ANNIE ELIZABETH FISHER, JANUARY 18, 1851 - JUNE 25, 1921

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Annie Elizabeth Fisher, January 18, 1851 - June 25, 1921 by Various

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VARIOUS

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January 18, 1851 June 25, 1921

MEMORIAL SERVICE MISS ANNIE E. FISHER

VILLAGE HALL
ANNISQUAM, MASSACHUSETTS

August 21, 1921

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Mr. C. F. Bradley, presiding, said:

We have come together for a brief service in memory of a dear friend. It is very meet that we gather here, and that the service should be simple and informal. It cannot be adequate, but its spirit of chastened grief and abounding gratitude and affection may be as perfect as mortal things can be. And all who take part in it are personal friends of Miss Fisher, and most of them are her fellow-workers for many years.

As an invocation Mr. Lewis will read an ancient prayer that was used daily by Miss Fisher. The closing prayer which Mr. Boivin will read, was also in constant use by Miss Fisher.

INVOCATION. Rev. George H. Lewis. (From Book of Common Order used in daily service of the church in Edinburgh.)

Thou who art the Father of our spirits, help Thou us to feel Thy presence here where we are gathered in solemn remembrance of the life of her, Thy child, who was so near to Thee in spirit and who daily raised her voice and spirit to Thee with the words of that ancient prayer: To Thee we commend ourselves, body, soul, and spirit. Thine is the day, O Lord, Thine is the night. Grant that the Sun of Righteousness may abide in our hearts to drive away the darkness of wicked thoughts; and as Thou coverest the earth with darkness, cover us over with Thine infinite mercy. Amen.

MISS FISHER'S EARLY LIFE

MRS. ELLEN F. ADAMS

NNIE E. FISHER was born in Charlestown, Mass. When she was two years old, her father died, and the mother, with her five little children, moved to Yarmouth on Cape Cod, which had previously been her home and where her parents were still living.

A beautiful old house, built on ancestral acres, became the home of the family. This house was later the property of Miss Fisher, and she cared for it tenderly through her life. The roots of the family were very deep, for here an ancestor, Andrew Hallett, came in 1638 from Plymouth, with his sons and others of the town, acquired a large tract of land, and a portion of this land has never been out of the hands of the family. The Fisher house was built by Miss Fisher's grandfather, Andrew Hallett, a stone's throw from the site of the first house put up in Yarmouth.

The Cape Cod towns were in those days of much more importance than at present. Many of the famous old Atlantic sea-captains came from Cape Cod, and in their later years they built stately homes and lived lives of dignified ease. There was enterprise and culture, a refined and interesting society, by no means cut off from the larger problems of State and Nation. The schools were good, newspapers flourished; lectures given by men of world-wide reputation, through the

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agency of the old "Institutes," were a part of the life of the people. Every profession was well represented. It would be a labor of love to go more deeply into the village life as I remember it, but I pass on, my only purpose being to show something of the influences which surrounded Miss Fisher in her early life.

In this environment, and surrounded by a large family connection, Miss Fisher grew to womanhood. She was bright and gav, venturesome, energetic, full of fun and wit, loved and appreciated by her friends. When she was eighteen, she attended the Normal School at Bridgewater, and after two years of very successful study, she began teaching in one of the Grammar Schools of Boston. She was an excellent teacher, and she loved the children under her care; but she was always ambitious, and the medical profession had always been of interest to her. After two years of teaching, the way opened for her to study medicine, and she entered the Medical School of Boston University.

Miss Fisher graduated from the Medical School second in rank in her class. Almost immediately she went abroad to study in the hospitals in France, those hospitals having been recently opened to the study of women students.

Miss Fisher and a lady from England, one of the Garret Anderson family, were the two earliest women to avail themselves of this privilege. There was an intense prejudice against the admission of women, both among the doctors and students. Miss Fisher encountered very many hard and humiliating experiences in her work there, but also much of value was gained, and she always felt it worth while.

Returning home, she settled in Boston and opened an office with a friend, Dr. Laura Porter. Work came to her immediately, and she labored day and night at her profession. Her practice was largely among women and children, and she gave everything there was in her to bring health and comfort to her patients. In the case of a very sick patient, it was her custom to make a call in the small hours of the night, feeling that the vital powers were at their lowest at that time, and she wished to guard against a possible collapse. You who knew Miss Fisher will understand how entire was her giving, how little she took into account any limits to her own strength.

After some years of this, the strain became too great and her health permanently broke down. She had a struggle in giving up her work, and she made every effort to regain her strength; but it was apparent that while she might live useful years in a less strenuous form of work, she could never again bear the strain of the practice of medicine.

Miss Fisher became a member of the Church of the Disciples, under Rev. James Freeman Clarke, early in her Boston life, and here, among other and dear friends, she met Miss Annette Rogers and her father, Mr. Henry B. Rogers. The friendship between Miss Rogers and Miss Fisher became very close and intimate, and finally, after the death of Mr. Rogers, Miss Rogers and Miss Fisher formed one family and they lived together in the beautiful old house at 5 Joy Street. You who have known Miss Rogers and Miss Fisher know how close was the relation, how deep the devotion between the two.

My purpose has been only to supply a few facts about Miss Fisher's life which might be unknown to some of her friends here. It is for others to speak of later years.