

years old. Her family were people of wealth and social importance. Her father's step-mother married the Rev. John Hancock of Lexington, the father of John Hancock who signed the Declaration of Independence. Mary Thaxter went often to the old Hancock House on Beacon Hill in her youth, and all her associations were uplifting. Mary Otis was named for her grandmother, and seems to me to have inherited many of her traits. Both had, Toryism apart, sound judgment and strong character. Miss Nabby Otis, one of George W. Otis's sisters, was a very accomplished woman: she was educated at the Derby Academy in Hingham, the great finishing school of the South Shore.

But, whatever the influences were, beyond the best schools that could be found, which matured the characters and imparted solid worth to the Otis sisters, certain it is that they were a most unusual group of women. One of the most striking traits in the whole family has been their united affection, and devotion to each other, without any distinction on account of the second marriage. Jane and James were as dear to the older ones as their full brothers and sisters, and George and Mary were as dear to them. There never was a breath of jealousy nor the slightest quarrel. Nor did any trying trait in the aged mother mar the sweet peace of the household. They never indulged in ill-natured gossip or scandal, and I think their personal dignity made them consider all sorts of small talk beneath them. No one could accuse them of spreading stories which had better be suppressed. They showed a rare discretion in their conversation, which was the more necessary, as they had known so

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