

town which Madison at that time could rightly be called. She was a devoted member of the First Congregational Church of Madison, and an active worker in the Sabbath School and she was greatly beloved by all who knew her.

The children of O. M. Conover and Julia Darst Conover were Edith Williams, born Jan. 2, 1852; Allan Darst, born Sept. 9, 1854; Frederick King, born December 17, 1857; and John Berlew, born December 28, 1861.

Mrs. Conover died March 27, 1863. The poem, "Via Solitaria," written by Professor Conover shortly after her death, was published for the first time in *The New York Independent*. Twenty years later, through the mistake of a Michigan professor, the poem was again sent to and published by the *New York Independent* and the authorship attributed to Henry W. Longfellow. The *Independent* later made a published correction.

EDITH W. CONOVER

Contributed by the John Bell Chapter, D. A. R.

On January 2, 1852, the students in Professor Conover's classes in the University of Wisconsin had a holiday. Not knowing just what use to make of such unwanted leisure, they betook themselves to the village bookstore where they selected a prayer book and a hymn book. Returning to their rooms in North Hall, they wrote a letter of congratulation to Professor and Mrs. Conover and sent it with the books which were a birthday gift to the infant, whose arrival was the cause of their holiday. This infant was named Edith Williams Conover and she has retained that name unto this present day, August 12, 1924. After graduating from Milwaukee Female College in 1871, she was, until 1882, head of her father's home, and has ever since been so busy attending to things which it seemed to be her duty to care for, that she has had no time to strive for fame.