

## MADAMS OF THE WHITEHOUSE

Some of the Presidents' Wives Known in History.

## Personal Appearance of Charming American Women Who Have Ruled in Washington.

Of the mistresses of the White House one of the most popular was Mrs. James K. Polk. Like Mrs. Cleveland, she was a brunette, and of fine presence; it was often remarked that not a crowned head in Europe could queen it more royally than the wife of the republican president. Poets penned verses in her honor, and on the last Sunday of her stay in Washington a clergyman addressed her from the pulpit. She was treated with great distinction, and after leaving the White House was visited every New Year's day by the legislature in a body.

Mrs. George Washington also had dark hazel eyes and brown hair. She was not a beauty, but she had a good form, rather below middle weight, and her manners were frank and engaging. She dressed plainly, and at a ball given in her honor she wore a simple russet gown and white handkerchief about her neck. One of her dresses, which she herself manufactured, was of cotton, striped with silk, which she obtained from ravelings of brown silk stockings and old crimson chair covers.

Mrs. Monroe was considered a beauty. She was tall and graciously formed, polished and attractive in society. Mrs. John Adams was never beautiful, but she was of imposing appearance and very intellectual.

Mrs. John Quincy Adams was famed for her charming manners, and Mrs. Andrew Jackson for her amiable temper and kind heart. Mrs. Martin Van Buren, who died before her husband became president, was a pretty woman, with modest, unassuming manners and gentle disposition.

The first Mrs. Tyler was one of the belles of Eastern Virginia, and was most attractive in her striking loveliness of person and character. The second Mrs. Tyler was the first woman to marry a president. Before her marriage she was, for the one season she spent there, the belle of Washington.

A sparkling brunette was Mrs. William Henry Harrison. She was very handsome, with a face full of animation, and her health, which was robust, added a glow to her features, which increased her charms. "Upon her countenance," it is recorded, "nature had been profusely liberal."

Mrs. Thomas Jefferson was remarkable for her beauty. Her complexion was brilliant; her large, expressive eyes of "the richest tinge of auburn." A little above medium height, she was slightly and delicately formed. She danced, sang, played the spinnet and harpsichord and rode with great skill.

Mrs. James Madison was a pretty, buxom woman, with a smile and a pleasant word for everyone. She had regular features and sparkling eyes.

Mrs. Zachary Taylor was a quiet woman, but had great strength of character and the true spirit of the American heroine, enduring patiently privation incident to life on the frontier, where her husband, as Maj. Taylor, was stationed. She had no ambition beyond making her home happy.

A blond of rare beauty was Mrs. Millard Fillmore, with a skin of dazzling whiteness and auburn hair. She was quite tall, with a fine figure and of commanding presence. She is ranked with the wives of the two Adamses as a learned woman, and it was through her that her husband asked for and obtained an appropriation of congress to buy books for the White House. Up to that time there had been a Bible there, and little more.

Another woman of rare beauty was Mrs. Franklin Pierce. She also had many accomplishments. She was very refined and quiet, shunning society.

Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, as a girl was very attractive and she had many suitors. When she became the mistress of the White House she was "fair and forty." That she was the successor of the popular and accomplished Miss Lane was not a point in her favor. At the first levee she appeared in pink silk, décolleté, short-sleeved dress and a floral headdress, which ran down to her waist and destroyed what comeliness simplicity might have given her.

Mrs. Andrew Jackson possessed the beauty of face and form which rendered her mother one of the most beautiful of women. Mrs. Grant was a blond of delicate figure, rather below middle stature. Mrs. Hayes was of very attractive appearance. Mrs. Garfield was

noted for her tact, and her husband once said that he never had to explain away any words of his wife.

Mrs. Arthur, who died before her husband became president, was known as "the beautiful Miss Herndon with the marvelous voice" before her marriage. Mrs. Harrison was fair as a girl and possessed the blond style of beauty, which also belongs to Mrs. McKinley. —N. Y. Sun.

## Plague Superstition.

Bombay, which is now being scourged by the plague, is considered the finest modern city in Asia. It has street railroads, electric lighting and all other practical illustrations of science necessary to modern life, and in addition retains most of its native character and picturesqueness. At dawn women of the lowest caste, robed in the clinging, graceful sari, carry on their heads vessels of new milk to the market, and at sunset wealthy Parsee women, in the soft silks and rich embroideries, gather under the trees by the sea and chatter softly in their liquid tones, says the New York Tribune.

The Hindoos are deeply religious and superstitious, and in some sections of India they attribute the plague to a Yogi who became incensed at the refusal of a request, and called down a curse every year for seven years upon the city. Three of these curses, they say, have fallen. By the fire of 1892 half the city was destroyed. It was scourged by the cholera, and now the plague has come. More than seven years have elapsed, it is true, since the prediction, but a trifle like that does not disturb a believer's faith.

## How Chinese Use the Bible.

"What becomes of all the Bibles that go to China?" used to be standing puzzle to the missionaries," remarked a Chicago preacher as he discussed the Bibles.

"A few years ago," he continued, "there went up a great cry for 'missionary Bibles' in the Flowery Kingdom. The Bible society was extremely gratified. The demand was unprecedented and thousands of dollars were spent in sending them nice red morocco Testaments."

"This sort of thing went on for a long time, but the number of native converts did not increase accordingly. The missionaries investigated. What do you suppose they discovered?"

"That they used the Bibles for gunwadding?"

"No. They made firecrackers of 'em. Practically all the nicely printed Bibles that we were sending over there were rolled up in nice little rolls, a page at a time, and made into firecrackers. The Chinese make firecrackers at home, for an incredibly low price, and the paper that they were getting free cut a considerable figure with them. But it taught us a celestial lesson, as I might say." —Ex.

## English Girls Neglected.

The unequal distribution of the sexes in various parts of the British empire is attracting a good deal of public attention just now. In one district of Australia there are 200,000 more young men than girls, and yet in Devonshire, Suffolk and Sussex, in England, the girls are as largely in the majority. It is the opinion of the writer in a London periodical that a paternal government should dump the required 200,000 young persons, or at least those who were willing to risk the adventure, down on the shores of the antipodes. For certainly it must come to this: "Every year the British empire goes on expanding," he says, "every year more and more of our boys leave these shores practically never to return, while their sisters remain behind in the old country, where their youth, their beauty and their enthusiasm go for nothing, and they gradually fall, like last year's leaves, by the wayside. For my part, I never go to a fête where many pretty young English girls congregate, fetes like Henley or the Eton and Harrow match, without feeling a pang of regret at our prodigal wastage of so many healthy young lives. What becomes of them? Where do they finally drift to, these pink young creatures in the straw hats and blue ribbons? We do not give them the best of all good gifts, the capacity to earn their living. Their part is to wait, to smile a feminine, acquiescent smile, until the smile becomes a little forced, and a new generation of pieces—pink, straw-hatted and beribboned—appears to take their places."

## Rush Your Orders.

In anticipation of the close of navigation on the Yukon river and tributary lakes, the White Pass & Yukon has issued circulars that through tickets will not be sold nor through bills of lading issued from the Sound or British Columbia to Dawson or Atlin after September 1. This is because the road does not care to accept the responsibility of getting passengers or freight through after that date. However, business will be accepted as usual on local

charges, and forwarded as best as possible under the existing conditions at that time on the rivers and lakes.

The lakes and rivers, it was said by one of the traffic men yesterday, may not freeze before late in October, and probably there would be six weeks more of navigation than contemplated by the date of cancellation. However, says the Alaskan, there is nothing sure, and the common opinion on the outside and among traffic men is that now is the time to rush freight to the interior by the Skagway route. In fact, a great deal of freight is now moving through the port.

The circulars just issued by the W. P. & Y. R. R. contain the following: "Taking effect September 1, 1900, W. P. & Y. R. through freight rates from British Columbia and Puget sound ports to Dawson, Y. T., and Atlin, B. C., will be cancelled."

"Shipments of freight covered by above tariffs must be delivered to steamers departing from British Columbia and Puget sound ports prior to that date."

## Self-Sacrifice.

Gertrude—"You're not" going to marry him after he kissed Alice?"

May—"O, yes; the poor, lonely thing. I know he did it in to please her, knowing she is a friend of mine. Philadelphia North American."

## Once Removed.

"Are you a son of the American revolution?"

"No; I'm a son-in-law."

"How's that?"

"O, one of the Daughters of the American Revolution swooped down on me and married me." —Indianapolis Journal.

## Sounds the Death Tattoo.

There was no death tattoo beaten at Cortachy castle when the late Earl of Airlie passed away and the fact is remembered as the only instance in the history of the family upon which the spectral drummer omitted that ceremony.

The story of his unremitting attentions to the members of this household is a weird one. In by gone days there was a drummer who drummed for the "Bonny House of Airlie." The wretched player offended the earl of those days and was tied up in his own drum and flung from a high tower. After vainly pleading for his life the poor little drummer threatened that his ghost should haunt the family forever and ever, says a foreign exchange.

Legend has it that generation after generation the dead drummer has sounded the last post for Earl and Countess of Airlie, and the roll of his drum has through the long centuries blanched the faces of many inmates of Cortachy castle.

In 1845 a visitor at Cortachy was dressing for dinner. A tattoo was beaten beneath her window. The lady listened in surprise, for as far as she knew there were no handmen at the castle. Going down to dinner she said to her host:

"Who is it that plays the drum so skillfully outside the castle?"

The earl turned pale and shivered. The countess could not hide her fear. The face of every Olgilvy at the table was deadly white. Within a week the countess lay in her shroud. The drummer was the specter of Cortachy castle.

When the father of the Earl of Airlie who fell in South Africa died it is said that the drummer did not sound his drum. It may be true. Perhaps he has

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Our circulation is general; we cater to no class—unless it be the one that demands a live, unprejudiced and readable newspaper.

not beaten it on this occasion. But the countryside will not be denied their ghost, and it may be that we shall soon hear that the spectral drum was heard at Cortachy, the day before the gallant cavalier fell in South Africa.

It might pay you to drop in and see the new stock of drugs, stationery and sundries at the Pioneer Drug Store.

Table d'hôte dinners. The Holborn.

Prices reduced. Shirts now 50c, collars 15c, cuffs, per pair, 25c. Cascade Laundry.

The warmest and most comfortable hotel in Dawson is at the Regina.

Shindler has bicycle sundries; wood rims, inner tubes, ball bearings, spokes,

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Best Canadian rye at the Regina.

The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.

Notice.

J. L. Sale & Co., the jewelers, have moved their main store to the Aurora building opposite Aurora dock. cit

Same old price, 25 cents, for drink, at the Regina.

REMOVAL SALE DE  
Millinery and fancy Goods.

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