

**MEMORIALS OF SARAH
CHILDRESS POLK: WIFE OF
THE ELEVENTH PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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Memorials of Sarah Childress Polk: Wife of the Eleventh President of the United States by
Anson Nelson & Fanny Nelson

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ANSON NELSON & FANNY NELSON

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OF THE UNITED STATES**

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OF
SARAH CHILDRESS POLK

WIFE OF THE ELEVENTH PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES

BY
ANSON AND FANNY NELSON
II

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*Round the white pillar of her name it grew,
This little vine of memory, leal and true;
With clasping tendrils and with clustering leaves,
A simple chaplet to her worth it weaves.
Who does not joy with wreathen love to crown
The gentle soul who nobly wins renown?*

387710

PREFATORY NOTE.

MANY sketches and articles concerning Mrs. Polk were written during the long period of her appearance in public, and also in the years when she lived in comparative seclusion. It is deemed fitting, however, that a more full and connected account of her life should now be given, not only to those who were her familiar friends and acquaintance, but to the many others in all parts of the country who, through a long period of years have looked up to her as a type of true womanhood. For this labor of love the writers have had abundant opportunity, in the course of a long acquaintance, to observe minutely her life, character, and methods of thought in weekly visits made to Polk Place, which for more than thirty years were interrupted only by sickness or by occasional absence from the city, together with free access to all the materials necessary to make up the present narrative.

Mrs. Polk's example of womanly purity and dignity is a valuable legacy to the country. Her modesty, her self-control, her unpretentious de-

meanor in the highest station, her jealous care for the rights and feelings of others, her unflinching respect for the simple yet grand institutions of the country, and her unbroken reverence for all things sacred, are models worthy of imitation by all her countrywomen.

In endeavoring to set forth a simple, yet faithful and true semblance of Mrs. Polk, nothing has been said that did not seem to add to the delineation. Many apparently trifling incidents have been put in as touches to give tone and softening and roundness to the picture, which might otherwise appear bare or crude. The bits of history and biography interspersed in the narrative also seemed needful as a proper background to the portrait.

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