

What Three Amer. Did to Merit Tablets in Hall of Fame

A JEALOUS QUEEN WHO HAS SLAIN THREE PRETTY SLAVES



Hall of Fame at New York University

AMONG those accounted worthy a few weeks ago of places in the Hall of Fame of the New York University are the names of three women.

They are those of Maria Mitchell, perhaps the greatest female astronomer of all ages, and lovingly called "the Mother of the Stars"; Emma Willard, who planned the higher education of her sex, and fought for it until it became an accomplished fact; and Mary Lyon, one of the most successful and progressive educators of all time.

Achievements of each of these women marked a distinct advance upon the dial plate of human progress.

The first name selected was that of George Washington. He received the unanimous vote of the college of electors.

Others already chosen include Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin among the statesmen; John Marshall, Joseph Story and James Kent, among the jurists; Nathaniel Hawthorne, Washington Irving, Henry W. Longfellow and Ralph Waldo Emerson, among literary lights; U. S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, D. O. Farragut, among the warriors; Robert Fulton, Eli Whitney and S. E. B. Morse, among inventors; George Peabody and Peter Cooper, to represent philanthropists; John J. Audubon, as a great naturalist; Gilbert C. Stuart, among artists; Henry Ward Beecher, Horace Mann, Jonathan Edwards, W. E. Channing, among the great orators, educators and liberators.

Among this illustrious company of American "immortals" three women have been deemed worthy a place. So far as known, they are the first women to be so honored. Beyond doubt, the name of Maria Mitchell is entitled to the high place it has now been given. If not the most famous female astronomer of the world, she certainly was the most famous in America, and the name that has been lovingly given her, "Mother of the Stars," does not seem misplaced.

Born on Nantucket Island, August 1, 1818, Miss Mitchell grew up without especial educational advantages. In fact, she lacked nearly everything in the way of mental training that a common schoolgirl of to-day enjoys.

HER OPPORTUNITY CAME

From her childhood, however, she developed the greatest interest in astronomy, and soon developed a wonderful knowledge of the mysteries of that science. As early as 18 years of age, she became a school teacher, and after that always earned her livelihood. From her 18th to her 35th year, she held a position in a public library at a salary of \$100 a year.

One evening—she was then 29 years of age—her opportunity to scale the heights of fame came, and it found her ready.

She had long maintained an observatory in the little back yard of her home, where, with a telescope, she mightily swept the heavens.

On the evening in question, she was entertaining a party of invited guests, but slipped away from them in order to make her examination of the heavens.

Despite the fact that her salary had always been small, she had saved some money, and with this she went to Europe. There she met many people of fame in the world of science, among them Sir John Herschel, the famous astronomer, who took a great interest in her.

Returning home, Miss Mitchell continued her astronomical studies, and won additional honors. One of her chiefest was the discovery of a comet, presented to her by the women of America; and another was a bronze medal of honor awarded by the little European republic of San Marino.

In 1865 Miss Mitchell accepted an offer from Vassar College to become its professor of astronomy and director of the college observatory, and in this honored post she remained until shortly before her death in 1889.

During this time she published many articles in scientific and popular journals, delivered lectures before societies and girls' schools, and in many other ways endeavored to make more popular the study to which she had devoted her life.

In her manner, Miss Mitchell was unconventional. In fact, to many who did not understand her, she seemed brusque and even harsh. Through it all, however, her kindness of heart was unflinching.

Little did she care about fashion or dress. In fact, her early struggles had been so severe, that she rather looked with distaste upon display of any kind.

EMMA WILLARD'S CLAIM

With all her erudition and strength of character, she took delight in the girlish games of her pupils. Every year she gave a breakfast party, at which she and her fellow-teachers were bailed with glee by her, so long as they contained nothing malicious.

The claim of Emma Willard to fame rests principally upon the fact that she was the first to secure for women the benefits of higher education.

When she asserted, for instance, that women were as capable as men of understanding the problems of geometry, she aroused general incredulity. She persisted in sticking upon the lines of her belief, however, and so college and university education for women in this country had its beginning.

Mrs. Willard began life as Emma Hart in Connecticut in 1797. She proved an enthusiastic student, and soon learned pretty nearly all that could be taught to girls in the schools of those days.

Naturally, she took up teaching, and during her leisure hours studied all the branches of knowledge that she had missed as a pupil. This continued even after her marriage, in 1807, to Dr. John Willard, of Middlebury, Vt.

Very often seeming misfortune has determined a successful career. Mrs. Willard, perhaps, would never have

What Jefferson did for liberty of body and conscience; what Fulton and Morse accomplished for commercial advancement; what Story did in law, Audubon for natural history, Webster for imperishable oratory, Grant and Lee for military fame, these women, in their quieter, but no less potential, ways, accomplished for their sex and for the elevation of mankind in general.

Other women may be worthy a tablet in the Hall of Fame, but no one will dispute the righteousness of the verdict that placed there the names of Mitchell, Willard and Lyon.

started upon her world-famous educational course had it not been for financial reverses which her husband sustained.

As it was, she opened a boarding school for young women, and her advanced ideas as to the capabilities of her sex for higher education brought her into prominence.

Later she removed to Waterford and started a school, and still later to Troy, where her institution is still known as the Emma Willard School.

Mrs. Willard was the first to secure the passage through any State Legislature of a bill granting public assistance to any school for women, and incorporating such a school. This occurrence was while she resided at Waterford, but it was not until she arrived at Troy that the appropriation became available.

This success marked the beginning of colleges for women in America, and when one of the graduates of her school, in 1850, passed a public examination in geometry, the event was as sensational as was the advent of women into law and medicine many years later.

In fact, it is believed that, but for the success of Mrs. Willard, woman's entrance into these advanced fields would have been considerably delayed.

The work of unfolding sciences, literature, mathematics, philosophy, all appealed to Mrs. Willard, and she sought by every means in her power to impart her knowledge to the young people of her sex.

Step by step, she built up the possibilities and the ideals of feminine education, until the day came when women were acknowledged to be as receptive of the higher sciences as men.

Not only did she teach these possibilities in her own school, but she made many trips all over the country, preaching the doctrine of the higher education of women.

To her efforts is attributed the establishment of many schools for her sex that otherwise, perhaps, might have been delayed many years.

Mrs. Willard was always punctilious as to correct and exact dress. She was one of the staidest, as well as one of the most beautiful, women of her day, and was gifted with tact as well as taste.

A beautiful monument, surmounted by a life-sized statue of herself, has been erected in Troy, N. Y., at a cost of \$15,000.

While she was not as prominent in the educational world as Mrs. Willard, the work of Mary Lyon is regarded as entitling her to a place in the Hall of Fame.

Not only does the fact that she was the founder of the Mount Holyoke Seminary entitle her to such distinction in the minds of the present-day judges, but, during her career as an educator, more than three thousand young women passed under her care, and had their characters more or less moulded at her hands.

PUPILS BECAME FAMOUS

Many of her pupils later achieved fame. Among them were Mrs. Marianne Dancomb, who was the first head of the department for women at Oberlin College; Miss Hannah Lyman, the first president of Vassar College; Miss Ada L. Howard, first president of Wellesley, and many others.

It is stated that Wheaton Seminary, at Norton, Mass.; Lake Erie Seminary, at Painesville, Ohio; Mills Seminary and College, in California, and not a few others made out their plans and received their teachers at the hands of Mary Lyon. This constructive achievement, in itself, is regarded as entitling her to a high place in national annals.

Other women in the history of the nation have been conspicuous for achievement that is vouchsafed to few persons, and certainly, to few women. She was a teacher by instinct, and began her mission of training at the age of 17 years, receiving 15 cents a week "and board."

She was the first to introduce into those schools of Massachusetts the study of geography with maps. Afterward, in the higher field to which she was called, she was always an advocate of the most advanced ideas of education.

Mrs. Lyon was not beautiful, and she lacked grace of manner, taste in dress and feminine daintiness. She did possess an affectionate disposition, a keen sense of humor and a general spirit of hopefulness. She was generous to a fault.

It is said that as principal of Mount Holyoke she received a salary of only \$500 a year, and of this she gave more than one-fourth to foreign missions. All her life she was deeply interested in missionary work, and did a great deal to further its scope and usefulness.

Other women in the history of the nation have been more conspicuous, perhaps, but the work that Mary Lyon did is regarded by later-day judges as entitling her name to a lasting place in the American Hall of Fame.

HORSE TRAVELED RAPIDLY

THE conversation was about trusts and their ability to escape legal entanglements. "Yes," said Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, "it is a hard task to contend with the trusts, wickedness of a shrewd man."

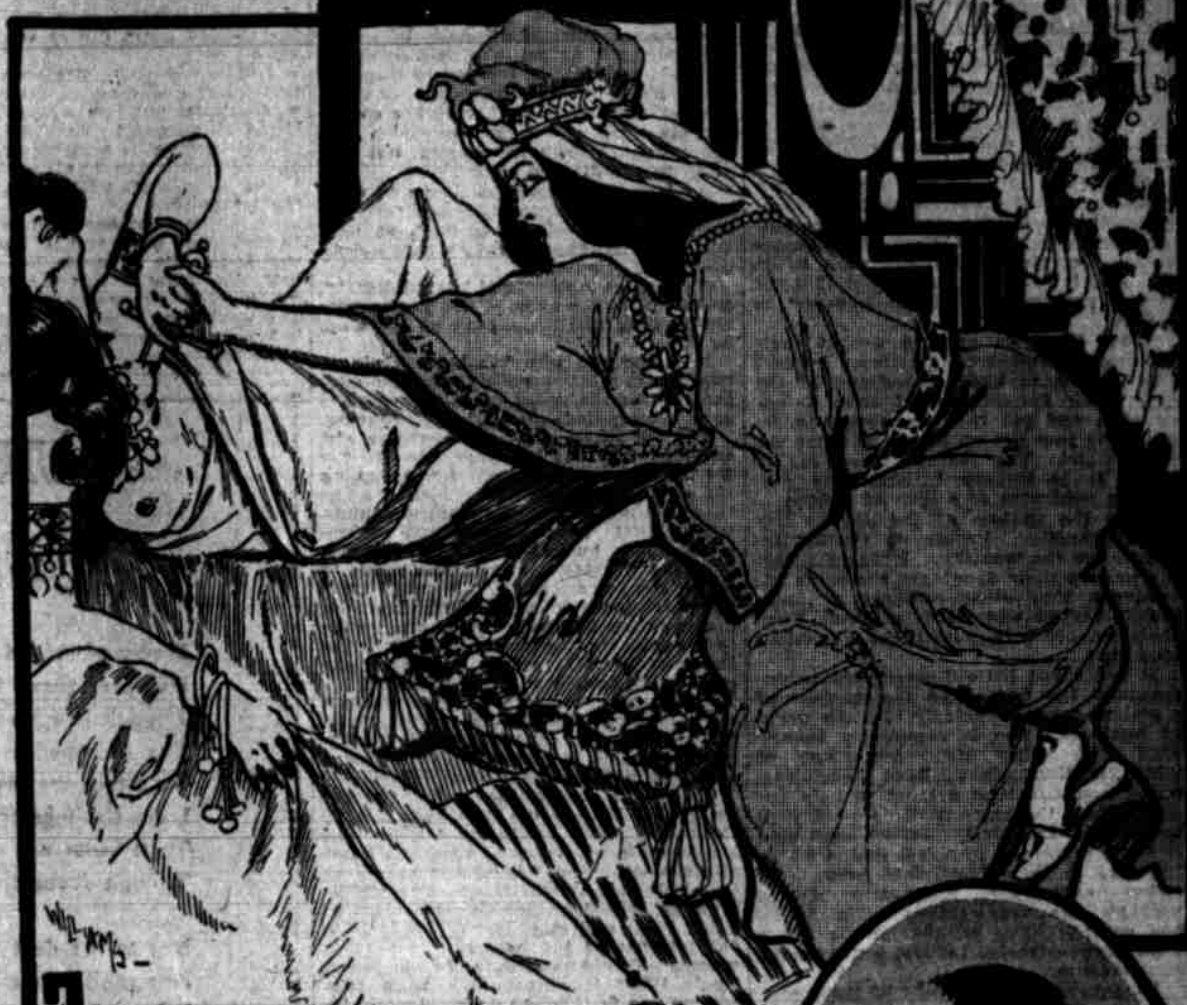
"I recall a horse dealer in Wisconsin who made a fortune dishonestly, yet stood honest and unmolested in the eyes of the law."

"For instance, on one occasion, in expatiating on the merits of a horse, he said to a prospective buyer 'Only two days ago he made a mile in two and a half minutes.'"

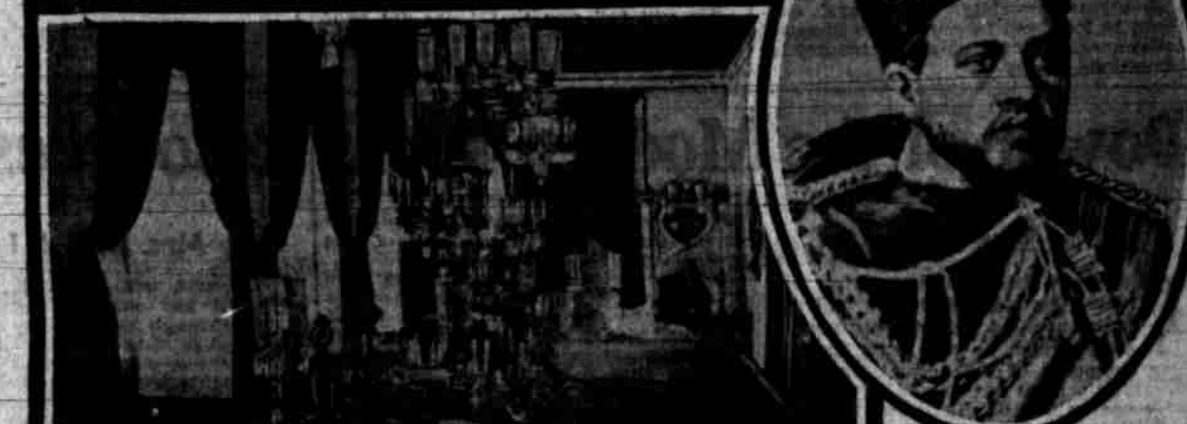
"The buyer became interested, asked a few more questions, and then placed \$200 in the horse dealer's hand."

"You say he made a mile in two and a half minutes," observed the purchaser, as he proudly examined his new possession.

"Yes," answered the dealer, as he placed the money in his pocket. "It occurred while the horse was in transportation from Milwaukee to Madison."



She Slays the Slaves who are too Pretty



Habibullah Khan, Ameer of Afghanistan

Queen's Room in Habibullah's Harem

ALTHOUGH a Queen, the chief royal consort of the Ameer of Afghanistan is as jealous as a chorus girl.

Because of this unhappy disposition, the women about her lead very unhappy lives.

Of ungovernable passions, wilful, domineering and capricious—an odd mixture of the termagant and shrew—she strives to maintain by violence the place in the royal household which she fears may not be held securely by her personal charms.

A handsome slave brought to the Ameer's court is apt to be horribly disfigured by this woman, lest her beauty attract the eye of the ruler. With her own hands she has killed no fewer than three upon whom her husband had looked with approval.

Beware * * * of Jealousy: It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock The meat it feeds on.—Othello.

Jealousy as cruel as the grave.—Song of Solomon.

WHEN young Habibullah Khan ascended the throne of Afghanistan four years ago, he was the happy—or, perhaps, unhappy—possessor of seven wives.

Three of these he promptly divorced upon becoming Ameer, because the priests told him that the spirit of the Koran forbade more than four spouses. It is said that he has since regretted not making the divorce proceedings wholesale.

Never an admirer of her Afghan husband, however, nor of his country or people, her proud spirit could not brook many of the customs of the capital, and she freely expressed her mind upon the subject. It was one of these frank expressions of opinion that brought about her downfall.

Consequently, this wife retired to the inconspicuous position of an unfavored spouse, joining two others, who had, some time before, traveled the road to harem obscurity.

This, of course, left the highway to such power as the Queen of Afghanistan wield open to the fourth wife, mother of the Ameer's youngest son, Kabir Jan, now a boy of 12 years.

Not long was she in taking advantage of her opportunity. Very forcibly she sought to impress upon the minds of the courtiers that she, and she alone, was the favored Queen of the monarch.

Even in Afghanistan women play a part in the affairs of state, and mix in domestic politics, often with more zeal than judgment.

One of the most energetic women politicians of the country is now quietly, but firmly, detained in prison because of her pernicious activity in public affairs. This is the Queen Dowager, Bibi Halima, widow of the previous Ameer; a woman of engaging personality, who at one time held at court a position somewhat resembling those filled by the Empress Dowager of China and the Lady On, Queen to the Emperor of Korea.

The present chief Queen does not appear to exercise very great influence over the Ameer, but she is able to maintain considerable authority at court by reason of her position and because of the money at her command.

Each of the four Queens draws an annual allowance, proportioned to her position. The allowance of the chief Queen is 100,000 rupees—nearly \$60,000—a considerable sum in that country. The other Queens are allowed 50,000, 40,000 and 30,000 rupees, respectively.

It is not because of the duties and perplexities of the high position that this Queen walks a troubled pathway, but because she is constantly in fear that some other

Viewed with terror by the three other wives of Habibullah Khan—they have all been forced into subordinate positions by her—this royal vixen is a constant storm centre of trouble.

She frightfully punishes her handmaidens when they displease her, and is especially cruel to the good-looking slaves of the palace. Domestic politics of Afghanistan is never without the disturbing effects of her interference.

Overpowering jealousy goads her day and night. No expression of vindictive hatred is too cruel for her mind. She is generally regarded as the most consumingly jealous Queen in the world.

and more attractive woman will supplant her. Formerly a Tokhi slave, she realizes that the fate or fortune that elevated her may at any moment reverse it, and hurt her from power.

In every way she endeavors to retain the good-will of her royal lord. She sings and dances before him, but appears to bore as often as she entertains him.

Lacking the subtle craft of the Dowager Bibi Halima, and the gentle dignity of the accomplished woman whom she supplanted, she endeavours to maintain her place by cruelty, a show of force, and constant resorts to bribery of those about her.

While the wives of the Ameer are limited to four, the extent of his harem is unrestricted, and this fact keeps the jealous ire of the chief Queen at white heat.

Constantly recruited from the ranks of beautiful slaves is the Ameer's harem. Pretty girls are brought from all parts of the nation and from other Oriental countries, to sing, dance, play upon musical instruments and amuse the pleasure-loving monarch to whom they belong.

Most unhappy is the life of a good-looking slave assigned to the royal household. If she should appear to attract the attention of the monarch, a disastrous fate awaits her.

No fewer than three have been killed by the chief Queen with her own hands. Many others have been horribly disfigured by her, with all manner of physical torture, so that their charms would no longer appeal to the royal master.

In fact, there is scarcely any sort of feminist cruelty to which this woman will not resort to dispose of actual or possible rivals when she is aroused by a frenzy of jealousy, which is frequently.

Such things are possible in the household of the Ameer because of the weak personality of that ruler. Unlike his father, who died four years ago, the present Ameer does not possess the confidence of his people or sufficient strength of character to dominate the situation.

Weak willed, swayed by the prejudices of the priesthood, and wholly under the influence of others, he cannot protect the unfortunate slaves who have been entrusted to grace his palace.

Kept busy by the affairs of state, and without the caution or personal inclination for work that distinguished his father, the Ameer probably pays little attention to the erratic and inhuman doings of his Queen.

When some particularly handsome slave girl pleases his royal fancy, he may, perhaps, wonder why she is quietly and mysteriously disappears. Or when he sees her again, she is probably minus nose or ears, or disfigured in some other way, so that he does not recognize her.

But there are other beautiful slaves in the harem, and in contemplating a new charmer he probably soon forgets the old, unbecoming, too, perhaps, of the fact that by the exercise of his royal favor he has condemned the poor girl to torture, death or ruthless banishment.

The fact that she was once a slave herself and by some means had become a Queen, suggests the idea that her own overthrow and the suspension of a rival may be but with any day and any caprice of her unstable sovereign and husband.



Mary Lyon, Founder of Mt. Holyoke Seminary



Maria Mitchell, Mother of the Stars



Mrs. Emma Willard, Pioneer Woman Educator

Thoughts whose very sweetness yielded proof That they were born for immortality.—Wordsworth.

WHAT is the Hall of Fame, and why should the selection of a name for position upon its tablet walls be such an honor one might ask.

Half a dozen years ago, when plans for the extension of the New York University were being prepared, coinciding with a general extension of the movement for higher education, Miss Helen Gould, one of the leading women of this generation, made an unusual and unexpected offer.

She proposed to erect for the university a splendid building, which should stand for all time as an incentive to the ambition of youth; the contents of which should present to them the best examples of all that was noblest, most helpful and encouraging in American history.

It was, in fact, to hold for America the lessons inculcated by the Forty Immortals of the French Academy.

Within this Hall of Fame it was proposed to place brass tablets commemorating the names and deeds of those who, in American history, had done more for their fellow-man and for their country—the names of those who, according to the verdict of the most capable modern jury that could be assembled, were deemed the leaders in philosophy, philanthropy, law, statesmanship, literature, art, education, invention and public service.

In other words, the names of persons who, by virtue of their achievements, deserve to be remembered for all time, and to be etched for all time as models for the ambitious and progressive youth of this country.

One hundred of the leading men of the day were chosen to select names for the Hall of Fame. These included university or college presidents and other educators, professors of history and scientists, publicists, editors, authors and leading priests.

Among them were President Roosevelt, ex-President Cleveland, Chief Justice Fuller, of the Supreme Court of the United States; presidents of all the leading universities and colleges and many scientists and historical authorities.

From time to time, these men have hallowed upon names to be immortally fixed in the Hall of Fame. Only persons who were natives of the United States, and have been dead at least ten years, could be considered, so that recent animosities and rivalries could not influence the decision.