

Quotation

Author

Daughters are but branches which by marriage are broken off from the root from whence they sprang and engrafted into the stock of another family, so that daughters are to be accounted but as movable goods or furnitures that wear out.

Margaret Cavendish
Duchess of Newcastle
(1664)

As the finest Plants are the soonest nipped by the frost, whilst you are playing full of Innocence, the spiteful world will bite, except you are guarded by caution... You must take it well to be prun'd by so kind a Hand as that of a father.

George Savile, Marquis of
Halifax (1688)

What a delightful Entertainment must it be to the Fair Sex, whom their native Modesty, and the Tenderness of Men towards them, exempts from publick Business, to pass their Hours in imitating Fruits and Flowers, and transplanting all the Beauties of Nature into their own Dress.

Joseph Addison (1714)

In happy fortune, and to endeavour to reconcile myself to it... I was married with great pomp. Never was wone drest out in gayer colours, and when I was led to the altar, I wished from my soul I had been led, as Iphigenia was, to be sacrificed. I was sacrificed. I lost, not life indeed, but I lost all that makes life desirable - joy and peace of mind.

Mary Delany (née Granville
1718).

Man in the act of procreation is the agent and tiller and sower of the Ground to be tilled, who brings Seed to sow the ground with. The man's Yard is as it were the Plow where with the ground is tilled, and made fit for Production of Fruit.

Jane Sharp (1725)

Therefore the CALYX is the bedroom, the COROLLA is the curtain
The POLLEN is the sperm
The SIGMA is the vulva
The CALYX can also be regarded as the lips of the cunt or the foreskin
The FILAMENTS, which deliver the juice to the ANTHERS, are called the spermatoc vessels
The ANTHERS are the testicles
The STIGMA is the vulva, and corresponds to the part that secretes the genital fluid in the weaker sex
The STYLE is the vagina
The vegetable OVARY is the animal ovary The SEED is the egg

Carl Linnaeus (1751)

The natural and proper business of women is to please; and it is the highest ambition of a reasonable woman to be the object of universal regard, within the limits of domestic life.

Mary Wortley Montagu
(1753)

Extraordinary talents make a Woman admired, but they will never make her happy. Talents put a man above the World, & in a condition to be feared and worshipped, a Woman that possesses them must always be courting the World, and asking pardon, as it were, for uncommon excellence.

Elizabeth Montagu (1760)

By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law: the legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, incorporated

William Blackstone (1765)

into that of the husband, under whose wing, protection, and cover, she performs every thing.

A Lady's being learned is commonly looked on as a great fault, even by the learned in their knowledge of manly things. Mary Hamilton, (1772)

From an apprehension that Botany in an English dress would become a favourite amusement with the ladies, many of whom are very considerable proficient in the study, in spite of difficulty; it was thought proper to drop the sexual distinctions in the titles to the Classes and Orders. William Withering (1776)

There is not anything in nature which is more immediately calculated totally to subvert health, strength, love and esteem in the married state, than the odious, most indelicate, and most hurtful custom of man and woman continually sleeping, snoring, steaming and pigging together, in one and the same bed. James Graham (1780)

I am sensible that my situation exposes me to censure, and that the world will not allow a woman to step beyond the common paths without affixing some motive of vanity or ambition to her conduct. Georgiana Cavendish (1783)

As to the unlearned, if I were to send them to the translation of Linnaeus' works, they would only find themselves bewildered in an inextricable labyrinth of unintelligible terms, and would only reap disgust from a study that is, perhaps, more capable of affording pleasure than any other. Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1789)

The conduct and manners of women evidently prove that their minds are not in a healthy state; for, like the flowers that are planted in too rich a soil, strength and usefulness are sacrificed to beauty; and the flaunting leaves, after having pleased a fastidious eye, fade, disregarded on the stalk, long before the season when they ought to have arrived at maturity. Mary Wollstonecraft (1792)

The necessity of learning some antient or foreign languages imposes a laborious task on the youth of both sexes, which consumes years of their time... And as the works of the best writers in these languages have been translated into our own, it is less necessary in the education of ladies to expend so much time and labour in acquiring them. Erasmus Darwin (1794)

Botany has lately become a fashionable amusement with the ladies. But how the study of the sexual system of plants can accord with female modesty, I am not able to comprehend. Richard Polwhele (1797)

A banker's bed is not a bed of roses ... when the whole world is in a very alarming state of confusion and England is beset with foreign and domestic enemies. Thomas Coutts (1798)

Till of late, botany has been confined to the circle of the learned, which may be attributed to those books that treated it, being principally written in Latin: a difficulty that deterred many, particularly the female sex, from attempting to obtain the knowledge of a science, thus defended, as it were, from their approach. Priscilla Wakefield (1818)

The difference between man and woman is the same as that between animal and plant. The animal corresponds more closely to the character of the man, the plant to that of the woman. Man attains his position only through stress of thought and much specialised effort. Women can, of course, be educated, but their minds are not adapted to the higher sciences. These demand a universal faculty.

G. W. F. Hegel (1821)

The study of Botany seems peculiarly adapted to females; the objects of its investigation are beautiful and delicate; its pursuits, leading to exercise in the open air, are considered conducive to health and cheerfulness.

Almira Phelps (1829)