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Women's Missionary Union

First Baptist Church (Shelby, NC)

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5-21-1921

### May 21, 1921 - Biblical Recorder - Fannie Heck

Susie M. Smith

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## W. M. UNION

Edited by MISS MARY WARREN,  
Corresponding Secretary, Raleigh,  
North Carolina

### W. M. U. STATE OFFICERS

Mrs. W. N. Jones, President, 803 N. Person Street.  
Miss Mary Warren, Cor. Sec. and Mission Study Supt., 215 Recorder Building.  
Miss Elsie K. Hunter, Office Sec.-Treas., 215 Recorder Building.  
Miss Dorothy Kellam, Young People's Leader, Field Worker, 215 Recorder Building.  
Mrs. R. N. Simms, Training School Trustee, North Person Street.  
Mrs. T. M. Pittman, Margaret Fund Chairman, Henderson, N. C.  
Mrs. O. E. Maddry, Personal Service Chairman, Woodburn Road.  
Mrs. Z. M. Caveness, White Cross Chairman, Hillsboro Street.  
Mrs. J. D. Boushall, Recording Secretary, Raleigh, North Carolina.

### RESOLUTION OF THE WILMINGTON DIVISION

At our annual meeting in Goldsboro, the Wilmington division, through its vice president, Miss Macy Cox, offered a resolution that the societies in our State observe Miss Heck's birthday, June 16, with a suitable program and an offering for some phase of our work. This resolution was unanimously adopted. We suggest that every society at its June meeting observe this memorial program and take a voluntary offering. This extra offering this year will be given to our Foreign Mission Board and will count on our Campaign pledges when requested by the society.

#### NOTICE!

For twenty-nine years Miss Heck was the faithful president of our North Carolina union and for fifteen years was president of our union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. We hope that this copy of the Recorder will be preserved for future reference.

### FANNIE E. S. HECK BIRTHDAY

### THE BEAUTY OF ESTHER

—Esther 2: 7; 2: 15

Esther's habits and tastes were simple; she cared not for the various arts supposed to lend attraction; she was content with a moderate toilet, and believed more in the charm of purity, modesty, simplicity, and piety than in artificial methods. She was right! We must recognize that simple tastes are less costly, they indicate a pure mind and are the most cultural and attractive. Simplicity led to Esther's coronation. physical beauty is not to be despised, it is one of God's gifts and has much power in the world, yet it exposes the soul to danger. When not sanctified and guarded by the grace of God, it becomes a ready minister to vanity and varied sin. Esther had the beauty of modesty, which is a lovely grace and added to her physical beauty. She put self in the background and showed a pure heart, a true self-knowledge and a fear of God. Then Esther had beauty of discretion. In her new and trying position Esther never failed in prudence. There was simplicity and artlessness of conduct. There is no brighter jewel in a womanly character than the discretion which reflects a simple and true heart. She also had beauty of duty and integrity. Prosperity did not make her lose her head, because she was brought up in the love and fear of God. A soul that is humble, patient, trustful, loving, holy, Christ-like, has riches that all the gold of Ophir could not buy. Youth is the seedtime for such wealth and such beauty.

It was a memorable experience for the beautiful young mother. The Northern Army separated her from her home and parents, Colonel Heck was away on a mission for the Con-



Miss Fannie E. S. Heck

Miss Heck became a member of the First Baptist Church of Raleigh when she was in her late teens. She made this decision after long deliberation, not because of any doubt of the eternal verities but because of distrust of self. She at once became active in the work of the church. She taught a class of young men of her own age, on whom her character left an impress which time has not effaced. In 1921, after a lapse of thirty-nine years, the widely separated members of this class presented to the Sunday-school in which she taught a bronze tablet to her memory. This class was followed by many others all composed of young men in the formative years of life.

Her interest in girls was no less keen. She founded missionary societies among them and held prayer-meetings for them. The Meredith College students were her cherished friends and nothing gave her more pleasure than to be included in their parties and share their fellowship. It seems almost needless to mention her warm affection for the students

and will power until she gained complete mastery over self. Naturally very shy, she fought against shyness as a hindrance to her work. Although she gave the impression of rugged health, she was never strong after a severe illness at the time of her beloved father's death in 1894. All that she accomplished in the most fruitful years of her life was in spite of the handicap of physical weakness.

Miss Heck was a wise and tactful presiding officer and a forceful speaker. She had a resonant voice which carried far to large audiences and had a mellow timbre which touched an answering chord in every heart. She gestured gracefully, but wholly unconsciously with her beautiful hands. She marshalled her facts with clearness and drove them home with telling illustrations.

Miss Heck's writings, both in verse and prose, speak for themselves. They never satisfied her critical judgment however much they have meant to others.

No summary of Miss Heck's accomplishments would be complete without mentioning her as a nurse. She was a born "tender of the sick." She had the cheerful manner, the quiet movements, and the ability to remain still, which made the ideal nurse, and there was not one in the large family from the aged grandmother to the tiniest niece or nephew who had not known her tender ministrations and felt her gentle touch.

In the last years of Miss Heck's life, she felt the compulsion to teach the Gospel of Joy. In spoken and written word the duty of a Christian to be happy occurred and recurred. An unhappy Christian was an anachronism. This message found full expression in the memorable lectures delivered at the Woman's Training School in Louisville and which she re-shaped during her illness for publication under the title of "Every-day Gladness."

Those who were privileged to visit her during the fourteen months when she lay on a hospital bed in Richmond know how fully she exemplified the Gospel of Joy which she had

vention. We hope that this copy of the Recorder will be preserved for future reference.

### FANNIE E. S. HECK BIRTHDAY PROGRAM, JUNE 16, 1924

Song—O, Zion, Haste.

The Beauty of Esther—Esther 2: 7; 2: 15. (Baptist Student, April issue.)

Prayer—For the Beauty of Holiness.

Poem—The Love of Beauty, by Fannie E. S. Heck. (Everyday Gladness.)

A Portrait, Fannie E. S. Heck. (By Susie M. H. Smith.)

Hymn—Come, Women, Wide Proclaim—Fannie E. S. Heck.

A Message to the Union (see "Decade in W. M. U. Service, pages 24-27. Order from Baptist Book Shop, Raleigh, North Carolina, price forty cents.)

Her Last Message to N. C. Union.

Song—How Firm A Foundation.

Dismissal.

### THE LOVE OF BEAUTY

Fannie E. S. Heck

'Tis high kinship  
For our God loves beauty,  
Loves to look  
Where the rich green meadow gleams  
Laced by silver sun-kissed streams,  
Loves to walk  
In high, holy mountain places  
Through tree-arched cathedral spaces  
Where  
Thoughtless men, half unaware,  
Breathe their inmost hopes in prayer.

### A PORTRAIT, FANNIE E. S. HECK

By Susie M. Smith, Annapolis, Maryland

It was during the stormy period of 1862, that Fannie Exile Scudder Heck, second child of Jonathan McGee and Mattie Callendine Heck, was born at Buffalo Lithia Springs, Virginia, on the sixteenth of June.

friends and nothing gave her more pleasure than to be included in their parties and share their fellowship. It seems almost needless to mention her warm affection for the students of the Training School in Louisville. They dwelt in the core of her heart and she spoke of them with tenderest love throughout her illness.

The Northern Army separated her from her home and parents, Colonel Heck was away on a mission for the Confederacy, the physician was intoxicated and no competent nurse could be secured, but Mrs. Heck met this as she has all the crises of her life with courage and resourcefulness. The child was named Fannie for the mother's only living sister, then a girl of eleven years, now Mrs. James B. Taylor. Exile was to perpetuate the circumstances of the baby's birth. In young womanhood when she had dedicated herself to missionary work, Miss Heck added Scudder, the maiden name of her grandmother, a woman of deep piety, representing a family famed for the many members who had gone to foreign fields. The name Scudder might be called an honorary degree in missions.

Amid the vicissitudes of war, the little Fannie developed into a child of unusual beauty. Her winsome loveliness is abundantly attested by a portrait of her which hangs over the mantle in the room in which this sketch is written. The expressive brown eyes seem to flash a message from the canvas; the broad forehead predicts intellect and the firm mouth and chin prophesy character.

Miss Heck was educated at Professor Hobgood's Seminary in Raleigh, now in Oxford, North Carolina, and at Hollins Institute, now Hollins College, Virginia. She was not a prodigy, indeed she developed rather slowly, but the fruition was doubtless richer and fuller on this account. She was a student throughout her life until she was promoted to the University of the Infinite.

On Miss Heck's return from school she took her place in the home as her father's cherished companion, her mother's able assistant, and the beloved confidante and counselor of her brothers and sisters.

Miss Heck's public career in mission work began with the establishment, in 1886, of the Woman's Central Committee of North Carolina, of which she was made chairman, a position which she held until her death. For many years after the formation of this committee, all the literature was sent out from Miss Heck's home. Those were busy days when the quarterly budget was to be mailed. Every chick and child was pressed into service and instructed in the art of neatly folding letters and report blanks, the leaflets and whatever else went to make up the bulky package. Miss Heck, seated at the roomy Colonial desk at which this portrait of her is written, saw that each package was as carefully prepared as if it were a personal message to a queen.

At the age of thirty Miss Heck became president of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention, the highest honor in the gift of the Union. For fifteen years, the last nine being consecutive, she presided over this noble body of women and rejoiced in the expansion of their work.

Besides the duties entailed by the presidency of the North Carolina and Southern Union, Miss Heck entered with enthusiasm into the religious, civic and literary activities of her home city.

In all that Miss Heck did, she manifested her most compelling characteristic. She welcomed a difficult task. In her younger years she had overcome a quick temper by prayer

Those who were privileged to visit her during the fourteen months when she lay on a hospital bed in Richmond know how fully she exemplified the Gospel of Joy which she had taught. She looked death in the face

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