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MRS. CELIA PARKER WOOLLEY IS DEAD

Founder of Fred Douglass Center Passes Away After Short Illness

By Miss Lillian Chapman

Woman's position in society as promoter of commerce, education, philanthropy and religion is of modern origin, being a product of evolution. Her worth as a moulder of sentiment and sense of justice is seen in the many avenues now being operated by women, with no one more efficient or conscientious than Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley.

She was a native of Coldwater, Mich., where she received an early education, later entering the ministry of the Unitarian faith. She was pastor of churches in Chicago and Geneva. As a leader of ethical culture, her watchword was equal opportunity and justice; her prayer for life uplift of humanity was, "Thy will be done." As a teacher of divine truth, her keynote was love.

Mrs. Woolley's work was not limited to church life, but sought expression in literary attainments, where her rare ability as a genius of thought caused her to rank as one of the bright lights of the Northwest. Her volumes, "Roger Hunt," "Love and Theology," "A Girl Graduate," "The Western Slope," and more recently "The Angel at the Gate" has caused much comment. Her contributions to the daily press on matters of vital issues have resulted in correct action on the part of those who lacked sufficient data. The constant calls from churches, clubs and student bodies for lectures of a sociological nature will acquaint us with the value of her wise counsel.

Mrs. Woolley an Organizer

As an organizer Mrs. Woolley's initiative instinct was most keen. She was an associate founder of the Chicago Woman's club, the largest and most influential similar body of women on this continent, now numbering more than twelve hundred. At the Forty-second annual celebration, on the 20th day of February, she was to have taken part on the program, but was prevented from doing so by ill health. She played her part in the art and literary department. The Chicago Political Equality league had a valuable member in Mrs. Woolley, who always taught the woman's suffrage cause with a spiritual zeal. A quarter of a century past, at the Columbian Exposition in our World's Fair, Mrs. Woolley, with the co-operation of Dr. Jenkins Jones, of the Abraham Lincoln Center, organized the Religious Congress. This was called by the Parliament of the World's Religions at the Fair and now known as the League of Religious Fellowship. In this body of religious thinkers one spirit prevails, that of fellowship, service and worship. For many years she served as president of the Woman's Western Unitarian Conference.

Founder of Fred Douglass Center

Her latest achievement, the Frederick Douglass Center, was organized fourteen years ago in the home of Judge E. O. Brown, when a hundred of the best representatives of both races were called to discuss the advisability of such an institution. Its objects are: "To promote a just and amicable relation between white and Colored people.

"To remove the disabilities from which the latter suffer in their civil and industrial life.

"Encourage equal opportunity, irrespective of race, color or other distinctions.

"Establish a center of friendliness and influence, in which to needful information, and for co-operation to the ends of living and a higher citizenship."

present location, at 3032 Wabash Ave., a three-story structure, was leased for \$5,500 and is paid for. opening of the center took place on 2, 1905, with an annual membership of one dollar.

the propaganda work was of the importance to Mrs. Woolley, for as there she caused the removal of titles which caused Colored people suffer injustice. The work was done through the press, platform and pulpit. Association with the Chicago Woman's club was a great source for doing "justice," as she so frequently had occasion to mention.

Many Kindred Organizations

Practical activities in connection with boys' and girls' classes, woman's clubs and Red Cross units are in charge of Dr. Mary F. Waring. Our affiliation with kindred organizations places our cases for charity and legal redress in the hands of those making a specialty of such matters. The summer students' excursions are a reunion of teachers and pupils coming to study in our city institutions. Each year classes

are sent to us by teachers of sociology for our additional information as related to the center principles.

Our platform is an open forum for discussion of vital subjects along civic, educational, social and religious lines. The leading minds of the city have appeared on our programs to lavish their wealth of thought in a worthy cause. Musical programs are a leading feature. Mrs. Woolley was always fearless and loyal in the discharge of her sacred trust, serving a humanitarian cause with a devotion that only a consecrated conscience could bestow. How often have we heard her while addressing the wealth and culture of the city say, "Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe do not bother us much, for they keep their place;" but when the younger family moves in next door to you, sending their children to the same school with yours, keeps an automobile and dresses equally as well as yourselves, that causes the difficulty. "It is the progressive Negro with an education and owns property that causes uneasiness among the less informed. I wonder when the white man will emancipate himself and treat all people with the justice due all American citizens, promoting the cause of an unfinished democracy."

Since one of the center's strongest principles is co-operation, its combination with the Chicago Branch of the Urban League was made less than a month ago when the latter accepted united headquarters with us. The combination is proving beneficial to both organizations.

Death a Shock

Mrs. Woolley never enjoyed robust health, her declining years causing a general failing of health, resulting in a complete breakdown after an illness of three weeks. Her death was a surprise to many. Saturday at noon the chariot came to the door and with the words, "Mother, I am coming," passed quietly to the reward she so richly deserved. She is survived by a devoted husband, Dr. J. H. Woolley, and a distant cousin, of Toledo, Ohio. The funeral services were conducted from the Abraham Lincoln Center, where she was a member of All Souls' church, Monday, and in charge of Dr. Ronea Morse Mann. In touching words Dr. Mann gave expression of our appreciation for the great life that was called from among us, her service to the world as a humanitarian being of unmatched worth; for it was the voice of all the people, "God himself could not give us another Mrs. Woolley." Her work as intercessor for a rising group of American citizenship was emphasized and made plain that it was appreciated by the beneficiary. The entire world has lost a friend. The large floral designs from individuals and clubs gave evidence of their loving devotion to one who lived for others and not selfishly. The music was in charge of Prof. George Gerner's Polyphonic Choral Union, whose sweet voices were beautiful and gave tone to the occasion.

A large memorial service is planned, to be conducted by Dr. Jenkins Jones, when he returns to the city after a spring vacation. At this time a larger expression of Mrs. Woolley's life and work will be conducted on a large margin.