

OBITUARY.

Lucretia Mott

Lucretia Mott is dead. Pallanthropist, Evangelist, Abolitionist, Woman Suffragist—she has closed a long and useful life, and has gone to her reward. Descended on her father's side from the Coffins and Macys, and of the Folgers on her mother's, and through them related to Dr. Franklin, she came of honored and renowned ancestry. Lucretia Coffin was born in the Island of Nantucket, January 3, 1793. She was educated in Boston and at the Friends' boarding school in Dutchess county, N. Y. In that institution, when but fifteen years of age, she was appointed a teacher. Three years later she married James Mott, of New York, and subsequently removed to Philadelphia, where she has since made her home. Her husband died twelve years ago, and at twenty-five, surrounded by a little family, she felt called to and engaged in the ministry of the Society of Friends, not only preaching the truth as she understood it, but of the great reforms that from her girlhood lay near her heart. The unequal condition of woman in society, her compensation always inferior to that of men for the same work, the temperance cause and the Abolition movement engaged her attention, and received the assistance of her talents as an orator, and of the influence exerted by her universally acknowledged and respected purity and loveliness of character. In 1833, when the separation occurred in the South of Friends, she sided with the Hicksites; but with charity for all denominations. "We are all," she used to say, "ignorant, and should not presume to teach any one the eternal source of good." She was one of the very first Abolitionists, having determined, from her fourteenth year, to use nothing produced by the labor of the slave; and later, in her life took an active interest in the underground railroad, aiding with her means and counsel and cheering with her kindly words many a poor fugitive from slavery. Unlike many other Abolitionists, however, she was removed as far as possible from being a woman of one idea. She was many-sided, and there was no movement in behalf of the desolate and oppressed, from the noble efforts of the Roscoe Society to the struggles of the woman suffrage advocates, that had not her sympathy of both heart and hand.

In 1817 six years after her marriage Mrs. Mott took charge of a school in this city, and in 1818 began to preach. She was prominently before the public in 1833 in consequence of the active part which she took in the organization of the American Anti-Slavery Society. In 1840 she was a delegate to the World's Anti-Slavery Convention, in London, but with other lady delegates was refused admission. She said to herself, "Temperance Reform early engaged my attention. The oppression of the working classes by existing monopolies, and the lowliness of wages; and I have held many meetings and heard their appeals with compassion and a great desire for a radical change in the system, that makes the rich richer and the poor poorer. The various associations and communities tending to a greater equality of condition have had from me hearty assent." This is not self-laudation, but the natural straightforward statement of a simple fact. The lady's life work was done not only among the poor of her neighborhood and on the preacher's bench of the Quaker meeting house, but on the lecture platform and in promoting and presiding at meetings and over movements for the agitation of reforms. She was conspicuous in the first Woman's Rights Convention, of which her husband was the president, and which was held at Seneca Falls in 1848, and traveled as an opponent of slavery through several States, including Maryland and Virginia. She was the life of the Radical Club of this city, that organization having declined since she ceased to attend its meetings. In 1878 she was unanimously elected president of the Peace Society, and that organization derived its principal importance from her influence and exertions.

The editors of a popular magazine thus writes of her in her home near Cheltenham Hills: "We visited Mrs. Mott in her own home one day last week. The house has been modernized, but is still highly characteristic of Quaker simplicity. We were received very kindly by Mrs. Mott in the large, comfortably-furnished parlor, and, after some few minutes' conversation with herself and daughter, she invited us into her cozy little sitting room, sacred to her hours of reading, writing and working, for the busy hands and the wonderful brain are never idle. Indeed, in the manner of work this venerable and beloved woman commands by her example the lesson of industry to every young girl who would achieve honor and distinction. Of President Hayes personally, and his policy as now understood, she spoke with approbation, deprecating all efforts to keep alive sectional feelings."

"The treatment received by the delegates to the convention of 1840, in London, declared Mrs. Mott, 'brought the woman question more into view, and an increase of interest in the subject was the result. In this work I have engaged heart and hand, as my labors, travels and public discourses evince. The misappre-

sentation, ridicule and abuse heaped upon this, as well as other reforms, do not in the least deter me from my duty. To those whose name is cast out as evil for the truth's sake it is a small thing to be judged of man's judgment."

"Tender in heart, brilliant in intellect, guileless in soul, this wonderful woman still remains to us coming regularly into the city to Wednesday meetings. Though in her eighty-fifth year she is as keen of comprehension, as strong mentally as in her earlier working days, and is, as she has always been, the central thought of an appreciative circle."

Martha Coffin Wright, her sister, who is also known as a philanthropist and reformer, wrote of her: "The striking traits of Lucretia's character are remarkable energy that defies even time, unswerving conscientiousness, and all those characteristics that are summed up in the few words, 'Love to man and love to God.'" Mrs. Soule said: "Birth made Victoria a queen, but her own pure, sweet life makes Lucretia Mott a queen—queen of the realm on which the sun never sets—the realm of humanity. If any woman ever 'inherited the earth' it is this blessed Quaker woman."

Mrs. Mott died yesterday morning at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. E. M. Davis, near Cheltenham Hills, in the eighty-eighth year of her age. Her funeral, at her own request, is to be private.

Rev. James Grier Ralston.

NORRISTOWN, Nov. 11.—The Rev. J. Grier Ralston, D. D., LL. D., well known as the founder and principal of the Oakland Institute for the education of young ladies, in this city, died yesterday. His funeral will take place from the First Presbyterian Church, at half-past two P. M. on Saturday.

[Dr. Ralston, who was of an old Pennsylvania family, well known in the history of the State, was born in Chester county, Pa., in December, 1815. He graduated with honors from Washington College in 1838 and taught in the Academy at Steubenville, Ohio, for two years afterward. While at this place he began the study of theology with the late John W. Scott, D. D., which was afterward supplemented with a course at the Princeton Theological Seminary. He was first licensed to preach by the Presbytery of New Castle, and was at once commissioned by the Presbyterian Board of Domestic Missions as a missionary among the Winnebago Indians, then on their reservation in Wisconsin. Failing health prevented him from entering actively upon his duties, and he therefore assumed the principalship of the Female Seminary at Oxford, Pa., which place he held for four years, preaching as often as his health would permit in the meantime. He was ordained an evangelist in 1845, but hemorrhage of the lungs prevented him from following his chosen calling, and he therefore resolved to spend the balance of his life in teaching. In the same year he founded the Oakland Female Institute, which in a few years grew to its present handsome proportions. About three thousand pupils have been educated within its walls, many of them coming from long distances to enjoy the advantages it offered. He received the honorary degree of LL. D. from Lafayette College in 1865, and in 1868 Washington and Jefferson conferred the degree of D. D. upon him. At the time of his death Dr. Ralston was a member of several literary and scientific societies, and has published many sermons, addresses and journalistic articles. His life has been one of singular usefulness in his peculiar field of labor.]

Gordon Greenough

BOSTON, Nov. 11.—The report of the death of R. S. Greenough, the sculptor, is untrue; but his son Gordon, a young painter, residing in Rome, has just died.