

### 1. Notebook Entry: **Cult of Domesticity**

### 2. What is: a Cult? Domesticity?

**EQ: What impact did Industrialization have on 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe?**

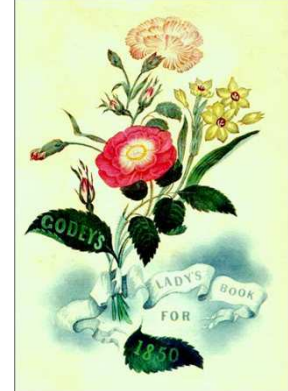
By the end of class are objectives are to:

- define the term *Cult of Domesticity*
- analyze the impact of industrialization on women's social status

Remember that you have 7 days of actual class before you reach the holiday recess.

### **Cult of Domesticity:**

- New ideal of womanhood
- From women's magazines, advice books, and popular culture



### **Godey's Lady's Book:**

- Most widely circulated women's magazine in U.S.
- Encouraged motherhood as a religious value
  - Images depicted the four virtues
  - Stressed fashion to make women attractive to husbands



### **Godey's proclaimed**

- "The perfection of womanhood... is the wife and mother, the center of the family, that magnet that draws man to the domestic altar, that makes him a civilized being, a social Christian."
- "The wife is truly the light of the home."

### **Post-Industrial Family:**

- Middle class family did not need to be self-sufficient
  - Men producing goods and services
  - Wives and children stayed home

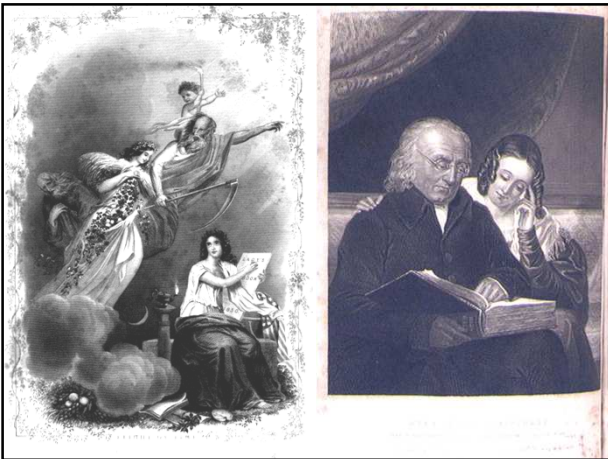
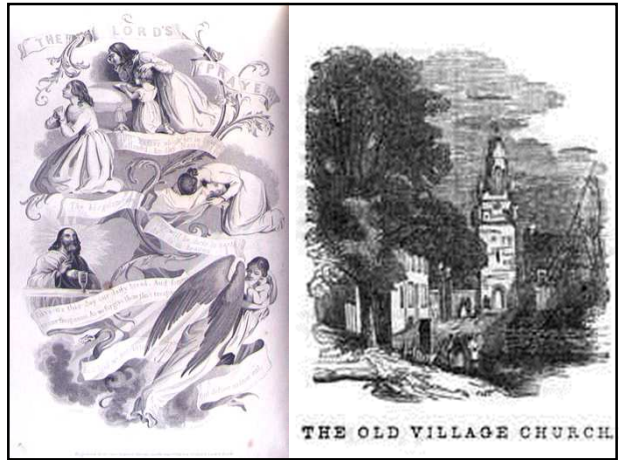
### **Ideal of Womanhood:**

- Piety
- Purity
- Submissiveness
- Domesticity



## **Piety:**

- Propensity for religion
- "Woman" is the new Eve
  - working to save the world through pure, passionless love



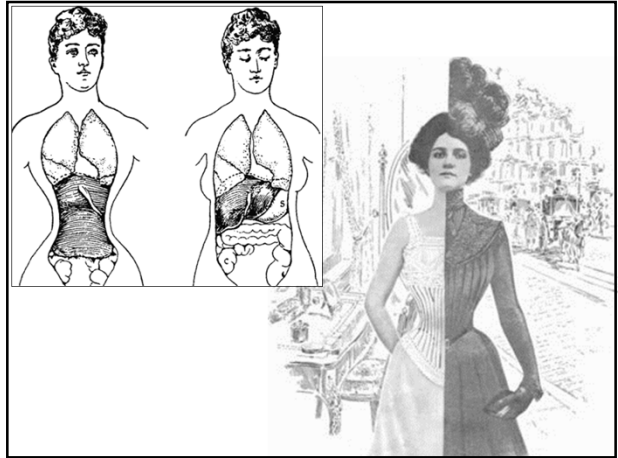
## **Purity:**

- Pure in
  - Heart
  - Mind
  - Body



## **Submissiveness:**

- Women should be passive towards
  - Fate
  - Duty
  - God
  - Men
- Emphasized by clothing
  - Corsets closed off lungs
  - Weight of dresses
  - limited mobility

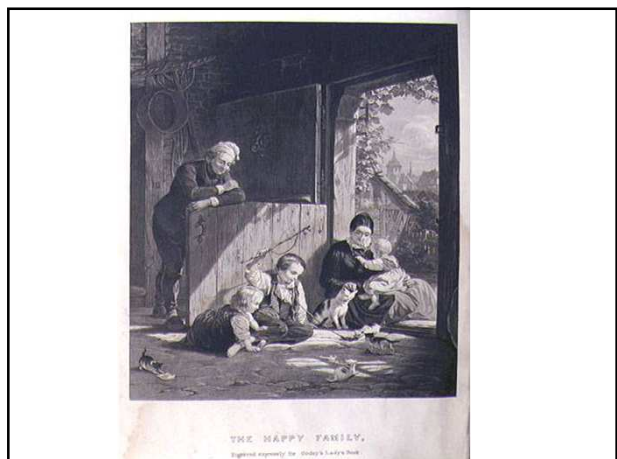


## ***Truisms about Women***

- "A woman has a head almost too small for intellect but just big enough for love."
- "True feminine genius is ever timid, doubtful, and clingingly dependent; a perpetual childhood."

## **Domesticity:**

- Housework is an uplifting task
- Women make the home a refuge
  - For men to escape the immoral world of business and industry

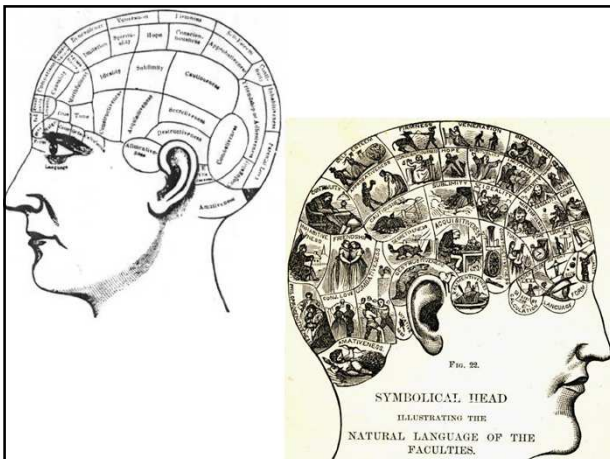
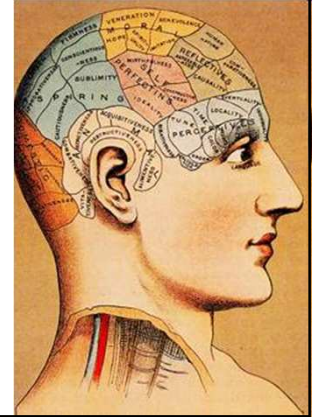






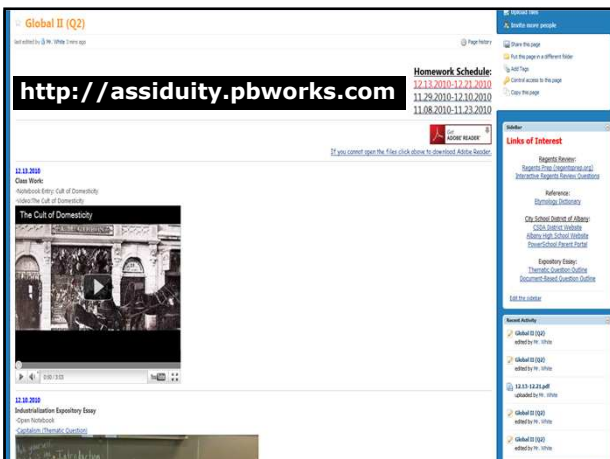
## Intelligence:

- Women
  - Considered intellectually inferior
  - More primitive brain
- Phrenology - the art of reading the skull



## A Woman's Rights

The right to love whom others scorn,  
The right to comfort and to mourn,  
The right to shed new joy on earth,  
The right to feel the soul's high worth,  
Such woman's rights a God will bless  
And crown their champions with success.



## To hand in:

- 1) Evaluate women's social standing based on the "cult of domesticity."
- 2) Discuss two ways the post-industrial world differed from the world before the Industrial Revolution.