

Great Mothers of the World

MARY HARRIS
Loving Mother of Joel Chandler Harris and Mrs. Georgia Harrison Starke, the Mother of His Mind.

By MARY GREER CONKLIN
In her girlhood Mary Harris was called "Lady Sensible," her sister "Lady Beautiful"; and indeed however sad peculiarly was Mary Harris's selection of the father of her son (like the mother of Francis Wilson the humorist and playwright) she won her laurels as "Lady Sensible" so far as sense in producing genius goes, when she persisted in marrying the love of her youth to whom her family so bitterly objected that shortly the young husband disappeared as if the earth had opened and swallowed him. Julia Collier Harris, in her fascinating biography of her famous father-in-law, says that "Miss Mary" was just one of those hundreds of good women who marry men unworthy of them. How fortunate for the world are situations like this when the overpowering love of a self-sacrificing woman, separating her from her family to accompany the man of her choice, gives to posterity geniuses like Joel Chandler Harris and Francis Wilson. "Uncle Remus's" father was an Irishman from whom the boy inherited his bright blue eyes and his sense of humor, while from his mother he got an analytical mind. In argument her logic was a match for anybody's, and her strength of character equalled her intellect. When she awakened to her mistake in casting her lot with a man lacking in courage and loyalty, she put aside all day-dreams, took up her burden and staked all on her boy. She rejected his father's name and gave her family name to Joel. During her widowhood she had several good offers of marriage, but she declined them and devoted her life to her son. She never had cause to regret her devotion, for in after life Joel Chandler Harris' tender care of his mother was the most beautiful of his many beautiful traits. To another splendid woman, as good and as brilliant as his own mother, goes part of the credit of developing the mind of this gifted Georgian. Before the lad sufficiently made good in the wonderful city of Atlanta to bring his mother from Eatonton to live with him, there came into his life, because she was a member of the talented Harrison family, his first employers, Mrs. Georgia Harrison Starke, who gradually gained the confidence of the sensitive and reticent boy. She thought highly of her young friend's ability as a poet and begged him not to neglect his lyrical gifts in the grind of newspaper work. She fostered his ambition to attain simple rhythmic prose; nor did she hesitate to criticize him severely if occasion warranted. When he once wrote to her in the slangy style often affected by immature minds, she expressed her strong disapproval of such a lapse. She also gave the embryo "Uncle Remus" the sympathy his nature craved; and we find him writing to her: "My history is a peculiarly sad and unfortunate one—and those years (with you) are a precious memorial of what would otherwise be as bleak and as desolate as winter. There is pathos enough in the recollection of these things to form an immortal poem if one could only fashion it aright." The time came when he did fashion aright, in lines replete with pathos, his profound thoughts of that early period: "I stood entranced, my soul was bound; Melodious thralls enwrap me round. I lived again the wild, uncouth, Dear, devious ways of my lost

youth; But floods of song swept in and drowned The old-time singers, sorrow-crowned. I saw once more the friends of old, And heard their voices manifold; And waste, wan years slipped slowly by, With many a change of sea and sky. With many a change of form and hue— And left me happy there with you. From the shadow overhanging his own lonely childhood was

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born Joel Chandler Harris' passionate desire to make children happy. The Br'er Rabbit stories were God's answer to that yearning prayer within his heart; and though he is best known as "Uncle Remus," he will to many live immortal in the cadences of his compassionate and lifting verse. (Copyright, 1925, by Mary Greer Conklin, (Syndicate) Great Britain rights reserved. Reproduction forbidden.)

CONGESTION OF LONDON STREET IS REMEDIED

LONDON, Oct. 20. — (LP) — The world's first great freight subway is going to be built here at a cost of \$160,000,000 to solve London's baffling traffic problem. Far beneath London's amazing tangle of mediaeval streets — lower even than the existing passenger subways — trainloads of freight will speed along safe from paralyzing London fogs and interminable delays of street traffic. London today is losing millions of dollars a week through traffic jams. Thousands of huge horse-drawn trucks slow down the progress of rapidly growing motorized traffic. London of tomorrow, when the freight subway is finished, will be virtually horseless for the first time in its history. Banking circles here mention the Dillon Read Company as one of the several big financial houses which are interested. The project designed by Carcott-James, a prominent British engineer, provides for a network

ARMY CHARGE NOT TO BE PROSECUTED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 22 — (U. P.) — A charge of misconduct against Major General W. H. Hart, quartermaster general of the United States army, by his predecessor, Major General H. K. Rodgers, retired, will not result in a court martial trial, a high war department official said today. Major General H. K. Melnich, inspector general of the army, will recommend a dismissal of the charges, it was said.

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Visited Over Week End—Chester Woods spent the week end with his parents from Corvallis.

Purchased Home—Mr. and Mrs. Noel Heard have purchased the Chamberlain residence at 371 Mountain avenue.

SUIT TO QUIET TITLE. SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR JACKSON COUNTY.
D. B. Gold and Ilma E. Gold, Ella B. Holman, and Butler & Thompson Co., a corporation, Plaintiffs, vs. J. L. Wheeler, Jr., and any and all persons having or claiming to have any interest in the Real Property hereinafter described, Defendants.

To J. L. Wheeler, Jr., and any and all persons having or claiming to have any interest in the real property referred to in said suit:

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: By order of the Hon. C. M. Thomas, Judge of said court, made and dated September 21, 1925, ordering service of this summons by publication, you are hereby summoned and required to appear and answer said complaint within six weeks from the date of the first publication hereof, which is September 25, 1925, and if you fail to appear in said cause within said time, the plaintiffs will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint, to wit:

That the title to the 5.57 acres of land in the City of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, formerly owned by defendant, J. L. Wheeler, Jr., as described in Volume 99 at page 554 of the Deed Records of Jackson County, Oregon, be quieted in the name of the plaintiffs as their interest appears in said complaint, and that the defendants be barred from any claim of title thereto.

BRIGGS & BRIGGS,
Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
Post Office Address:
Ashland, Oregon.
21-5 Fri.

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