

**HARRIETTE BRIGGS
STODDARD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649317721

Harriette Briggs Stoddard by J . D. Kingsbury

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

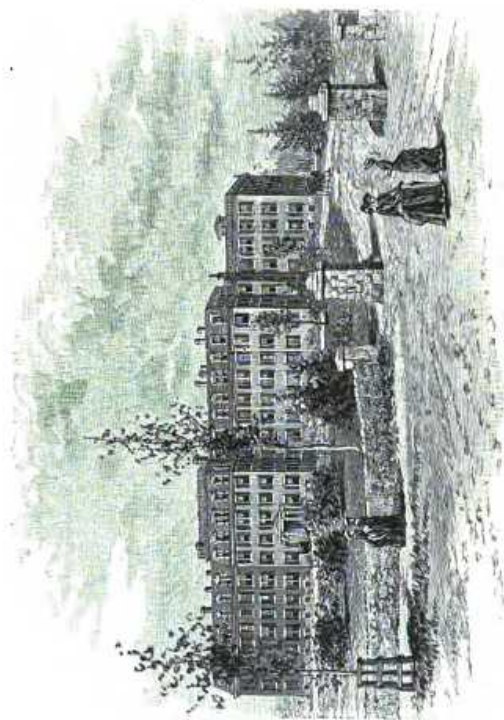
Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J . D. KINGSBURY

**HARRIETTE BRIGGS
STODDARD**



BRADFORD ACADEMY.

BRADFORD ACADEMY.

HARRIETTE BRIGGS STODDARD

— BY —

MRS. J. D. KINGSBURY.

BOSTON, MASS.
McINDOE BROS., PRINTERS.
1886.

HARRIETTE BRIGGS STODDARD.

HARRIETTE BRIGGS was born in Marblehead, Mass., Dec. 1st, 1821. She was one of eleven children, the sixth of seven sisters. Her father, Dr. Calvin Briggs, was the son of Rev. James Briggs, the first settled minister of Cummington, Mass., who continued in his office till his death, at the age of eighty. Mrs. Briggs, Harriette's mother, was the daughter of Dr. Ephraim Munroe. Her parents died in her infancy, and she was adopted by her mother's brother, Dr. Atherton of Lancaster, a noted physician. Dr. Thayer was her minister. The first evangelical sermon she heard, was after her marriage with Dr. Briggs, who attended the ministry of Rev. Samuel Dana, at Marblehead. Both father and mother, in their early married life, became devout christians, and "to the Church of Christ, their service and love were unstintedly given."

Dr. Briggs was a most worthy man and christian, "a physician of high repute," and a man of wide influence, intelligent, and of excellent judgment. He was a leading spirit in church and town, one whose counsel was sought in all religious and educational matters. His fine head and noble brow, give one the impression of strong and decided character. Dr. Briggs was a rare man in his family,

firm in government, yet "so just when he erred," and gentle and "lovely in disposition." "His patients often sent for him in the dying hour, to comfort them." He was a spiritual christian, a calm, intellectual man. The mother is remembered as "a woman of very strong character, and many virtues," more impulsive and emotional than her husband, a mother to whom the children clung with the deepest affection. She was unwearied in her devotion to the best interests of her children. Mrs. Briggs was well educated, accustomed to good society, and an excellent housekeeper, and thus admirably fitted for the care of her large and interesting family.

Dr. Briggs delighted to honor her in the home, and "the pre-eminence was always given her." "The love, confidence in, and respect for each other," of this father and mother, "had a marked effect in promoting harmony" in their circle. The children look back to their childhood as "days of nearly unalloyed pleasure." That "home was a very happy one." "God was first, education next. Several of the children chose Christ in early years." Harriette was one of this number, giving good evidence of conversion at the early age of eight years. She ever afterward maintained a consistent christian character.

When a child "felt anxious religiously," he or she "went freely to father with it all." When the father was absent at the hour for prayers, the mother conducted the devotions. "Saturday evening, through the flower season, a rose, two or three pinks, and a sprig of lavender were tied up and put in water, for each child who went to Sabbath School, and no bouquet can ever smell so sweet again."

After Sabbath evening prayers, Mrs. Briggs called her family together "to repeat the commandments, one or two forms of prayer and a hymn." When the children were old enough to study the catechism, Dr. Briggs took the Sabbath evening class. While the children were young, the piano was never opened on the Sabbath, the father saying that "the playing would not be for devotion, and would be disturbing to those who were reading." After the children were older, about two hours, after Sabbath evening prayers, were spent in singing favorite hymns. "The father selected first, a whole hymn, then the mother chose one, then the children, according to age." Harriette's usual hymn was "Whilst Thee I seek Protecting Power," to the old tune — Brattle Street. They never tired of familiar hymns.

Rev. Mr. Niles was the minister of Harriette's later years in Marblehead, and to him "she was particularly attached." "He was an Old School Presbyterian, whose whole teaching was strong orthodoxy." Harriette was a faithful and constant attendant at all the services of the church. "She rose early to attend the morning prayer meeting, where sometimes, only herself and Hon. William Reed (with his dog, a constant companion) were present." It is believed that "a prayer was always offered, even under such discouraging circumstances."

Harriette shared the reluctance of her sisters, in leaving the home circle for the companionship of strangers. Even the novelty of boarding school life, offered no inducements to break their charmed circle. They were a somewhat remarkable little community of themselves, strongly attached to each other, having a mutual interest in all their home pursuits, whether of duty or pleasure.

Harriette was an amiable and gentle girl, of retiring disposition, attracting all by her loveliness. She, more than either of the children, closely resembled her father, "in person and in traits and disposition."

Dr. Briggs' seven daughters were, at different times, members of Bradford Academy — Harriette entered the school in 1839. She had already received the culture and nurture of a christian home, her character at this early age was mature, her sensibilities refined; and she was fitted on leaving her father's house for an experience of larger and better things. In thought and feeling and purposes she gave promise of speedy development. All that had contributed to the unfolding of her nature was now to be supplemented by the influence of school life and instruction, and especially by the personal influence and instruction and inspiring example of the principal.

Miss Hasseltine, the principal of Bradford Academy, was a woman of commanding presence, dignified in character, reigning like a queen in her realm. She had withal, a genial humor, which made her very charming in her intercourse with the young. She was a person of resolution, and possessed strong convictions. With an unusual share of practical common sense, and a wonderful perception of character, she governed with perfect ease, and her influence with her pupils was unbounded. She taught with patience and thoroughness, striving to develop character, and above all, religious character. All instruction, discipline and culture, were made subservient to this high aim. Her earnestness and energy of purpose were in early life, consecrated to her Redeemer's service, and in later years she had become "a mighty worker" in

the cause she loved. Decided in belief, she was "uncompromising in religious principles." Those entering the school "without God and without hope, were from the first made to feel how sad was that condition." She presented the claims of our Heavenly Father with such force as to cause the young hearts to "tremble with the dreadful consciousness of guilt," and then in simple language and with tenderness, she would "melt them to tears," as she talked of the Saviour's love.

A pupil has recorded one of her simple directions given to one seeking for light,—“Seek God by earnest prayer, a diligent study of His word, and the careful performance of every known duty, and in time, He will reveal Himself to you.”

Miss Hasseltine attached much importance to the study of the Bible and was exceedingly careful that all Scripture passages should be “committed with exactness,” that no trifling be allowed with the Holy Word.

Many pupils testify, that the weekly Bible lesson, “was the pleasantest of all recitations,” and say that “the Bible became a new book,” after Miss Hasseltine taught them to read and study it by topics. Her familiarity with the Scriptures, her illustrations and incidents, held the attention, and the most frivolous, were interested and impressed. Old Testament scenes “became living realities,” and Scriptural characters were so graphically portrayed as “almost to seem like personal acquaintances.” An exhortation she often repeated was:—“Be rich in Scripture.” It is said that the preparation of that lesson was never “a hardship.” With many the memory of Miss Hasseltine's Bible teachings inspires “emotions of the deepest gratitude.”