

CHAPTER XVIII.

Mr. William H. DeCourcy Wright reared and educated his nephews, Robert Clinton and John Skinner Wright. He also trained and educated their sisters, Alfonsa (Mrs. Hugo E. Fiddes) and Louisa (Mrs. Edward Hamilton Gowland). His own children, whom I have mentioned, were very lovely and accomplished women. But one of this interesting family remains—Mrs. Governor Thomas. The death of his son, William H. DeCourcy Wright, who died in Rio, was a terrible blow to his mother. He was very promising, and died on the verge of manhood. Mr. Wright at that time occupied his handsome house on Charles Street, Baltimore, which was the most fashionable part of the city, a home of refinement and hospitality. He rented a pew in St. Paul's Church, Centreville; also in St. Luke's Chapel, Queenstown, when he spent a great deal of his time in Baltimore, thus showing his great generosity to the country churches, while contributing to his church in the city. He has been greatly missed. Mr. Wright showed no difference between his own children and Mrs. Forbes and Mrs. Hemsley, who, as stated, were daughters of his wife, by her first marriage. I have often heard Mrs. Hemsley speak of her stepfather's great kindness and liberality. She was the recipient of many handsome presents from him, and he kept a home for her as long as he lived. He presented her with jewelry of great value and variety from South America. Of all his lovely and costly gifts, she seemed most to prize a pair of pansy earrings, with a diamond in the centre. These she usually wore. They suited her style and were admired extravagantly by her associates.

“And they were fondly treasured
For the words of love they bore.”

Mrs. Hemsley's friends who survive her will remember them as a lovely and becoming ornament.

“Over and above the rest,
Those 'little heart's ease' suited best.”

This accomplished lady was a proficient in music. Her touch was soft, sweet and inspiring. Those original strains came from