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Scrapbook Material

Hannah Whitall Smith

1983

Box 10_26 (Scrapbook Materials- A Religious Rebel Reviews-1949)

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Punch

A Happy Puritan

How

When Logan Pearsall Smith described his mother as "a most remarkable and brilliant letter-writer" he was guilty of no filial partiality. If those particular epithets would have moved Hannah Whitall Smith herself to derisive laughter, the letters which evoked them have a unique and fascinating quality. A Philadelphian Quaker, who became well-known on both sides of the Atlantic as an evangelical preacher and writer, "H. W. S." was a woman not only of infinite faith, hope and charity but of an astringent humour that was at its happiest in self-mockery and of a common sense so absolute that, against the background of an irrational world, it also has the effect of a sort of humour. She was a puritan to whom life was fun and whom very few things could shock. She took Ascot, music-halls and the "gay and wicked world" of Aix-les-Bains in her equable stride, and was the most sympathetic of grandmothers. *A Religious Rebel* is a mine of delightful surprises.

F. B.
