

The Clubwoman

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EDITORIAL

It is with a heavy heart and a keen sense of personal loss that the editor of The Clubwoman approaches the sorrowful task of writing into the official records of the California Federation of Women's Clubs that black-bordered page athwart which falls the darkest shadow in its fair history of women's unselfish achievement.

The death of Mrs. Emily Hoppin, newly-elected president of the State Federation, is a tragedy not only in the lives of the many to whom her personal friendship was a treasured possession nor to the many more whose membership in the great organization of which she was the head made them her loyal collaborators and subordinates. Her passing is one that will be felt wherever the hand of woman has been laid and wherever the ideals of women have crystallized into a better order of things. It was in an exceptional way that, through her own undivided efforts, she had brought herself to represent those things which lie closest to the hearts of the public-spirited and self-sacrificing of her sex.

Mrs. Hoppin died in the harness. For her there was no hiatus between the busy formulation of plans for the carrying forward of the trust placed in her capable hands and the falling of the Great Shadow. When she was too weak to hold her pen she dictated to her daughter, from what was to be her deathbed, messages of cheerful encouragement to those whom she had chosen to aid her in her work. One of her last letters, addressed to the writer, expressed her unaffected pleasure in the decision of the committee on the official organ to continue The Club-

woman as the mouthpiece of the Federation. In that message there is no word of her own ill-health, no hint of a brave and active mind fighting to the last against the gathering darkness. The note of hope is dominant and ambitious plans for the welfare of Federation work the single consideration.

From more able pens than ours we have sought expressions for this issue of The Clubwoman of the sterling worth of Mrs. Hoppin in the two phases in which her personality stands out in strongest relief. Only those whose privilege it has been to work shoulder to shoulder with her through the years in which the Federation has been built up can speak adequately of her share in that upbuilding in the successive offices entrusted to her—that of state chairman of Forestry, treasurer, vice-president and finally the highest position in the gift of the women whom she served untiringly and well.

It would be a doubtful tribute to Mrs. Hoppin to say that, great as is its loss, the Federation staggers under it. The foundations which she helped to lay are too broad and firm for that. Like the general whose troops swept on to victory even though death cut him down in mid-charge, the work of the Federation will go on without pause nor faltering. That is as Mrs. Hoppin would have had it and her best epitaph is that she made it possible. Her place will be hard to fill—yet we may congratulate ourselves upon the breadth and strength of the shoulders upon which will fall the mantle of the leader.

E. M. SMITH.



MRS. EMILY HOPPIN

Late State President of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, whose sudden death shortly after her accession to office has cast a shadow across the great organization

MRS. EMILY HOPPIN; BIOGRAPHICAL

A trustworthy index of a life's worth is the vacancy left by its removal. By that criterion as by all others Mrs. Hoppin's influence was shown by her death to have been even more far-reaching and versatile than her own friends knew.

For many years she had been keenly interested in temperance work and the good which women may do in promoting it. For, whatever the end to be accomplished, it was always Mrs. Hoppin's effort and desire to enlist the activities of her own sex therein, that both the purpose and the means might thereby be uplifted.

As a true daughter of nature, her natural preference lay in the broad open of the sunny countryside. Mrs. Hoppin was not a city woman. As manager of one of the largest ranches in Yolo county—her own property—she bore the reputation of being a better agriculturist than most men. To her neighbors she supplied an example of industry and kindness that made her loss heaviest in her own immediate community.

Mrs. Hoppin was born in Niles, Mich., in 1854, a member of one of the most influential families of that state. Her father, Hon. Nathaniel Bacon, was a student and jurist of high repute and it is to his paternal influence that much of Mrs. Hoppin's subsequent success may be traced.

Mrs. Hoppin was married in 1874 to Charles R. Hoppin, at Niles. Mr. Hoppin was a forty-niner and from the exciting days of the gold rush had retained large California land holdings. A few years after the marriage the young couple came to this state and settled on the Yolo county ranch which was Mrs. Hoppin's place of residence until her death.

Six children were born to the union, four of whom still live. They are Charles R. Hoppin, Jr. of Yolo, Harriet

(Mrs. August J. Kergel), Edith (Mrs. Luther C. Young) and Dorothea.

In addition to her temperance work—she had held many offices in the county and state W. C. T. U.—and her notable work in the California Federation of Women's Clubs, of which at the time of her death she was president, Mrs. Hoppin was a member of many different organizations having for their purpose the uplift and betterment of women—particularly country women—and of agricultural conditions. In all of these she had held office and was regarded as a most valuable member. Frequently called upon for public speaking, Mrs. Hoppin had acquired a deserved reputation for clear thought and able presentation.

During the week preceding her death she had taken a prominent part in the program of the State Fruit Growers Association, at Palo Alto, and had presided at her first meeting of the Executive Board, C. F. W. C., in San Francisco. It was as she was preparing to start home that she was taken suddenly ill from an affection from which she had suffered more or less for a year past. She was taken to her Woodland home and appeared to be on the way to recovery. Tuesday, however, she began to sink rapidly and was rushed to the Woodland Sanitarium for treatment. She died at 11:30 o'clock that night, with her beloved family at her bedside. Her last words were: "Is this death? Then—it is all right." It had been her desire to dictate a final message to the club women of California, but her nurse would not allow it.

Among women Mrs. Hoppin was looked upon as a bright example of the best which her sex has attained; among men she was universally respected for her womanly traits, her sincerity, ability and unswerving integrity. She was a citizen and a teacher—But first of all she was a woman.



MRS. E. D. KNIGHT

Who was made State Vice-President, C.F.W.C., at the same time that Mrs. Hoppin became President. Mrs. Hoppin's death makes Mrs. Knight head of the federation

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

San Francisco, Aug. 6, 1915.

To the Federated Clubwomen of California.

My Dear Co-workers: In preparing this brief and hasty message, these words of her for whom we mourn today keep ringing in my ears: "Let us lose no opportunity this year. We must forge ahead. Let us be charitable, kind, and considerate even when we jest."

Our little world has been shaken by a great tragedy. A leader, wondrous wise and exceeding kind, has been called from our midst, and we are left wondering and groping. Federation has suffered a great loss, but we must not be discouraged nor disheartened. We must go on with our good work even as she would have us do.

A letter from Miss Dorothy Hoppin, just received, says: "Mother was perfectly conscious to the end and did not suffer. The day before she passed away she expressed a desire to send a message to The Clubwoman, but her nurse would not allow her to do so."

At an Executive Board meeting held on Saturday, July 31, at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, Mrs. Hoppin presided in her inimitable way, and the other members of the Board marveled at the completeness of her preparation for the year's work. Her policies were fully and finely outlined, her plans carefully and definitely laid. Her vision was clear and broad, her spirit sweet and generous, her experience long and far-reaching, her energy untiring, her mentality unusually strong, her ideals of the highest. What better monument can we erect to her memory than to emulate her virtues and to "forge ahead" with her outlined plans as our guiding star?

In the brief time that has elapsed since her death, numerous messages of condolence have been received from club women throughout the state. Many will attend the funeral services

at her home in Yolo on Saturday morning, the 7th instant, at nine o'clock.

The Executive Board will meet in a short time and will undoubtedly endorse Mrs. Hoppin's policy and reorganize for the work of the coming year.

In this, our hour of sorrow, dear fellow club women, let us renew our pledges of loyalty and good fellowship. Let us unite our strength and continue to strive for the better life, remembering to be "charitable, kind and considerate even when we jest."

With love and sympathy,
(Mrs. E. D.) HELEN M. KNIGHT.

Mrs. D. C. McCan, president of the Los Angeles Civil Service Commission, made a plea for women to stand back of women commissioners, saying that the two things the politicians are afraid of are woman's suffrage and civil service.

A WORTHY CHOICE

Mrs. J. L. Harbaugh, who has served the State Federation most faithfully and efficiently as chairman of the Department of Legislation and who is widely known as the president of the Women's Legislative Council, has been made a member of the Legislation Department of the General Federation. We feel sure Mrs. Harbaugh is a splendid choice and congratulate the General Federation on securing her services.

TO GENERAL FEDERATION

Mrs. Charles Farwell Edson, one of the best known of our California women and past chairman of Social and Industrial Conditions, has been made chairman of Social and Industrial Conditions for the General Federation. In this capacity Mrs. Edson will be able to carry out many plans which will be national in scope and which she could not handle in the State Federation. No woman has served the state more faithful than Mrs. Edson.