

without neglecting any home duties. Letters written when her children were young, tell us how dearly she prized them and what an interest she took in all their amusements. A beautiful needle-woman, she did all the sewing and mending necessary, and articles still in the possession of members of the family show how exquisitely it was done. A rarely good housekeeper, she always contrived to have an air of refinement and comfort about the house and table, even when a large family and small income coupled with a generous hospitality necessitated the most careful management. She often said that what made it possible for her to accomplish so much was having such faithful and capable maids, who served her with a devotion rare indeed.

Reared as Mrs. Ball was in a family where all the leading questions of the day were read and discussed with great interest, it is little wonder that she held strong political views. To the end of her life, she followed with the keenest interest everything pertaining to politics, and while it is true that a woman's political views are of little importance in this country, yet even in that field she had an influence, for she so impressed her seven sons with her view of politics that the Reform party has at least that many more loyal adherents as a result.

Eight years after her marriage a heavy trial, which came upon her family with startling suddenness, shadowed her life for many years. This was the death, in a railway accident, of her sister Catherine, whose beautiful Christian