

**IN MEMORIAM,  
MINNIE MURDOCK  
KENDRICK, 1849-1903**

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In memoriam, Minnie Murdock Kendrick, 1849-1903 by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

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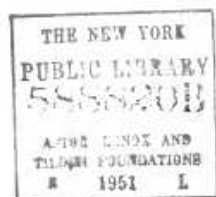
In Memoriam

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Minnie Murdoch Kendrick

1849-1903

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1903



*"Even for the dead I will not bind  
My soul to grief; death cannot long divide;  
For is it not as if the rose that climbed  
My garden wall, had bloomed the other side?"*

As a Loving Tribute to  
the Memory of

**Minnie Murdoch Kendrick**

This volume has been prepared by her husband and sons. To this accumulated testimony from her many friends in the world at large, may be added a word from the home which was the highest expression of her strength and charm. There the memory of her loving sway is still a forceful influence, an inspiration and an unspeakable comfort. Her broad helpfulness in the outside world was but an extension of the overflowing kindness prompted by her deep, spiritual nature, which made her wifehood and motherhood an ideal to which no mere memorial can ever do justice.



## Minnie Murdoch Kendrick

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**M**INNIE MURDOCH KENDRICK was born in Philadelphia, September fifth, 1849. A word of her parents is of interest in giving an insight into the varied elements which made a character conspicuous for its simplicity, its loyalty and its love of truth. Her father, Samuel Kiel Murdoch, brother of James E. Murdoch, the famous actor and Shakespearean reader, was endowed with a keen love of books, marked elocutionary ability and dreamy artistic tendencies; while her mother, Mary Hanna, aunt of Judge Hanna, President-Judge of the Orphans' Court, was practical to a degree, energetic, resourceful, with a keen sense of humor and an infinite capacity for achievement. The combination of these diametrically-opposed natures formed in the daughter one of rare mentality and reasoning power, together with an enthusiasm to overcome all obstacles in the path of fulfilment of a purpose.

She attended school at the old Southwark Library, and later at the Mount Vernon Grammar School, Third and Catharine Streets, where many anecdotes are still told of the little, winsome child—her charm of voice and

## Minnie Murdoch Kendrick

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manner, her spontaneity and her then marked ability. After waiting two years for the prescribed age, which was fourteen, she was sent to the High School under Mrs. Mary A. McManus. By a strange coincidence her sister, Gertrude Murdoch, succeeded Mrs. McManus as Principal of this school, having previously been teacher of elocution in the Girls' High School.

Minnie Murdoch passed number one in June, 1863, and retained that rank all through the High School, until her graduation under Professor Fetter. Her record during her student years in the High and Normal Schools was a brilliant one, ending in her graduation with first honors in June, 1866. In a yellowed newspaper clipping of that time we find this quaint notice of the part she took in the day's proceedings: "After the recitation by Miss Minnie Murdoch, Mr. Edward Shippen, President of the Board of Control, presented her, as the number-one pupil of the class, with a very elegant basket of natural flowers, and Dr. Nebinger, of the Committee of the School, was called upon to make the presentation address. This pleasant task he discharged in a very handsome manner. Miss Murdoch's school distinction merits more than passing remark. All through her school career she has been distinguished for scholarship and conduct,

## Minnie Murdoch Kendrick

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and at every examination save one, from the secondary grades to the Normal School, she passed with the best average."

Her marriage on her seventeenth birthday to Mr. George W. Kendrick, Jr., followed in September of the same year; and from that time, with increasing leisure to pursue varied interests, her life was identified with all those forces which make for tangible achievement in municipal, civic and educational work.

Mrs. Kendrick's love for children was all-embracing, and she entered with ready zeal into the interests, pleasures, desires, and needs of her two sons, George and Murdoch, and their boy companions. Several years after the death of Professor Agassiz she formed the Agassiz Club, for nature study. Her loving intuition was their *open sesame* into the outdoor world of charm and witchery; and the keen interest, enthusiasm and buoyancy with which these fortunate lads entered into the spirit of work and play, and carried on the club for years under her leadership and guidance, was an earnest of her universal motherhood. Splendid results have since been achieved by many members of this club.

Mrs. Kendrick was largely instrumental in organizing the Alumnae Association of the Girls' High and