

## [Livermore, Mary Ashton Rice]

### MRS. LIVERMORE IS DEAD.

#### ILLNESS OF FORMER AUBURNIAN AND FAMOUS WOMAN PROVED FATAL.

Mrs. Mary Ashton Livermore, former Auburnian, distinguished abolitionist, advocate of suffrage for women and famous author and lecturer, died at 8:15 Tuesday morning at her home in Melrose, Mass. She had been ill but a few days but at her advanced age—she had lived beyond the three score years and 10 allotted to mankind and womankind—it was feared from the first that the illness would prove fatal. Bronchitis, coupled with heart failure, caused her demise.

Mrs. Livermore is remembered by many of the older residents of Auburn as the wife of a pastor of the First Universalist church [Rev. Daniel P. Livermore]. While it is a great many years since she resided in Auburn she always retained a warm spot in her heart for this city and Auburnians took a deep interest in what she said and did. She was married in 1845 and it was in the early '50's that she was a resident of Auburn. Her husband died in 1899.

Mrs. Livermore was active up to the very time she was stricken with her last illness. She was the first president of the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association and at the time of her death she was president of the Woman's Suffrage association of Massachusetts. Mary Ashton Livermore was born in Boston, Dec. 19, 1821. Her maiden name was Rice, she being the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Rice. She was noted in childhood for resolution and restless activity, being foremost in all healthful, outdoor sports, and also remarkable for proficiency in her studies. She was a pupil and for some time a teacher in the Charlestown, Mass., Female seminary, and subsequently became a governess in Southern Virginia . where she remained two years, and then taught at Duxbury, Mass. There she met Daniel P. Livermore, a Universalist clergyman, whom she married and accompanied successively to Stafford, Conn., Walden and Weymouth, Mass., this city and Quincy, Ill., in all of which places he had pastorates. In 1857 he became editor and publisher of the New Covenant at Chicago. During this period Mrs. Livermore wrote frequently for the periodicals of her denomination and edited the Lily, besides assisting her husband for 12 years as associate in his editorial labors. At the beginning of 1862 Mrs. Livermore was appointed one of the agents of the Northwestern branch of the United States Sanitary commission, which had been then recently established in Chicago. During that year she traveled throughout the Northwest, everywhere organizing sanitary aid societies. In the following December she attended a council of the National Sanitary commission at Washington, and the next Spring was ordered to make a tour of the hospitals and military posts on the Mississippi.

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At this time sanitary supplies were low and the most serious results at the Vicksburg camp were feared; but by personal appeals, by circulars and by untiring persistence and enthusiasm, Mrs. Livermore secured immediate relief.

She also took an active part in the organization of the great Northwestern sanitary fair in Chicago in 1863, from which nearly \$100,000 was secured for the purposes of the association and obtained the original draft of his Emancipation proclamation from President Lincoln which sold for \$3,000. Since the war she had labored earnestly in the woman suffrage and temperance movements, often appearing on the platform, and editing the *Woman's Journal* in Boston in 1870-'1. Her success as lecturer before Lyceums was great. At a time when those institutions were at the height of their popularity she was one of the four lecturers that were most in demand and who commanded the largest fees; the other three being men. For years she spoke five months in the year, traveling 25,000 miles annually in the United States, England, Scotland and other countries. Among her most popular lectures were "What Shall We Do with Our Daughters?" "Women of the War," and "The Moral Heroism of the Temperance Reform." The first of these was issued in book form more than 70 years ago. She was also the author of "Pen Pictures" and "Thirty Years too Late" a temperance tale. She also prepared a work of 600 pages giving her experience during the war, which was issued nearly 18 years ago and which had a large sale. Mrs. Livermore was active to the last in the cause of temperance and suffrage for women. By all who knew her and appreciated her earnestness and devotion her death will be deeply deplored.

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