

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women
Frances Power Cobbe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Women's Writing

The later twentieth century saw a huge wave of academic interest in women's writing, which led to the rediscovery of neglected works from a wide range of genres, periods and languages. Many books that were immensely popular and influential in their own day are now studied again, both for their own sake and for what they reveal about the social, political and cultural conditions of their time. A pioneering resource in this area is Orlando: Women's Writing in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present (<http://orlando.cambridge.org>), which provides entries on authors' lives and writing careers, contextual material, timelines, sets of internal links, and bibliographies. Its editors have made a major contribution to the selection of the works reissued in this series within the Cambridge Library Collection, which focuses on non-fiction publications by women on a wide range of subjects from astronomy to biography, music to political economy, and education to prison reform.

Essays on the Pursuits of Women

Frances Power Cobbe (1822–1904) was an Irish writer, social reformer and activist best known for her contributions to Victorian feminism and women's suffrage. After the death of her father in 1857, Cobbe travelled extensively across Europe before becoming a leader-writer addressing public issues for the London newspaper *The Echo* in 1868. She continued to publish on the topics of feminism, social problems and theology for the rest of her life. This volume, first published in 1863, contains a series of essays discussing topics of importance to early feminists. Cobbe explores sexual and matrimonial inequality and the changing status of and opportunities for single women, and advocates greater and more extensive female education. Cobbe also discusses possible reasons behind the inequality and limitations experienced by single and married women, providing insights into the lives experienced by Victorian women and exemplifying the ideas and concerns of contemporary feminists. For more information on this author, see http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=cobbfr

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women
Frances Power Cobbe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection will bring back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women

Frances Power Cobbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Essays on the Pursuits of Women

Also, a Paper on Female Education

FRANCES POWER COBBE



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women

Frances Power Cobbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108020480

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1863

This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02048-0 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women

Frances Power Cobbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ESSAYS
ON THE
PURSUITS OF WOMEN.

REPRINTED FROM
FRASER'S AND MACMILLAN'S MAGAZINES.

ALSO
A PAPER ON FEMALE EDUCATION,
Read before the Social Science Congress, at Guildhall.

BY
FRANCES POWER COBBE.



LONDON :
EMILY FAITHFULL,
Printer and Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty,
PRINCES STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, AND 83A, FARRINGTON STREET.
1863.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women
Frances Power Cobbe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

TO MY THREE DEAR AND HONOURED FRIENDS,

THE AUTHORESS OF

“THE CONNECTION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES,”

THE FOUNDESS OF

THE FIRST FEMALE REFORMATORY,

AND

THE SCULPTRESS OF “ZENOBIA,”

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK,

ON THE PURSUITS OF WOMEN.

FRANCES POWER COBBE.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women
Frances Power Cobbe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

P R E F A C E .

THREE Essays in this volume—the second, third, and fourth—constitute a connected series; the remainder are of a miscellaneous character, and were written at various times, and for different purposes more or less nearly allied to the general subject of the Pursuits of Women. No pretension is made in them to any adequate treatment of so large a theme, but only to the discussion of a few of the lines lately opened to women's interests and employments of the more intellectual kind. Especially do these little Essays apply to the pursuits of *Single* women—of those who, being debarred from the most natural

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women
Frances Power Cobbe
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

vi

PREFACE.

and blessed of human ties and duties, yet believe that the lives which it has pleased God to bestow on them should neither be aimless for themselves, nor valueless for His creatures.

CLIFTON,

March, 1863.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02048-0 - Essays on the Pursuits of Women

Frances Power Cobbe

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
SOCIAL SCIENCE CONGRESSES, AND WOMEN'S	
PART IN THEM	1
CELIBACY <i>v.</i> MARRIAGE	38
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR OLD MAIDS?	58
FEMALE CHARITY: LAY AND MONASTIC . .	102
WOMEN IN ITALY, IN 1862	142
WORKHOUSE SKETCHES	175
THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN	216