

We thank Thee, Lord, for many gifts
By Thee in mercy sent,
For life and love, and every joy
Within our being blent.
We thank Thee for Thy tender care
That guards us and defends,
And most of all, dear Lord, today
We thank Thee for our Friends.

FRANCES HELEN BRACE EMERSON
(Mrs. Prof. Joseph Emerson)
Author—Antoinette Kent, Beloit

Frances Helen Brace was born in Rochester, New York, September 11, 1838. Her father was Harvey Brace, her mother was Hanna Thompson, daughter of Mr. Thompson, the younger brother of Mrs. Joseph Flint Willard. Mrs. Emerson was closely associated with her kinswoman, Frances Elizabeth Willard. Mr. Harvey Brace settled just outside of Janesville on a farm in the town of Center where Mrs. Emerson passed her girlhood days. This was previous to the coming of the Willards—they came in 1846.

When Helen Brace was old enough to leave home she attended school at Philipps Union Seminary, Albion, New York, Baraboo Seminary, and Milwaukee Seminary. Her life was devoted to the study and teaching of Art and Literature. She was a teacher of Art and History in Milwaukee (Downer) College, in Gannet Institute, Boston and Professor of Art and Literature at Wellsley. When she married Professor Emerson in 1884, she brought with her a mind matured by age and experience coupled with classical thought and lofty ideals. She bent all her purpose to the organization of a real Art Hall for

Beloit College. In 1892 she succeeded in its organization. She spared no pains to accomplish this task. She interested men of means to give largely to this cause, men who had great love and loyalty to the College—notably Lucius G. Fisher, an alumnus of the College and son of the pioneer, Lucius Fisher.

As the founder of the Art Department she found the highest expression for her ideals.

The Art Gallery of Beloit College gathered by her care and discrimination bears testimony of her visions for the future.

June 15, 1913, the twenty-first anniversary of its founding was celebrated at the Commencement Exercises. Mrs. Emerson gave an extended address on that day, a detailed account of which may be found in the files of the Free Press of that date, June 16, 1913. It was at that time she mentioned many rare gifts of Art that had recently been given to the College. At this time was unveiled the bust of Dr. Horace White, the advance agent sent out to forward the New England Company in Beloit. He passed away early, a victim of his intense labors in caring for the sick of the new community and to his strenuous labors in its upbuilding. Mrs. Emerson stood for the excellence of classical study in College training.

After her marriage she made Beloit College the beneficiary of the treasures of her mind and heart. Early in the year 1920 she fell, passing away in August, 1920. Her husband had passed on several years previously. She was a person possessed of a calm dignity. To have been able to share the treasures of her mind was a rare privilege.