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Frances E. Willard.

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MISS WILLARD was born September 28, 1839, in Churchville, N. Y. She talked before she walked, doing the former at fourteen months and the latter at two years. Her childhood was a very happy one, God fitting her for the large life she had to live in the future.

In the year 1858 she and her sister went to Evanston Female College, Illinois, where Frank, as she was called, was a leader among the girls. During her study life we find her modest, merry, generous, and gracious in dignity, dainty in attire, superb in friendliness, remarkable in scholarship, and valedictorian of her class. It was in the fall of the same year that the Willard family moved to Evanston. When health was returning to her after a severe illness during her graduation year she determined to teach. Her first school was ten miles from Chicago, away out on the prairie. In 1871 she was elected president of the Evanston Ladies' College, the first woman to whom such an honor was accorded; and the same year the Northwestern University threw open its doors to humanity's gentler half.

When in 1874, without warning, the Woman's Temperance Crusade began breaking out here, there, and everywhere, without known concert of action. Miss Willard's heart warmed to the work, and she exclaimed: "If I only had more time—if I were more free!" Within three months she was free to choose her work. She and the president of the university differing in opinion on matters of government, led her to resign her position as Dean of the Woman's College. God's hand was leading her. She went east to study the temperance work and while there, wondering where the money was to come from to meet her own and mother's expenses, she opened the Bible and read: "Trust in the Lord, and do good, so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." Just after this two letters reached her, one from Rev. Dr. Van Norman offering her the position of lady principal of the elegant school for young women, with a salary of \$2400, and such duties as she might choose; and the other was from Mrs. S. L. Rounds, begging her to take the presidency of the Chicago branch of the W.C.T.U. The latter she accepted, the former she declined. This was her choice of a career. After accepting the above position and feeling that the loving Father was leading her, and had promised to feed her if she followed His commands, she felt as if she should not say one word about salary, and she oftentimes knew what it was to feel hungry, and weary from walking, for she had not the wherewithal to take the street cars. When Mrs. Willard's common sense prevailed, and the situation

was revealed (the ladies thinking all the while she had unknown means to supply her wants) their regret partook almost of the nature of remorse, and a modest but adequate salary was immediately provided. Five years after this (1879) she was elected president of the National Union. In 1875, in the W.C.T.U. paper, *Our Union*, is made Miss Willard's first public mention of her aspiration towards a world-wide organization of Christian women; but not till the autumn of 1883 was much done, when M. C. Leavitt, of Boston, was sent out to visit the different countries of the world. The World's W.C.T.U. is now organized in fifty nations.

Miss Willard and Lady Henry Somerset first met at the first World's Convention, held at Boston, 1891, and in the early fall of '92, shortly after her mother's death, Miss Willard sailed for England to find in Eastnor Castle a home that would give the rest and quiet which her physicians advised her to take, after the heavy work she had done in America and England. After spending two months in England, Miss Willard and Lady Henry came to America for the National W.C.T.U. Convention at Denver, and in November they returned to England, when a great welcome was given in Exeter Hall to the founder and president of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Five thousand people united in this welcome, members of parliament, leaders of principal English humanitarian organizations, London County Councillors, and over fifty groups of missions, leagues, unions, societies, and guilds were represented, besides an overflow meeting held in a hall containing some fifteen hundred people. It would be but a repetition of occasions similar to that of Exeter Hall if we were to follow her from city to city, as she was welcomed at great meetings and enthusiastic receptions. In 1896 came the cry from Armenia, and noble work was done by Miss Willard and Lady Henry Somerset for the oppressed of that land.

Coming back to America for the National Convention, held in St. Louis, November, 1896, Miss Willard decided to spend the winter in Castile, N. Y., where it seemed her working powers were more creative than ever. In the spring of 1897 she drooped and the doctor advised her to go to the sea air in hopes of building up her strength, which it partially did. During the spring and summer months she visited the homes of her remaining relatives. October of the same year found her in Toronto at the third World's W.C.T.U. Convention, and, after its close, at the National Convention in Buffalo. New Year's day found her at Janesville, Wisconsin, where she gave her last public address in the Congregational Church. She then returned to Chicago where she received a telegram from New York which brought tears to her

eyes and a quiver to her lips. It read:—"To have as a guest at Hotel Empire the author of so much good will more than recompense us; there will be no charge for your apartments. W. Johnson Quinn." Over to New York she went, accepting the kind offer just mentioned. Here she gradually sank, ministered to by the best of loving friends and wise physicians, till on Feb. 18th, 1898, she closed her earthly eyes to open them in the heavenly beauties above, her last words being: "How beautiful it is to be with God." They took her body to the home of her niece (Mrs. Baldwin) and on Sunday, Feb. 20th, carried it to the Broadway Tabernacle, the church in which the voice now hushed had last spoken in New York City, for a service, from there in a special car to Chicago, stopping briefly at Churchville, her birthplace, and also at Buffalo. On reaching Chicago, the casket was taken to "Willard Hall" where it was viewed by more than thirty thousand people. At Evanston the University students acted as escort, and when the beloved one was carried into "Rest Cottage" her young relatives softly sang "Home, Sweet Home." A simple home service the next morning preceded the one at the Evanston Methodist Church, where members spoke of the great life work she had done. The vault at the beautiful Rosehill cemetery received the casket till April 9th, when at Graceland cemetery, three miles from Rosehill, Miss Willard's wish with regard to her body was carried out—"Enfolded in flames and rendered powerless harmfully to affect the health of the living." On Sunday afternoon, April 10th, amid the Easter sunshine, all that remained of the great woman, who never lost her childhood, at last "crept in with mother," being placed in the same grave as her "Saint Courageous."

The State of Illinois has declared Frances E. Willard worthy of the honor of having her statue in the National Statuary Hall at Washington, D. C. It is right that Frances E. Willard should stand among statesmen, patriots, warriors, philanthropists, for she was all of these. Her statue will be at home there even as her spirit is now at home with the spirits of all the great thinkers and sacrificers, from Abraham, Moses, and the prophets, down to Willerforce and Lincoln. Hall to our great leader, the first woman to be given a place in a national group of statuary! Hail, but not farewell!

In reference to this Dr. Crafts writes: "Miss Willard entered the National Capitol on March 1st, just as the house was completing the anti-canteen victory, in which the White Ribbon has led on like the white plume of Navarre. By all means let the statue of this white soul be marble, though her strength of heart and hope were as bronze."

Miss Willard "being dead yet speaketh."