

promise, having composed the music of two operas and several songs, while still in his teens. The first of his songs was composed before he had studied a note of music. Mrs. Darling has all her life been in the social atmosphere of the great men and women closely associated with National affairs. Judge Black was one of the oldest and truest friends. President Pierce was one of her childhood friends, and his affection continued during his life. He visited her father after his election for President, and gave her a beautifully bound volume of the Constitution with the dedication, "To the child of my heart," and while President he gave her the nucleus of her first library, and corresponded regularly with her. Mrs. Darling has been a voluminous and successful writer. The following is a criticism on the "Social Diplomat," the most widely known and popular of her works, copied from the *New York Herald*. "A novel by Mrs. Flora Adams Darling is on our table, and is undeniably a work of rare merit. The plot interest and the style charms us. Dealing with people of refinement and wealth, endowed with the highest intellectual qualities, the story carries us from Washington to Europe, thence back to progressive America, and on the classic shores of the Hudson the closing scene in the drama is enacted. On the whole, the work is one of graceful and pleasant description of powerful shading of the most difficult of society picturing." The greatest achievement of her life was the founding of the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her first attempt towards founding patriotic societies was made in Washington, where she gathered a few ladies together and organized a small society, which she called the Daughters of the *American* Revolution, but a stubborn element of discord found lodgment there, and grew apace, necessitating a new organization. Under the advice of a friend she then directed her energies to bring out of the ruin something beautiful, and worthy the cause it was designed to commemorate. This last movement has proved so popular and widespread, that it has been organized on a basis broad enough to comprise all Americans of lineal Revolutionary descent, wherever they may be found. The aims and purposes of the Daughters of the Revolution as projected by Mrs. Darling are purely patriotic: to inculcate a love of American institutions and customs, to foster a reverence for American ancestry and history, and to collect in a museum all the Revolutionary relics that can be acquired. Mrs. Darling, in a paper entitled "American Aristocracy," says: "We want a broader conception of liberty, a loftier vision of duty, a grander appreciation of life, and a society like ours should be an educator, and by association lend an influence effectual and enduring. It is imperative and should be absolutely understood and enforced, if necessary, that in all social and official acts, members should avoid even the semblance of sectional feeling, or of political or religious partisanship, thereby the more effectually aiding to bring all descendants of the heroes of the Revolution together in this organization, whose watchword should be patriotism pure and unalloyed. Let our Society rest upon a comprehensive basis, and give true descendants of American patriots, be they rich or poor, a warm welcome to membership, but at the same time we should guard with care the right to be admitted, and investigate with caution the claim to accomplish the object we intend to perpetuate. We want the descendants of the men of 1776 to unite with us, and keep alive the traditions and facts that have made Americans famous; to foster pride in their children in the deeds of their ances-