

Botha, Mary Mapes Dodge, S. Maria Child, Sarah Orne Jewett, Professor Chandler of Columbia University, and the stars of first (American) magnitude, Lowell, Emerson and Oliver Wendell Holmes. Her oldest and staunchest friends of all were Francis D. Cobb (whom she had known in Singapore and who had introduced her there to the writings of Emerson) and his wife to whom she dedicated the "English Governess." With that true kindness of heart, and unsurpassed genius for friendship, which did then, and still does, mark out Americans among all the families of mankind, and constitutes their specific title to distinction, the Cobbs did everything that could possibly be done to help her over her first hard days in a land of strangers.

In 1879 her daughter was married to Mr. Thomas Fyshe, whom they had met in Staten Island, a Scot of great ability, rugged force of character, and genuine public spirit; very highly esteemed by Mrs. Leonowens, and destined thenceforward to exert a dominating influence upon her fortunes. Well-known afterwards in Canada for his notable work as the general manager of the Merchants' Bank, as well as for his fearless and shining honesty (which practically broke his own back) in laying bare the incredible disintegration of our Canadian Marine Department under the régime of his particular friends the Liberal party, he was at that time living at Halifax, busy, in the capacity of its chief accountant, with the difficult task, triumphantly achieved by him, of soundly organizing the Bank of Nova Scotia. Here, after a while, Mrs. Leonowens joined them, and wrote "Life and Travels in India," and "Our Asiatic Cousins." After the assassination of Czar Alexander the Second, she accepted from the "Youth's Companion," a magazine for which she wrote many articles, a commission to travel in Russia, and study the conditions there. That was the last of her professional literary work. Thenceforth she retired, in the main, into a singularly active and beneficent privacy, occupying herself with domestic duties and with a great variety of good works. In Halifax, for instance, where she rejoined Mr. Fyshe and her daughter after