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Scrapbook Material

Hannah Whital Smith

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Box 10_30 (Scrapbook Materials- Willard, Frances E.--Statue in House of Representatives, 1905)

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HONOUR TO FRANCES WILLARD.—On February 17th, the sixth anniversary of her death, the statue of Miss Willard was presented to the United States Congress by the State of Illinois, and placed in Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building at Washington. For the first time in its history, Congress suspended business to honour a woman. The National W.C.T.U. officers and many leading members were in Washington, and in the evening a great Frances Willard commemorative meeting was held in the Metropolitan Church. The statue is of Carrara marble, a little more than life-size, and represents Miss Willard standing in an easy, graceful position. The right arm is slightly extended, the hand resting upon a reading desk; the left arm is at her side, with a few pages of manuscript in the hand. The pose of the head is very life-like, as Miss Willard appeared when looking out upon an audience. The face is strong and spiritual. The pedestal is of Vermont marble, and bears the following inscription of Miss Willard's own beautiful words: "Ah! it is women who have given the costliest hostages to fortune. Out into the battle of life they have sent their best beloved, with fearful odds against them. Oh, by the dangers they have dared; by the hours of patient watching over beds where helpless children lay; by the incense of ten thousand prayers wafted from their gentle lips to heaven, I charge you, give them power to protect along life's treacherous highway those whom they have so loved."