

Memorial

..of..

Mary Jordan Taylor.



Born 1808; Died 1875.





In Memoriam.

FROM CHILDREN'S HOME RECORD, JUNE, 1875.

WE are called upon to announce an event which is cause for both sorrow and rejoicing. Sorrow that one, whom this community could ill afford to lose, has been called away ; and rejoicing that she was fully ready for a triumphant entry into the kingdom of everlasting peace.

We refer to the death of Mary J. Taylor. Elsewhere in this paper will be found a fuller account of her life, labors, and glorious departure ; but such lives as hers do not admit of being fully described. It would be impossible to explain the secret of her quiet influence in any better manner than to say, that she seemed to love every one, and certainly to know her was to love her. She was a beautiful, though to herself, an unconscious example of a sanctified Christian woman.

Since the death of her daughter, the late Hannah D. Shipley, she has filled the position of President of our Ladies' Board of Managers ; and nothing but her recent physical inability to continue her active participation in this work, has ever caused her to withdraw from any service which it was in her power to perform for the outcast, the neglected and suffering. She was not a narrow philanthropist, devoting her thoughts to some one class of unfortunates, or lending her influence and assistance to

but one benevolent enterprise. Wherever christian effort was demanded she felt that she could never do enough ; and THE CHILDREN'S HOME, *The Home for the Friendless*, *The Women's Christian Association*, and other similar objects, received her hearty sympathy and earnest co-operation. Her efforts for the redemption of the outcasts of society, were characterized by a rare faith, and a love that would not let her stop at any inconvenience or self-sacrifice that might enable her to win them back to purity and respectability. Thus she often received them into her house, and sheltered them with unflinching kindness ; endeavoring by every proof of her practical interest in their welfare to awaken in them a holy ambition to live an industrious, pure and true life. It is not alone among the circle of her dear friends that she will be missed ; but many a home among the poor will seem more cheerless, now that the blessing of her visits can never more be known in them.

We are sure that the readers of THE RECORD will peruse with deep interest the brief sketch of her which accompanies this imperfect notice, and we trust that many may be stimulated to seek at the same divine source, for the grace which shall beautify their lives and fill them with nobler usefulness.

Mary J. Taylor.

IT is fitting that the death of such a Christian woman as Mary Jordan Taylor, should be attended by more than a mere obituary notice.

She was born near Lynchburg, Va., Oct. 10th, 1808—daughter of John and Hannah Davis, who, both by precept and example, evinced an earnest desire to train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. With them she came to Cincinnati in the year 1814, and has, since then, continued to reside here, and been actively interested in the growth and welfare of the city.

In 1830 she was married to Caleb W. Taylor, by whose death, in 1843, she was left with the entire charge of four small children, for whose present and future welfare she felt great responsibility. The sad calamity which deprived her of her husband, made a very deep impression upon her mind. It will be remembered by many, how he was instantly killed, with a number of others, by the explosion of a pork house. Although she was naturally of a cheerful disposition, and continued to maintain it, the loss of her husband produced too deep a wound not to leave its traces even to the end of her life. In this sore bereavement she found the Lord to be her strength. Retirement and prayer were to her constant and continued sources of comfort, and, at times, when special persons or interests were rest-

ing on her heart, she would rise during the night to present her cause unto Him, who alone has power to bless.

As her children grew older and required less of her personal attention, she began to devote much of her time to the poor and the outcasts. She was one of the first women in Cincinnati who made a practice of visiting the old city prison and hospital. Her heart was soon so enlisted in the work at these places that she continued to be earnestly engaged in various missionary labors during the remainder of her life, a period of more than twenty-five years. The little children of the female convicts in the city prison, who were formerly sent to that wretched place in company with their mothers, attracted her attention and awakened her sympathy. She applied to the Mayor (Harris) of the city to know whether something could not be done for them; to which he replied that they were not offenders and could not be committed to any of the institutions then existing. From her anxiety to rescue these children from the danger to which they were so exposed, and a desire to care for the children of poor laboring women who could not leave their little ones for day labor, arose THE CHILDREN'S HOME, so great in its work, and constantly increasing, and which has secured to so great an extent the confidence and co-operation of our citizens. In this work she was greatly aided by her daughter, the late Hannah D. Shipley, who with her husband, Murray Shipley, took up this cause with all the intelligent Christian zeal for which he is so well known.

She was one of the originators of the *Home for the Friendless*, and rejoiced that it had been the means of rescuing many from sin and leading them back to honest and respectable lives. During a season of great discouragement, during the war, particularly when the city was threatened, some of the managers proposed to abandon the work, but she most earnestly insisted

upon its continuance, feeling that it would be disastrous to turn the inmates unprotected into the street. The success of the Home since that time, and their present enlarged and substantial building, have amply proved the wisdom of her advice.

When it was proposed to open the Women's Christian Association, she was called upon to become one of its managers, but declined on account of other engagements. Her experience and interest in such matters was urged as a reason why she should consent to act; and she decided to enter into it and co-operated actively for the first year or two, until the work was well established.

Her heart was alive to the interests of the poor, the neglected, the outcasts, and the unprotected. In her conversation with the erring she placed herself on a level with them, and invited and persuaded rather than lectured or threatened them, which was one great reason of her gaining the confidence of the objects of her care. She always assured them that the Saviour came to save *us* sinners, not *you*. She freely received all into her house, set apart a room where she might lodge them, and every wayward girl who came under her influence soon came to feel that Mrs. Taylor really loved and cared for her. Thus she gained their esteem and confidence, and in after years their regard for her has often proved a restraining influence.

Although these labors of love were so much a part of her daily life, she was quite unwilling that they should be spoken of as meriting for her any favor, and if her friends alluded to them she would request them to refrain, saying:

"I have only done a little by the wayside as the Lord let me see it."

"Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."

Her judgment and counsel were sought and appreciated, in the circle of her friends as well as in the more public relations and in the church—(she has through life been a member of the Society of Friends). She did not arrive at conclusions hastily, but after consideration was able to give an opinion, which she was content to leave without enlarging upon or urging.

During the past year failing health and great physical suffering obliged her to lay aside all her public duties ; but her hours of quiet were given to meditation and waiting upon the Lord. As month after month passed by, those who were about her could see how her Christian experience was widening and deepening, and how, leaving the things that are behind, she was pressing forward to the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. A wonderful stillness attended the last weeks of her life. She appeared without the fear of death to appreciate the solemnity of laying aside this life and entering upon the life which is eternal. She found much enjoyment in the social, religious visits of her friends, when they could speak of the goodness and mercy of the Lord and magnify his name together. As the time drew near when she was to put off this earthly tabernacle, she was particularly anxious to know just where she stood, saying she desired to be neither a hypocrite nor self deceived—but the Lord, in whom she had trusted, was her strength and portion forever.

As she entered the Valley of the Shadow of Death, she feared no evil, but as she advanced step by step, turned to tell those about her how the everlasting arms were underneath and sustaining her. She said :

“I know that there is no other way of entering the kingdom of heaven save by having our sins washed away in the blood of the Lamb, and I *know* that I *am* entering that way.” “I am going home to heaven, to a bright mansion.” “I know that

the Saviour has often walked with me, and that he will walk with me again. I do not see Him now"—then in a moment or two, raising her hands as if to grasp His, she added: "He is coming. I see Him. I am stepping into Jordan, leaning on the arm of my Beloved—I am out—walking the streets up to the Golden City—bright, bright, bright, beautiful." After a short time, with the expression, "let us be quiet," gently and sweetly she folded her hands and closed her eyes and fell asleep in Jesus. Blessed sleep! Thanks be to God for her victory, through Jesus Christ.

TO THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING OF INDIANA
YEARLY MEETING.

THE accompanying Memorial, of our late Elder Mary J. Taylor, prepared by Cincinnati Monthly Meeting was heartily endorsed by Miami Quarterly Meeting, and directed forwarded to the Representative Meeting, 5th Month, 12th, 1877.

DANIEL LAWRENCE, Clerk.

At the Representative Meeting of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Richmond, 9th month, 24th, 1878.

A memorial of Cincinnati Monthly Meeting of Friends concerning Mary J. Taylor deceased, forwarded to this by Miami Quarterly Meeting has been received and read. The memory of our dear Friend thus being recalled brought out many testimonies to her real Christian worth and example.

After full consideration of the subject, the meeting was united in directing the Clerk to return it to Miami Quarterly Meeting for their care and oversight.

Taken from the Minutes.

WM. H. COFFIN,
Clerk.

Memorial.

"Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth : Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours ; and their works do follow them."
REV. XIV, 13.



OUR beloved friend and Elder, Mary Jordan Taylor, was born in the year 1808, within the limits of Goose Creek Monthly Meeting, Virginia.

When quite young she accompanied her parents who emigrated to Ohio, and formed part of the little company that settled Cincinnati Monthly Meeting in the year 1814.

Many years ago her friends recognized in her the gifts and qualifications of an Elder, and in 1857 she was appointed to that responsible station, which she continued to fill satisfactorily until released by death.

The close of such a life as that of our beloved friend, is an event of more than ordinary interest to the church, and to the circle of friends who were

brought into intimate association with her. Possessing a strongly marked character, she was one of those persons whose influence remains after all that is moral has passed away : one about whose memory cluster thoughts of reverence and love.

In all the many efforts made for the amelioration of degraded humanity, in our city, she took the most lively interest. * * * Doing, whatsoever her hands found to do, with her might, the occasions frequently offered to give time and money, as well as advice and sympathy, in the service of those who had no other friends, and as we look back upon her life, we see it beautiful with the sweet flowers of unselfish benevolence.

IN the meridian of life it pleased her Heavenly Father to allow a crushing bereavement to befall her in the sudden death of her beloved husband : an event which caused her to realize, as she had never done before, the sustaining grace and tender compassion of Him, whom she felt indeed to be the husband of the widow, and the father of the orphan. Henceforth, devoting herself to her young family, and to the good of her fellow beings, she was favored to go on, from grace to grace, until the time came for her to lay aside her active duties, and to acquiesce in the dispensations of physical sufferings that were permitted to be the means of gradually loosening the trammels of earth.

During those days of suffering it was most instructive and touching to observe the deepening of her trust, and to behold the work of patience perfected in her complete submission to the will of the Master.

In all her afflictions, and in the discharge of every duty, she was wonderfully sustained by a realizing faith and dependance upon her Heavenly Father, on whose supporting arm she confidently leaned, while to Him in full trust she devoutly offered her earnest petitions ; and her constant delight was found in the diligent reading of the Holy Scriptures.

In the advancement of the cause of her Redeemer, and of His kingdom, and in the more thorough and realizing adoption of salvation through Christ, by the members of our Society, and by others not connected with us, she was deeply interested : and the extension of Christ's universal kingdom upon earth, appeared to be the highest object of her aspirations.

Truly hers was a catholic spirit, and hers a Christian life, crowned by a Christian's death !

During her last illness many sweet expressions showed her faith and trust, that He whom she had served in her youth and strength, had not deserted her in the hour of need : nor was she disappointed, for He was pleased to be mercifully near : His arms supporting, enabled her parting song to be the song of triumph, the song of one who had overcome, and

who was only waiting to be bidden to the marriage supper of the Lamb. She had no fear of death, but anticipated with pleasure the approaching change, saying : "I know that there is no other way of entering the Kingdom of Heaven, save by having our sins washed away in the blood of the Lamb, and *I know* that I am entering that way."

No more striking commentary on the realities of our blessed religion could be written than the simple recital of her perfect realization of the presence of her Redeemer in the last trying hour, she seemed really to be leaning upon the arm of her Saviour, when she exclaimed ; "He is coming * * * I see Him * * * I am stepping into Jordan, leaning upon the arm of my Beloved, * * * I am out ; walking the street up to the Golden City, * * * Bright ! * * * *Bright !* and Beautiful !"

In her case it may be truly said that

"Hope is changed to glad fruition,
Faith * * * to sight, and prayer, to praise."

JOHN A. WARDER,

on behalf of the Committee.

Cincinnati, Ohio, 1st month, 18th 1877.

RESOLUTIONS.



Mrs. Mary J. Taylor.

CINCINNATI, June 7.

At a special meeting of the Board of Managers of the Home for the Friendless, called on the occasion of the death of Mrs. Mary J. Taylor, the accompanying memorial was accepted and ordered to be published. The board also gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a bequest from Mrs. Taylor of \$200, to be appropriated to the adornment of the home :

IN MEMORIAM.

"She rests from her labors, and her works do follow her."

Twenty years ago a little band of Christian women resolved to do what they could to rescue from sin the poor, fallen women of Cincinnati, and formed themselves into a society called the Female Guardian Society, and established a home to be called "The Home for the Friendless." Since that time the society has pressed forward, doing faithful work, although its members have often changed, some having gone to other fields of usefulness, others to receive their crowns from their Master's hand.

At the beginning of the present year only one name, that of Mrs. Mary J Taylor that was written among the originators of this enterprise, remained on the Board of Managers, and now hers, too, must be erased from this earthly roll to be recorded

in heaven. We can not bid her farewell without expressing to her friends and the public our sense of the great loss we have sustained by her death.

For years we have looked to her as a mother in Israel, whose counsel and sound sense in times of perplexity, with the wisdom of the Spirit which she so largely possessed, always gave us aid and encouragement. Although we must long continue to mourn her departure, it is not as those without hope, believing, as we do, that her life work was well and fully done when the Lord called her to exchange the cross of suffering, which she so patiently bore for a crown of glory in His kingdom.

May her Christian example stimulate us to more earnest labor, in the spirit of the dear Master, that when our summons shall come, we, as she, may "go down into Jordan leaning on our Beloved."

To those who were nearest her by the ties of kindred and affection we would say that we both weep and rejoice with you. We weep for the withdrawal of her active love, her ever present sympathy, her thoughtful kindness, her gentle counsel: we rejoice in your possession of hallowed memories peculiarly your own, to keep forever, and in the glorious certainty of are union where love and life are eternal, and where God Himself shall wipe away all tears.

May the call to meet the Bridegroom find us, as it did her with lamps trimmed and burning.

By direction of the board.

C. D. How, Cor. Sec.

Memorial

..of..

❁ Mary Anthony ❁

Grandmother of Mary J. Taylor.

Memorial.

A Testimony of Cincinnati Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 19th of Seventh month, 1838, concerning our esteemed Friend, MARY ANTHONY, a Member and Elder of said Meeting, who died Sixth month 16th, 1838, aged 88 years and seven months.

SHE was the daughter of Samuel and Hannah Jordan, and was born in Nansemond county, Virginia, in the year 1749. Her father was an approved minister in the Society of Friends. Her mother died when she was very young, and her father not many years after; but their piety and exemplary lives were often referred to by her with feeling of gratitude, as a means of turning her attention to serious subjects, and establishing her principles on that sure foundation from which they were never changed. When about the age of *seventeen*, she renounced the gay and fascinating things of this world, appeared in the plain garb of a Friend, and confessed her Lord and Master before men; and such was her devotion and exemplary conduct, that when about *twenty-two*, she was appointed to the station of an Elder, the important duties of which, her sound judgment and religious discernment enabled her to discharge with much usefulness to society during the remainder of her life.

At the age of *twenty-five*, she was married to Christopher Anthony, an approved minister of the Gospel, with whom she

lived in much harmony and love for more than *forty* years, and was truly an helpmate to him, not only in temporal things, but in promoting his labor in the vineyard of her beloved Master.

In the various relations which she bore to others, whether as a parent, a neighbor, or a member of religious society, she was governed by the "law of kindness," and few have passed through life more universally beloved. Her mind was greatly expanded, and deeply imbued with Christian feeling,—love to God and love to man. In her the needy ever found a sure and ready friend; her house was for many years an agreeable resting-place for those journeying in defence of the Gospel; in whose company and conversation she experienced great delight.

Although she had the charge of a numerous family, (her husband being frequently absent laboring in support of the Gospel,) it may be said, that, like Mary the sister of Martha, she was not cumbered about many things, but had "chosen that good part which should not be taken from her." She so fully appreciated the command, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve," that every other consideration was made to yield to this important duty; hence it is not recollected that her seat was ever vacant when meeting time arrived, on account of temporal concerns, or from the inclemency of the weather. She was careful to take her seat in due season, and it is believed, ever felt a deep concern to "*worship God in spirit and in truth*;" and when meeting closed, she observed a gravity becoming the occasion. She was a great lover of *silent worship*, and well knew the importance of waiting upon God in the silence of all flesh for the renewal of her strength. It was her daily practice to spend a portion of time in retirement and meditation, being careful not

to suffer any thing to divert her from an observance thereof, saying, with David, "I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord of that which costs me nothing."

When services were assigned her in the church, she yielded a ready compliance, without making objections, and performed them with alacrity and zeal. And she held that all who were appointed to such services should be sound in the faith.

She was a firm believer in the doctrines of the Christian religion, as held by ancient Friends; and on one occasion bore this emphatic testimony to their excellency,—“though they are self-denying doctrines, and many there be that fall on the right hand and on the left, yet I can set my seal to them, that they are no cunningly devised fables but the everlasting truth. I have endeavored, to the best of my ability, to live up to them, and am now willing to die by them.”

She also bore a decided testimony to the unchangeableness of the doctrines of the Christian religion; she said there were no new doctrines, there could be none; the everlasting Gospel, which the angel, flying in the midst of Heaven, was commissioned to preach to them that dwell upon the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, “Fear God, and give glory to Him that made Heaven, and earth, and the fountains of waters,” is the same Gospel that is to be preached now and to the end of the world.

She often bore testimony to the excellency of the Holy Scriptures; she preferred them to all other books, and spent much time in their perusal; and her esteem for them appeared to increase with advancing years. When near her close she became too weak to read them herself,—many chapters were daily read to her.

She had an unshaken confidence in the goodness, the mercy, and the superintending providence of Almighty God; she be-

lieved that every act of dedication, every service done in the church, however small, would be duly recompensed; that "whosoever gave to one of the *little ones*, a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple should in no wise lose his reward."

Slavery was considered by her as an evil of great magnitude, and she bore a faithful testimony against it. When near her close, she said she could look back with consolation and rejoice, that although she had spent a large portion of her life in the midst of slavery, she had never participated in the sin of oppression, but that she had acted up to the rule of "doing unto others as we would they should do unto us."

In the 85th year of her age, she attended the Yearly Meeting for the last time, and at the conclusion, expressed much thankfulness that she had been permitted to meet with her friends in that capacity, and to feel so much love and unity, it being her firm conviction, that it was a final separation from many of them. She gratefully acknowledged their kindness to her, and as her manner often was, ascribed this favor to the goodness and mercy of her Heavenly Father, and further said, "though the Heavens and the Earth shall pass away, yet the promises of the Almighty remain sure;" "them that honor me, I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed."

As years increased, her mind was centered more and more on Heaven, and heavenly things; the redemption of the soul was a subject that appeared to occupy much of her time and attention, and she often made it the occasion for solemn and instructive conversation; every other consideration seemed to be unworthy of attention, in comparison to securing an interest in Heaven, where nothing that is impure or unholy can enter. Death was viewed by her as an event exceedingly awful; she

said it was a great thing, a nice point to be prepared to die, and she feared many rested in a false hope, and that some who are making high professions, will at the "great day," receive the awful sentence, "I never knew you : depart from me ye that work iniquity !"

When, through age and infirmity, she became confined, and was prevented from attending our religious meetings, she still retained a deep concern for the welfare of society, and her views remained clear, deep and comprehensive on religious subjects. Among other things that engaged her attention, she felt and expressed a deep concern, that there might be a sound and living ministry, and that those, whose duty it is, should exercise timely care therein.

Many were the expressions dropped during her last illness, evincing the same lively faith that had been her support through life ; and it is believed it will be profitable to preserve a few of them.

To a friend, who expressed much sympathy with her in the great privation of not being able to attend meeting, she said, "My dear Master knows I am not able to go, therefore he will excuse me, and I have experienced the Divine presence to be very near me in my chamber." She often said, she felt the Everlasting arms to be underneath, supporting and sustaining her.

When she heard that some who had occupied prominent stations had left our Society, and the spirituality of our religion, and had adopted shadows for the substance, she expressed her disapprobation, and the sorrow which she felt on account of their apostacy, and exclaimed in the language of the Apostle, "Why turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto some desire to be in bondage," *Truth is the same : unchangeable,—though all men forsake it.*

In viewing the approach of death, and speaking of the worthlessness of the riches and honors of this world, she said, "What would I have to support me now, did I not know my foundation to be the ROCK OF AGES."

Not long before her close, she was closely tried; she was permitted to feel great poverty of spirit, and a fear that there yet remained something for her to do; but after being engaged for some time in prayer, she had a remarkable assurance of her acceptance; she said it seemed as though an audible voice had spoken in her ear, "be not dismayed, inasmuch as thou hast been faithful and retained thy first love, when thou passest over this rough Jordan, I will be with thee, and its waves shall not overflow thee; and the change for thee shall be most glorious!" And such was the effect of this assurance, that she retained her confidence to the last.

In the course of her long confinement, her sufferings were very great, but she bore them with much patience. It is not recollected that a murmur ever escaped her lips; but she frequently adverted to the sufferings of her dear Redeemer, and said that hers were not to be compared to those which He endured for her; and she several times said "Death has no sting, and the grave will have no victory." She had a desire that when the last hour approached, her mind might be preserved in clearness; and there was abundant evidence that her prayer was granted.

In reviewing the life of this heavenly-minded woman, the mind rests with satisfaction on the theme. If we look through a long succession of years—if we look back on the morning of her days; the meridian of her life, or on her setting sun;—through all, we find her pursuing the pious, even tenor of her way;—through all, we find her the consistent Friend, the firm and zealous Christian; the humble dedicated follower of a cru-

cified Redeemer; and at the final close, like the wise gins, her vessel filled with oil, her lamp trimmed and burning bright;—"Her bow abode in strength, and the arms of her hands were made strong by the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob." "The eternal God was her refuge, and underneath were the everlasting arms."

Signed by direction of the Meeting.

CALEB W. TAYLOR, *Clerk for the day.*
HARRIET STEER, *Clerk.*

At Miami Quarterly Meeting, held Eighth month, 11th, 1838.

"The preceding Memorial of Cincinnati Monthly Meeting, concerning MARY ANTHONY, deceased, was received and read in this meeting, and being approved, was directed to the Meeting for Sufferings."

Extract from the Minutes.

JOHN SPRAY, *Clerk.*

At a meeting for Sufferings of Indiana Yearly Meeting, held Tenth month 5th, 1838.

"The preceding Memorial of Cincinnati Monthly Meeting, concerning MARY ANTHONY, deceased, was read in this meeting, and being deliberately considered, was approved, and directed to be laid before the Yearly Meeting."

Extract from the Minutes.

THOS. EVANS, *Clerk.*

*At Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends, held at White Water,
in Wayne County, Indiana, on the 8th, day of the Tenth
month, 1838.*

"In turning our attention to the Memorial of MARY ANTHONY, deceased, as read in proceedings of the Meeting for Sufferings, it is agreed to print 5,000 copies thereof, for distribution among the Quarters."

Extract from the Minutes,

ELIJAH COFFIN, *Clerk.*

