

Down close, we'll give you a warm time,  
And, since you're down, we'll use you for a seat,  
As housewives use the down of geese for cushions.

You now become subscribers to our rules,  
Imposed by stern propriety—father true  
Of judgment and grandfather too  
Of first and primal Nature high ;  
So then Propriety may veto laws  
By judgment made, or made with Nature's seal,  
And make such laws as piques a heart of flesh,  
Which Nature made, but pleases souls of learning  
As physic sickens sickness for a cure.

We all agree as to a natural life  
That it would be our ruin and despair.  
To upbraid our hearts and tendencies, we hold  
To be a right regard for our high selves.  
We you conjure with us to seal that fount  
Which gives a birth to sentimental streams,  
And ripples forth with tender ecstasies  
That weaker souls call love—an idle name,  
Or bursts anon with plunging riot forth,  
And surges wild in some unlawful freak,  
Set such a seal on your compressed lips  
As never breaks an accent or a word  
In converse with a maid,—this is our rule.  
Our rule comes home unto our abstract creed,  
And rigidly forbids a spoken word,  
Our word by looks or touch or thought conveyed,  
To cross the territory which conjoins  
The soul of maid and soul of lad forsooth,  
So that this territory may escape  
Possession by some such as you, whereas  
We are the rightful owners, since it falls  
Within the reign and general government  
Of sovereign Faculty Propriety.  
So, by your act of being here convened,  
You do conjointly pledge yourselves with us,  
That you do shame such deeds as break this rule.  
You do anticipate the base outlaw  
Which ever could hold sway upon yourself  
And make you break the law, and so do swear  
Yourself a spotted leper, if in aught  
You disregard this sacred ordinance,  
And blot your record in our Censure Book.

In all the things of doubtful quality,  
Which humors of a healthy soul do fetch,  
Which caper forth in youthsomeness and beehance,  
We hold a sovereign right to judge in fine ;  
And hereunto you set your hand and seal :  
That if your conduct enter not to this  
Or that, or strike a discord to our heart,  
You're placed in jeopardy for treaty breach,—  
The treaty had by the "agreement" signed.

And also, you do swear to embrace a rule  
Which drags you by the nose at every bell  
To each and every exercise in full,  
As keepers drag a subdued bull to stall  
When they have pierced his nose with iron ring,  
And unto this you swear ; that burning shame

If hath cauterized your life and your career  
If you should ever disobey the rule,  
As red hot irons cauterize the flesh,  
And show a festered aspect to the eye.

To be with us is yet another oath—  
For being here doth firmly swear you in—  
Which oath doth bind you're int'rest to our prayers,  
That we do utter in our chapel voice  
And wish to be observed with punctual ear.  
'Tis here we give a digest of the truth,  
And speak it in a stated speech to you—  
Or in a stated prayer which is a speech.  
'Tis in these digests we digest the truth,  
And feed it to your spiritual appetite,  
As the great paunch within a ruminant  
Digests in part the heterogenous mass,  
And belches out for the small stomach's sake.

To all these ends we mutually aid ourselves  
By giving countenance to our mutual deeds,  
And hindering any wayward breaches  
(And so perhaps the comfort of our breeches  
Or comfort of our individual State) ;  
By visiting speedy punishments on all ;  
By making "censure marks" against the name.  
So shall we urge our great and high purpose,  
And swell our intellects and souls with size  
That they will rise to most ethereal heights,—  
As swelled balloons from their great size rise high  
(Though once they're pricked they fall with swift descent)  
Nor will we "run against a snag" and fall,  
As pricked balloons we all confess, will fall.

J. A. B.

---

WOMAN ASKS BUT MERITED RECOGNITION—NOTHING MORE.

---

In these days of agitated debate on the question of women, we are apt to fall into the error of over-estimating her work and exalting her too highly for what she does. He who would have the right appreciation of woman and her ability, must not look upon her as inferior to man. We do not claim for her equal ability with man along all lines of work ; there are some paths she has not trodden ; of her ability or inability to tread these untrodden paths we can only surmise. As to the departments of work in which she has labored, there have been manifestations of ability and proficiency equal to that of man. If vigor of intellect is the true measurement of human ability, she has already demonstrated in public life, as well as in the college class room, her possession of mental strength