hindrances to human improvement, and that it ought to be replaced by a principle of perfect equality admitting no power on the one side, or disability on the other."