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Dr. Charlotte Forten Grimke's Obituary 1 and 2

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Dr. Grinke's Obituary

(His own type)

122

CHARLOTTE FORTEN GRIMKE.

Born in Philadelphia August 17, 1837.

Married to the Rev. Francis J. Grimke, in Washington City December 19, 1878.

Theodora Cornelia, her only child, was born January 1, 1880.

2
Theodora was baptized by the Rev. Dr. James McCosh President of Princeton University who happened to be in the city and at my request, I had attended his classes in Princeton, kindly consented and came to the house and performed the service. She died June 30, 1880.

Mrs. Grimke died July 23, 1914.

Mrs. Grimke's grandfather was Mr. James Forten of Philadelphia who was born September 2, 1766 and died March 4, 1842. Her father's name was Robert B. Forten who died April 25, 1864. He was Sergeant Major of the 43rd United States Colored troops.

Mrs. Charlotte Forten Grimke was born in Philadelphia Aug. 17th, 1837. Her grand-father James Forten, who served in the Revolutionary War, and was a prominent business man in Philadelphia. When he died his funeral was attended by five thousand of the best citizens, both white and colored. She was educated in the Salem Normal School in Mass., and taught for a while in the schools of Salem. She taught also just before the close of the war in South Carolina, under the auspices of the Freedmen's Aid Society, and wrote some articles on her experience in the islands in and the neighborhood of Beaufort, which were published in the Atlantic Monthly. She was a contributor also to the Christian Register and the Boston Commonwealth, and contributed one article to the New England Magazine. She knew intimately many of the most distinguished people of New England. She knew well Wendall Phillips, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles Sumner, John G. Whittier, Theodore D. Weld, Lydia Maria Childs, Elizabeth Peabody, Lucy Stone, Lucy Larcom, Louisa Alcott, and many others. She lived in Washington upwards of forty years. She was a clerk in the Treasury Department for some years.

She became a member of this church in 1877, and in Dec. 1879 was happily married to Rev. Francis J. Grimke. One daughter was born to them, but died many years ago.

Mrs. Grimke had a lovely disposition, was sweet and gentle, and yet she was a woman of great strength of character. She was a lady in the best sense of that term - a woman of great refinement. There was not the slightest trace of coarseness about her in any shape or form. She had a bright sunny disposition. She never grew old in spirit - she was always young, as young as the youngest. She had a fine mind, carefully trained and cultivated by hard study and by contact with the best literature and with cultured people. She had the keenest appreciation for all that was best in literature and art. She loved books and pictures and flowers and everything that was beautiful and soul-uplifting. She had also charming manners, - always thoughtful, always considerate for others, never allowing the thought of self to intrude or to interfere with the comfort and happiness of others. The plane upon which her life, inner and outer, moved was always high. There was nothing little or grovelling in her makeup.

She was a loving and devoted wife and a true friend. After five years of declining health, during thirteen months of which she was confined to her bed a helpless invalid, after a long hard struggle, she quietly passed into the great beyond, where some sweet day, not far away, we shall meet her again.

July 23, 1911,

and Thursday afternoon 5:10 o'clock p.m.