

THE LAW STUDENT'S HELPER.



MARILLA M. RICKER, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. Marilla M. Ricker, formerly of Dover, N. H., and now of Washington, D. C., was admitted to the bar of the District in May, 1882, after four years study in a law office. On May 11, 1891, she was admitted to practise before the Supreme Court of the United States, being one of ten women who have applied and been admitted to that court. The chairman of the committee appointed by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to examine candidates for admission to the bar certified that she "passed an unusually creditable examination." She has been engaged in some important cases, among them the famous Star Route trial, where she represented Dorsey, one of the defendants, and in a test case as to whether a barber could keep open shop on Sunday. She was appointed commissioner and examiner in chancery by the Supreme Court of the district, and several cases were heard before her. She has made a specialty of criminal law and has been known as "the prisoners' friend," having taken special interest in the defense of criminal cases.

She has taken quite an active part in political contests, having done valuable campaign work in Iowa for the Republican party, and also in her native State of New Hampshire.

She opened the bar in New Hampshire to women, and was the first woman, it is said, who ever tried to vote, having offered her ballot at Dover, N. H. twenty-two years ago. She is not obliged to earn her own living, being a woman of wealth, and we have understood that during her entire career she never accepted a retainer or a fee. She has been an active worker in the interests of the State of New Hampshire and was among those most concerned in the investigation of the State Prison Management some years ago.