

says to draw them in. The scene reminds one irresistably of a chicken laboring with a long and muscular angleworm; and I always feel like counseling him to do as the chicken does under such circumstances—put his foot on the loose ends to hold them steady while he sucks them in.”

THE PROBLEMS of women in other countries never failed to elicit her comment. When she visited a harem in Algiers she was struck by the complete absence of books in the richly decorated room; it shocked her that these women did not have the chance to learn to read, write, sew, sketch, “or even play the piano.” Ellen saw the wealthy Arab women, wrapped in luxuries, as condemned to a life of slavery.

“Poor little wife!” the spinster writes of a child of nine who is to be married in two years, “. . . drilled in the arts of cunning and deceit when she should be only a guileless romping child. . . .”

While she deplored the Algerian women’s vapid life of luxury, she applauded the German women who worked in the fields:

“It may be rank heresy, but I can’t see anything more degrading or more laborious in raking hay or binding wheat . . . than in washing dishes, broiling over a cook stove . . . or toiling twelve hours a day in the stifling unwholesome atmosphere of a factory . . .”

But while she asserted woman’s right to do a man’s job, she found her ladylike sensibilities offended by “the French [men who] show very little respect for a lady’s feelings and commit the grossest breaches of decorum with utter indifference to her presence. The public streets of Paris . . . are places where, of all others, it behooves a woman who would not have her sense of delicacy constantly offended to keep her eyes constantly on her feet.”

After two years E. W. had recovered completely, and brother and sister turned homeward. E. W. returned with a renewed determination to settle down. He threw himself into the task of revamping and revitalizing *The Cincinnati Post*. He found himself a young wife, the daughter of a small-town Ohio minister. He invested the funds

from his holdings in the *News*, the *Press* and the *Post* to buy other papers. The Scripps chain grew.

In many of these ventures Ellen provided financial backing, for she was receiving a comfortable income from her early investments in the Scripps papers. Once, when James threatened to wrest control of a paper from E. W., Ellen could intervene by presenting James with a note due her, thereby saving the day for E. W. The brothers had become increasingly antagonistic with the passing years, and Ellen, as always, championed her favorite, E. W. But when ill health sent James abroad in 1888, she was again the chosen nurse and companion.

After her years of travel, Ellen found it hard to settle down to her desk in Detroit. The *News* and E. W.’s papers were solidly established now—too big to be strictly family affairs. Shortly after her trip with James, she gave up her position with the *News* and followed E. W. and his family to California. For the rest of his career he ruled over his expanding empire from a secluded ranch. Ellen resided with him until she built her own home in La Jolla, where she lived until her death at the age of ninety-five, surviving her younger brother by eight years.

THE WIDE INTERESTS which had enlivened her writings drew her into new projects in her later years. The few thousand dollars which she invested so faithfully in her brothers’ papers had grown into vast sums, and she devoted herself to distributing her money where it would do the most good.

Never a churchgoer herself, she gave to churches of all denominations. She donated a public playground to the city of La Jolla, with the stipulation that it be made available to public speakers of all persuasions. Mindful of what a college education had meant to her, she provided funds to establish Scripps College for Women in Claremont, California. She joined with E. W. in founding the Scripps Institution of Biological Research (later of Oceanography).

She took a lively interest in the projects she helped finance, although she shunned the