

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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AUTHORESS, ANNETTE NOBLE 1844-1932

Annette Lucille Noble was born on July 12, 1844, the daughter of Dr. William and Amelia Stiles Denio Noble. She attended the common schools and the Phipps Union Female Seminary in Albion from which she graduated in 1863. Miss Noble was stricken with polio at an early age which made it necessary for her to walk with a cane.

She began her writing career shortly after the Civil War. She first contributed to such publications as the Christian Union, Harpers Bazaar, Frank Leslies publications and the New York Graphic. Her first full length book entitled, Eleanor Willoughby was published in Boston in 1870. From this point on she wrote constantly and authored twenty-nine more books. One of her books, Uncle Jack's Execution, which drew upon her own childhood and family experience was in print for about 25 years. Many of her books were also translated into foreign languages. Her books held an appeal for younger readers but were also popular with adults. Most of her stories however, had their setting in foreign countries, the atmosphere of which she absorbed in her numerous trips abroad. In fact, Miss Noble made over thirty transatlantic trips. She would arrange for group tours and take parties of young women in particular, on these trips into foreign lands. She traveled extensively in Europe but also frequented Egypt, Palestine, and Syria. Her last trip was a somewhat perilous one as she was in Germany at the out-break of World War I in 1914. She and her companions had to make an evacuation ride on a train into Switzerland in short order. She reminisced years later, that it was one of the most thrilling adventures of her life.

She was always "the lady author" and demanded the greatest respect from all who knew her. She once explained in a forward in one of her books: "There are no murders in this book, no broken hearts, not even a villain, and readers who look for these had better look elsewhere."

Annette Noble died on Nov. 27, 1932 at the age



of 88 and was laid to rest in Mt. Albion Cemetery. Our portrait of her, we judge, may have been taken in the 1870's. The other picture shows her and one of her companions feeding pigeons in Italy on a trip in 1900. Miss Noble lived for many years on East Academy St. in Albion and left no survivors except a neice, Miss Daisy Watson, also of E. Academy St.