

**ELISE WILLING
BALCH: IN
MEMORIAM**

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Elise Willing Balch: In Memoriam by Edwin Swift Balch

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Emelise Willing Balch

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BY
EDWIN SWIFT BALCH



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Edwin Swift Balesh 3-31-179



ELISE WILLING BALCH IN MEMORIAM

I.

GIRLHOOD.

Elise Willing Balch, daughter of Thomas Balch and Emily Swift Balch his wife, was born on 30 July, 1853, at "Woodfield," the country place of her grandfather Joseph Swift, on the Old York Road, Philadelphia. Like many people of old American stock, she was descended from several European nationalities, among them English, Scotch, and Swedes; and also from some French Huguenots. She numbered among her colonial ancestors many distinguished men who helped to build up and develop the colonies of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York. And in England her lineage ran back, through Sir Thomas Forster, Judge of the Common Pleas in 1607, the Forsters of Northumberland and the de Umfravilles, to Saire de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, one of the sureties of Magna Charta, 15th June, 1215.

In May, 1859, she went to Europe with her parents on the Cunard R. M. S. Persia and remained there until October, 1873. The winters, until the Franco-German war, were spent, with one exception, mostly in Paris, where she resided