

**AN APPRECIATION BY FRIENDS;
TOGETHER WITH EXTRACTS
FROM HER " JOURNAL OF A
TOUR IN EUROPE "**

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An appreciation by friends; Together with extracts from Her " Journal of a Tour in Europe " by
Carrie F. Butler Thwing

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"JOURNAL OF A TOUR IN EUROPE"

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1899.

CHARLES F. THWING.

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Introduction.

TO the interpretations of the life and character of Carrie F. Butler Thwing, which gracious friends have made, it is fitting that certain statements of matters of fact be added.

Carrie Frances Butler was born in Farmington, Maine, 30 April, 1855. Her father, Francis Gould Butler, was, as is said of him in a sketch written by his daughter, a "quiet, country gentleman." He was possessed of large abilities of many kinds. He was primarily a banker, but he was also a great citizen. During a life of eighty years he was the most conspicuous man of his town and of that part of the State in which he resided. Her mother, Julia Wendell, is in the sixth generation directly descended from Evert Jansen Wendell, the immigrant ancestor of a family, long distinguished in American life and letters. A woman of great vigor of mind and body, she has throughout a long life given,—and is still giving,—herself, with great enthusiasm, to the concerns of her home, her church, and her community. To Mr.

and Mrs. Butler were born four daughters, of whom one, and she the youngest, alone lived to reach mature years.

Among the chief facts of this life, besides those referred to in the following pages, are: the preparation for college in the Wendell Institute, under the charge of Julia H. May and Sarah R. May; the entrance into Vassar College at the beginning of the academic year of 1872; the retirement from Vassar College, because of ill health, near the middle of the Junior year; and the taking up of residence in Cambridge, in the fall of 1879, having at that time married Charles F. Thwing. She lived in Cambridge until 1886. For the four years following 1886, her home was in Minneapolis; and in the fall of 1890 she removed to Cleveland, where on the 24th of April, 1898, she died. To her were born three children, one in Cambridge and two in Cleveland.

Of the journal which forms the larger part of this volume, it should be said that it was written in the course of the journey which it describes. At the close of a day or of a period, Mrs. Thwing recorded the impressions of the interval which it covers. She had no thought, at the time of writing, of printing what she wrote. The writing was done simply for the purpose of fixing impressions. The record is now printed by me chiefly for the reason that it embodies the qualities of her mind and heart in a better way than almost any-

thing else that she has written. It is printed as she wrote it, with the exception of certain omissions of a personal character. I may add that I have thought of printing also certain of her letters together with some extracts from articles of her writing, but I shall not, at least at present.

In a letter written to his brother Carl, soon after the death of his wife, under date of 12th January, 1778, Lessing says, "they say it is only praise of one's self to praise one's wife." To those who knew Mrs. Thwing it is as needless, as it would be unfitting, for me to praise her. Should the book fall into the hands of those who did not know her, I can only say, as Lessing wrote to his brother Carl also of his own wife, "but if you had only known her."

C. F. T.

24 April, 1899.