

Mary Hobbs was privileged to gather about her other able women who helped her to carry out her plan: Elizabeth A. White, Rhoda M. Worth, Mary E. M. Davis, Priscilla B. Hackney. And during the next sixteen years, more than three hundred worthy girls of limited means were aided by funds secured through subscriptions raised annually in the Yearly Meeting by this Committee on Girls' Aid. When accommodations became inadequate, New Garden Hall was built at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. As she who had never given up the struggle for its accomplishment looked upon it, she rejoiced in a way no words can tell. It was not just so much brick and mortar, but the realization of hopes and prayers and unceasing labor for a great cause. As Mary Hobbs drove about making speeches on Temperance, Peace, Sunday-School work, or on any other subject, she would never accept an invitation to speak unless she was allowed a few minutes to talk on the unpopular subject of the education of women. For thirty years she continued to strive with word and deed and pen, to help educate those who could not educate themselves.

If all the loves of Mary Hobbs had not been so deep, it might be said of her, that the higher education of women was the passion of her life. Certainly she had her most serious convictions on this subject; and it was largely because of her pioneer work in the interest of higher education for women in this State that the University of North Carolina conferred upon her, in nineteen and twenty-one, the Degree of Doctor of Literature.

In eighteen and eighty-nine, at Ashville, a little white-haired woman, who with her husband had opened Industrial Schools for mountain girls, came with an address to North Carolina State Woman's Christian Temperance Union Convention, pleading for Industrial Education for Girls throughout the State, and asking that Mary M. Hobbs be sent out to present the subject. Mary Hobbs heroically championed the cause; and the next year, when Frances Willard urged the Convention to take the matter by petition to the next Legislature, Mary Hobbs' touching appeals found