



Mrs. Laura Dickerson Wheatley, President of the Baltimore Federation of Colored Parent-Teacher Clubs, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her early training was received in the public schools of St. Louis, Missouri, and of Louisville, Kentucky. She was graduated with highest honors from both the High School and Teachers' Training School of Louisville. The principal of the High School at that time said "Mrs. Wheatley was, if not the brightest, among the brightest pupils that have passed through that school." She was a brilliant student at Kentucky State University, Louisville, and took a special course at Cook County Normal School, Chicago, Illinois. Later she was graduated with the degree Bachelor of Arts from Morgan College, Baltimore, with the highest average of her class, rating above 90 per cent in all subjects. Mrs. Wheatley was the first student to do extension work at Morgan College.

Mrs. Wheatley's record as a teacher in the public schools of Louisville was described as follows, by her principal: "In the Sloyd Department Mrs. Wheatley easily took first place among the teachers; the success of that department was due largely to her efforts. She was a very successful teacher, and a woman of earnest, studious habit, exerting a splendid influence upon her pupils. Her work was inspired by the highest motives, and her interest and enthusiasm was catching."

Mrs. Wheatley is a member of Metropolitan M. E. Church. She is a pleasing public speaker and a splendid writer. Her speech at the Louisville High School Commencement was described in the Louisville Courier Journal as "the feature of the evening's exercises."

In national literary contests—Mrs. Wheatley was awarded the prize of a free trip to Europe by the Boston Brown Book Magazine; a cash prize by the Maryland Branch of the National Defense Council during the World War (Mrs. Wheatley was the ONLY WOMAN and the ONLY PERSON of COLOR among the three prize winners in that contest.) She was awarded a set of books by the Friends of Africa Society, and a cash prize by Opportunity Magazine.

Mrs. Wheatley is the wife of Dr. Edward James Wheatley, a prominent physician and native of Baltimore, a graduate of Lincoln University and of Howard Medical School.

Since her marriage Mrs. Wheatley has devoted herself untiringly to civic work. She organized the Neighborhood Improvement League and was chairman of the committee from that organization which appealed to the city to use asphalt instead of vitrified bricks as had been planned for paving Druid Hill Avenue, because din of traffic over the latter paving would seriously interfere with the many institutions located on the avenue, and requested that moonlights be placed in front of Bethel and Union Baptist churches. These requests were granted.

Mrs. Wheatley is eminently successful as an impressario. She was the first to introduce Roland Hayes and Lillian Evanti to Baltimore audiences.

In 1920 Mrs. Wheatley was chairman of the largest membership drive of the local N. A. A. C. P., which enrolled 2,000 members and collected between \$5,000 and \$6,000 cash. In 1921, through Mrs. Wheatley's efforts in his behalf, three reprieves of thirty days' each, were granted by President Harding to Henry Brown, the Colored youth who was accused of the murder of a Naval Academy nurse at Annapolis, Md. The boy having been convicted wholly upon circumstantial evidence.

