

CHAPTER VII.

Over * Atlantic * Waves.

CLOSE OF TEACHING.

IT was during the early part of 1886 that she arranged with her trustees for an extension of her summer vacation in order to enable her to visit Scotland and England. The dream of visiting the land of her fathers, the home of her kindred, and the ashes of her ancestors, had long haunted her imagination, and flitted like the sunlight through her mind and fired her heart, and now that that day dream was about to be realized, it filled her with joyful anticipations and kindled all the enthusiasm of her nature. In a letter written on board the steamer *Circassian*, July 20, 1886, as she was nearing the Irish coast, after describing the voyage, the fellow-passengers, and a Sabbath on ship-board, she adds :

“ I can scarcely realize that one of the darling dreams of childhood is about to be fulfilled ; that my foot is about to tread the childhood walks of my beloved mother’s Scotch home ; that the heather hills of dear old Scotland are all but in sight. I fear I do not fully realize the privilege I am about to enjoy.”

Scotland was dear to her as her father’s native land, her mother’s youthful home, as well as for all its heroic and historical associations in the ages of the past.

It may not be out of place here to give a few extracts from letters received from her pupils on the eve of leaving for Scotland, expressive of their kindly regard, their good wishes, and sense of obligation or indebtedness to her for all that she had done for them :