

The  
**Wangeli Booth**  
Collection

**THOMAS R. MARSHALL**  
The Army's Champion and My Friend

The Salvation Army has lost a great champion and I am bereft of a noble friend. Like some lordly steamer whose mighty engines have ceased to pulsate, and whose powerful screw no longer turns as she glides easily to her moorings, so calmly, did Thomas Riley Marshall, one-time second officer of the Ship of State, pass out of the sight of men into the heavenly harbor.

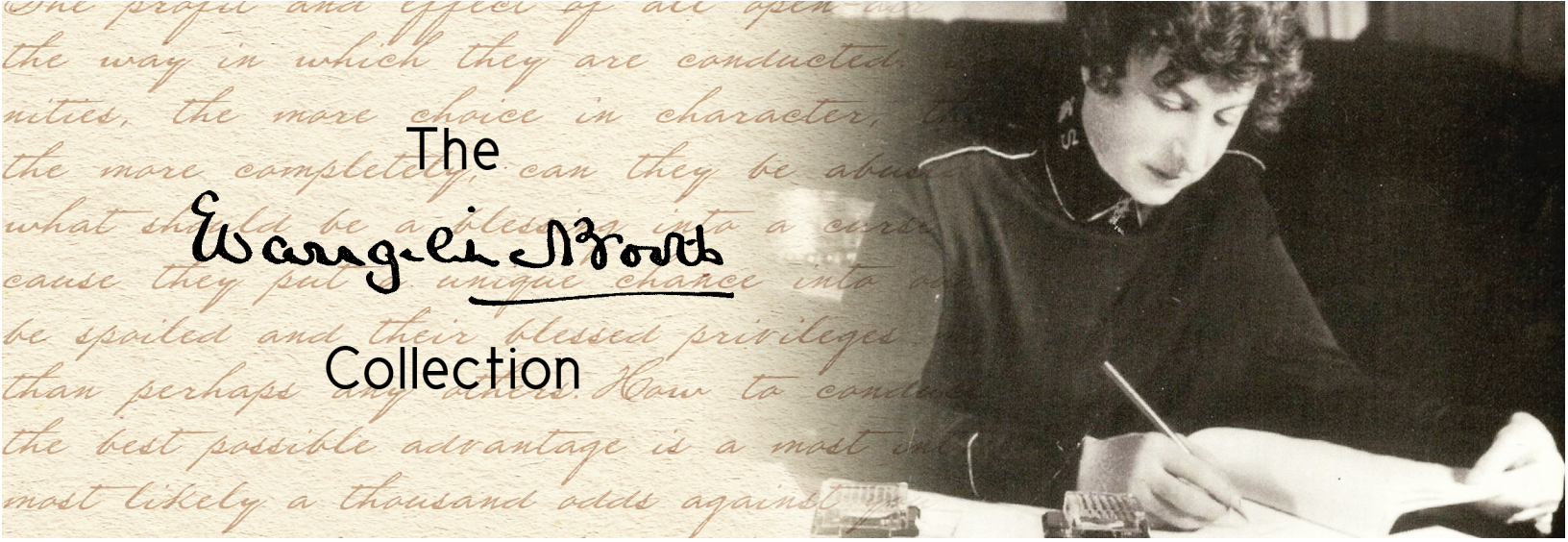
He had taken his breakfast and he was reading the fourth chapter of Mark, when he laid the Book aside and as easily as the passenger passes from the ship that has borne him across the stormy deep, so did his soul pass into the presence of the Lord.

For many years I have been privileged to know the man whose demise the whole nation mourns, Thomas Riley Marshall.

Others knew him better than I, but none had a more appreciative view of the sterling qualities that went to the making of his rugged and fearless character. He was about the most unpolitical politician that I have ever met. He stood forth positively incorruptible, absolutely impervious to the fear or the favor of men.

The great offices which he held so many years were much exalted by the spirit of the incumbent. His poise was as charming as his personality. At times he was subjected to great pressure to pursue another than his chosen course. With admirable wisdom and patience he would brush aside all objections and arguments and humorously declare his inflexible purpose to hold to his conviction whatever the consequences.

This strength of character was imparted rather than derived. Unquestionably he came of fine stock. His ancestors were among the nation's foremost men; but without in the least detracting from the glory of hereditary right, Thomas R. Marshall would be the very first to affirm that those elements in his choice character that made of him such a blessing to his nation and to individuals were attributable to the fact that he had committed his life to God and that intimate contact with Jesus Christ was entirely responsible for the strength and vision that inhered in his heart and life.



It was this that produced the spirit of humility which so signalized his conduct, for he was one of the most humble of men.

It so often happens that men of strong mind are self-assertive and opinion-proud, but not so with Mr. Marshall. He was as firm as a rock, yet as humble as a child, and these twin graces revealed in him have called forth my deepest admiration again and again when Mr. Marshall was altogether oblivious to the impressions that he was making upon me.

He had the ability to seize at once upon the heart of the matter under discussion. Others might approach to the same conclusion by devious ways; but he mentally leaped upon it with the sureness of a mountain goat leaping upon a certain craig.

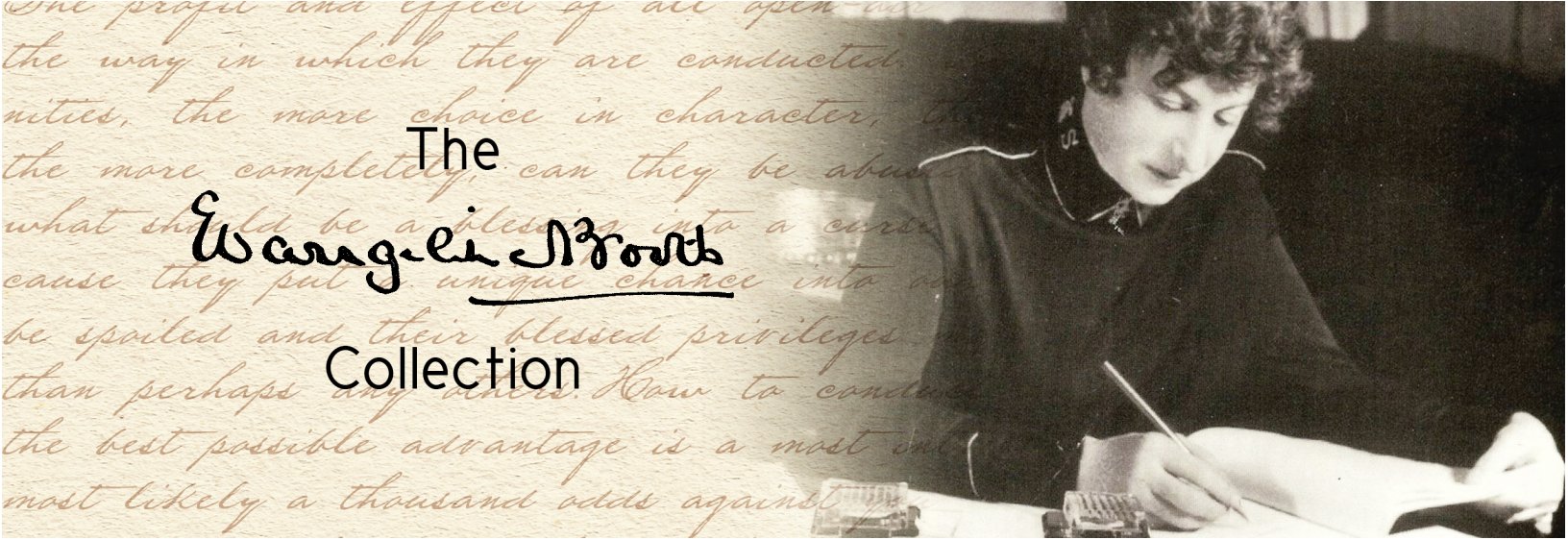
His generosity toward The Salvation Army was of the boundless type. When evaluating our work he was delighted to run to extremes. No word of praise was too high for him to speak whenever he referred to the Army. The man made this praise of greater worth simply because Thomas Marshall was never given to fulsome flattery. With great sincerity he would take up cudgels for our work, and no experienced Salvationist could have been a greater adept in the wielding of these than he. He was our foremost protagonist in the city of Washington, where we are fortunate in having such an array of fine men whose faith in the Army is of the same brand as was that of Mr. Marshall.

His loyalty to his Church was predicated upon his loyalty to Jesus Christ. Sometimes he would somewhat playfully say he was a better Presbyterian than a Christian, but that remark was the outcome of a gloriously exalted view of our Lord's life, and Mr. Marshall always felt that he had to press toward the mark for the prize of his high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

In this way it would be well for all of us to follow him as he followed Christ, and thus woo men to the Master.

Was it not meet that he should pass to the Gloryland with his gaze fixed upon that Lord as he contemplated the instructions given in the parable of the sower and heard the fiat, "With what





measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again?" Thus he pondered over his open Bible, when his life so suddenly and so gloriously closed its earthly span and was transferred to the unending service and the unfading beauty of the Father's House.

Let statesmen, politicians and lawyers speak of Thomas Marshall professionally, as they are so well able to do.

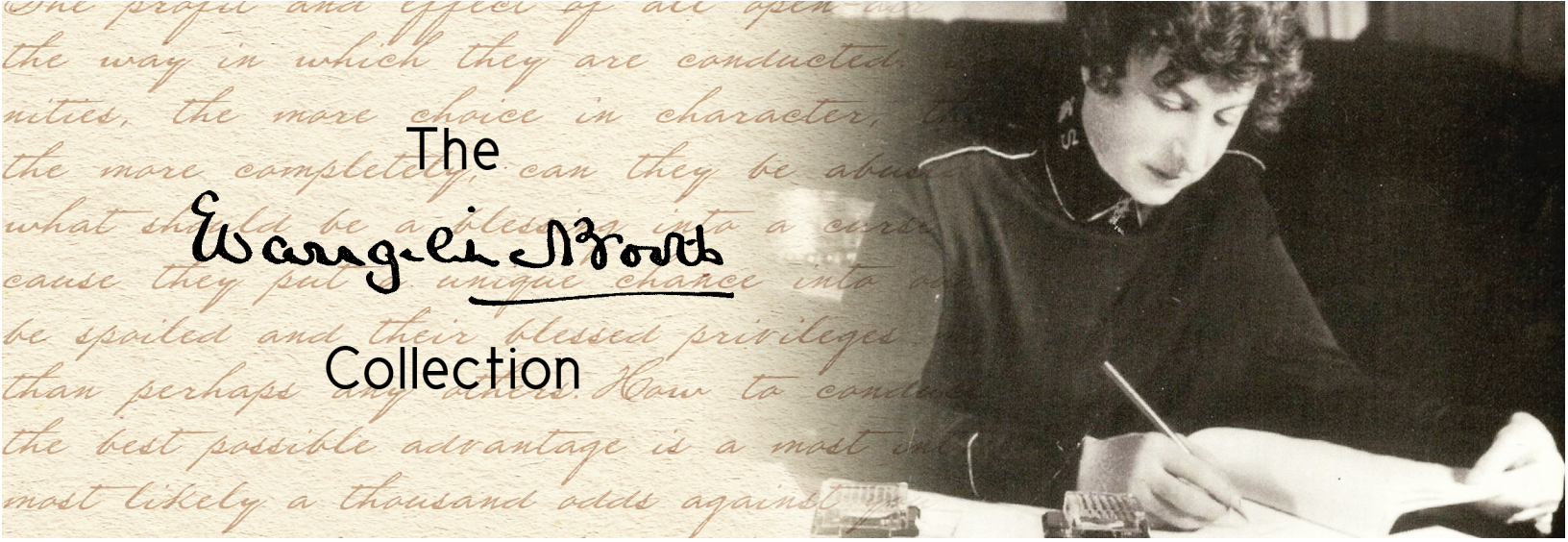
It is for me as the leader of The Salvation Army in America to witness to the fact that his friendship for our work was as a mountain peak. It stood out strong and certain. There was never any qualification or hesitancy in his position as our advocate and champion, and the measure of encouragement imparted is beyond recounting.

It is quite unnecessary that I should bespeak for dear Mrs. Marshall and the bereaved the tender sympathy of all Salvationists. This will be abundantly given and will find expression in earnest prayer that the God of all comfort to the needy in this hour of supreme sorrow. The reflection that Thomas R. Marshall lived so long and wrought so well, enriching all who have been touched by his great life, will in itself be a source of inspiration to multitudes.

When I, too, shall step on the shining strand there will be many loved faces that I shall eagerly look for, and among the first will be that of the former Vice-President, Thomas R. Marshall.

News of the late Mr. Marshall's death was received by the Commander while holding special meetings in San Francisco. Having known the former Vice-President as one of our staunchest friends for a great many years, our National Leader was greatly shocked by the announcement of his passing, and immediately sent the following message to Mrs. Marshall in Indianapolis, Ind."

"My heart is torn by the news of the swift passing of your beloved and wonderful husband. The nation has lost one of its bravest spirits and greatest contestants for the highest and best in all things. The Salvation Army has lost one of its truest and most courageous champions and I have lost one of my dearest friends. Thousands in our ranks will be praying that you shall be comforted



by Divine consolation. Remember, your husband has gone to a great reward which you will share in a reunion perpetual."

COMMANDER EVANGELINE BOOTH.  
(June 20, 1925)