



MRS. MARY CHURCH TERRELL

(One of Our Foremost Scholars, Thinkers, Orators)

Here is a woman richly endowed by nature for a great work to which she has grandly devoted all her endowments. Either as orator or debater she has few equals, yet her success was achieved by incessant labor in a most unobtrusive manner.

After graduating from Oberlin College she taught at the Wilberforce University and was teacher of languages in the Washington Colored High School. Then she spent several years abroad, perfecting herself in German, French and Italian, and on her return was offered a position on the faculty of Oberlin College.

At this time, however, she married Robert H. Terrell, a graduate of Harvard, then Chief of a Division in the Treasury Department, and later one of the Federal judges of the District of Columbia.

Thereafter, Mrs. Terrell devoted her highly developed faculties to the cause of education, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools and on the Board of Education. Mrs. Terrell was the first colored woman to serve on a Board of Education in this country and was re-appointed again and again until she served eleven years—longer than the service of any person, white or colored, on the Board of Education in our National Capital.

Mrs. Terrell was the only one of the American delegates to the International Congress of Women in Berlin some years ago who addressed the convention in German. She followed it by an address in French. It carried the audience literally by storm, and she was recalled three times.

Mrs. Terrell has received glowing tributes from editors and authors, far too numerous to mention. From the dean of Harvard, after an address before Radcliffe College students, she was described as having a good presence, an agreeable and refined voice, an excellent command of language, a manner neither too diffident nor self-assured, and a touch of that eloquence which seems to go with even the least infusion of African blood. From the president of the Christian Association of Wellesley College after an address made there, Mrs. Terrell received a communication praising her in the highest words possible as a result of the wide discussion her subject had created among the girls in the college.

Hardly enough can be said of Mrs. Terrell's excellence and superiority. She speaks without notes; she stands self-possessed, master of any situation; she appeals to eye, ear and heart alike in satisfying and convincing manner; she exhibits burning eloquences, tempered by a broad education.

The above facts concerning Mrs. Terrell were taken from the Eastern Lyceum Bureau, an exclusive publication—Boston.

