



Mrs. William A. Cheatham.

the nation's capital. In this move she left Belmont as her main domicile and also separated from her husband of eighteen years, Dr. Cheatham, who must now live in the City of Nashville. She cut further ties with Nashville by selling to Lewis T. Baxter, in January, 1887, Belmont Mansion and its grounds, which had grown to 78 acres, for \$54,000. She also sold Baxter three other tracts, including the four-acre tract, the Montvale Farm of 104 acres, and an adjacent piece of 55 acres, for \$5,000, besides additional parcels to the north for \$49,000. She retained from her earlier properties only the house on Cherry Street.

In Washington Adelia assumed a prominent role in the society of that city. She began to build a home at 1776 Massachusetts Avenue. While the house was still uncompleted but with plans to occupy it in the fall of 1887, she traveled with her daughter, Pauline, to New York City to purchase furnishings for it. Because of the inclement weather, she became ill and about ten days later on May 4, 1887, died from pneumonia. Her death was in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where she had stayed on

her return from Europe. After her funeral in the First Presbyterian Church of Nashville, she was buried in a handsome Gothic family mausoleum in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, south of the Confederate Circle. She had contracted for its completion in 1884 at a cost of \$11,000 and requested that her first two husbands and deceased children be buried in it. Besides these husbands, the remains of the four Franklin children, five of the six Acklen children, William excepted, and a grandchild, Pauline Lockett Kaiser, are buried with her.

Except for the removal of some valuable statuary and paintings by Pauline to the new house in Washington, Belmont Mansion remained largely furnished as it had been for about a year after Adelia's death. On May 29 and 30, 1888, the heirs conducted a sale of the household items as well as a number of pieces of art. The *Nashville Daily American* listed in detail many of the items sold with name of purchaser and price. Some items went at bargain prices. With the sale of the mansion and the death of its mistress of many years, an era had ended.



One of the outstanding features of the home are the two staircases. The grand staircase leads to the bedroom on the upstairs level and from its top one gains a panoramic view of the grand salon. Above the grand staircase, but in reverse order, is a smaller free-standing staircase which leads to the cupola. The stairs of the latter are divided at the base but meet to form an arch.