

Written for the LADIES' PICTORIAL WEEKLY.

The British Legation.

Sir Julian Pauncefote and Lady Pauncefote's Life at the United States Capital.

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(Bessie Beech)

During a residence of more than twenty years in Washington, and noting the changes in Diplomatic circles, no foreign minister

has, for my observation been more popular than Sir Julian Pauncefote, Minister from Great Britain.

Possessed of the most genial and gracious personality, Sir Julian wins admiration in all circles. His extensive acquaintance with foreign powers, travel and contact with court life in many countries, gives him ease and dignity, as well as a ready appreciation of every phase of our life at the capital of the United States.

His numberless titles and honors have not hedged him about with the exclusiveness some court representatives seem to enjoy.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, G.C.M.G., C.B., was born in 1828, partly educated on the Continent, and seemed destined originally for the Indian Army. He had received a cadetship in the Madris Light Infantry, when, for family reasons he gave up his appointment, entered at the Inner Temple, was "called in 1852, and joined the Oxford Circuit. For a time he filled the office of private Secretary in the Colonial Office to the late Sir William Molesworth, Bart., Secretary of State for the Colonies. On the death of the Colonial Minister he returned to the bar. In 1862 he was induced to proceed to Hong Kong where he had an extensive practice, and in 1865 he became Attorney General.

His works, especially the code of "Civil Procedure," is one of the most complete and valuable ever published. In 1872 he was appointed, and accepted the Chief Justiceship of the Leeward Island.

In 1874 on his return to England the dignity of Knighthood was conferred on him; and by a vacancy in the Colonial office, he was appointed by the Earl of Carnarvon as Legal Assister Under Secretary of State, and finally promoted to the Foreign Office by Lord Derby, who was Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

He was selected by Earl Granville to represent England as first delegate on the Suez Canal International Commission, and in recognition of his valuable service to the Queen, on the recommendation of the Marquis of Salisbury, conferred the distinction of Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; and later he was created K.C.B.

Without naming half the positions of honor and trust this distinguished diplomat has enjoyed, it is safe to assume that his training and experience has eminently fitted him for the duties of the high office he now holds. Indeed, this noble Briton has set an example in our capital city which may well be emulated by untitled officials.

Almost every day during the season one may see Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote walking on the beautiful avenues of Washington; and even going long distances to the suburban portions of the city. One may see them, too, making calls without a carriage, both bright and sparkling with healthy and sensible exercise.

The Misses Pauncefote are all extremely fond of walking and equally fond of driving, fond of good generous open air tonics; and sensible enough to walk, if they choose, accompanied by the handsome dogs of which they are very proud.

Lady Pauncefote, the youthful matron of this distinguished household, is a charming and genial hostess with sweet winning sim-

licity and gentle dignity of manner. She is fair with fine blue eyes, and is still youthful in appearance.

The eldest daughter, Miss Maude Pauncefote, is a highly cultured young lady and has traveled extensively. She is fond of her brushes, and her mornings are usually devoted to painting and etching. Long walks and drives, calls and receptions occupy the afternoons.

Miss Violet Sibyl Pauncefote, the second daughter, has only recently been introduced into society. She is a lovely young lady, devoted to out of door sports, and is a picture of perfect health.

Miss Lilian, the third daughter, is a fine type of a vigorous

The footmen of the Legation were detailed to the duty of seating the guests, and at least four hundred were comfortably seated in the ball-room. The doors leading to the dining-room were thrown open and late-comers were accommodated with good seats. When at four o'clock the blinds of the beautiful crimson and gold ball-room were drawn up, a flood of warm, bright sunshine fell on an elegantly attired throng of society people.

At this concert, Mdlle. Marie Decca, the famous American songstress delighted the guests with her exquisite vocalization. So perfect was the blending of melody with the rare intonation and bird-like passages reaching to F natural, one listening, could scarcely realize how far into the almost unattainable realm of song this gifted artist carried them.

The British Legation is well arranged, and admirably adapted for entertaining almost as many guests as the executive mansion. It is located on Connecticut avenue near a spacious park, in the vicinity of many elegant residences in the fashionable "West End."

Sir Julian's plan of social entertainment varies somewhat from that of the former British ministers. For this season they had arranged a series of dinner parties, one each week, thus during the season entertaining a great many guests. A ball every two weeks, with guests selected with reference to their congeniality, was another part of the official program, now sadly changed by the death of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale.

Last year the ball given by Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote at the close of the season to the Diplomats, and officials of our government, was one of the most select and brilliant events in court circles. Between four and five hundred guests were present. The spacious ball room, drawing and dining rooms, afforded ample space for dancing and promenade. At no time was there a crowd, one of the contingencies Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote are careful to avoid. The decoration, the legal ensignia of the various diplomatic crops, the superb toilets and rare jewels worn by the ladies, made one of the most enchanting pictures of the many brilliant scenes at the Legation. The dining room with its wealth of plate, cut glass and rare china, abounded with every delicacy attainable. Another marked feature in this court circle is the warmth of greeting one receives. Sir Julian seems specially a favorite with young gentlemen, and his manner towards them is social and entertaining.

In this, I do not mean that to the favored few, and these in diplomatic circles, but to any courteous gentleman who has business with the legation; Sir Julian's manner has the soul and heart of true royalty, felt and appreciated by his American cousins.

In our great republic of untitled nobility, as well as in the kingdoms of courtly and queenly rank, people of assured social and intellectual position do not have to assume *anything*. They possess what others who cannot claim either position or intellect, have to *assume* to possess.

Good breeding cannot be purchased, it comes by inheritance, and no matter what one's garb may be, or what reverses have been experienced, the gentle air of refinement, the sweet dignity of good breeding is always the royal ensignia of true greatness.

All through the Behring Sea negotiation, Sir Julian Pauncefote has maintained the same uniform consideration and ability which has given him fame as a distinguished diplomat.

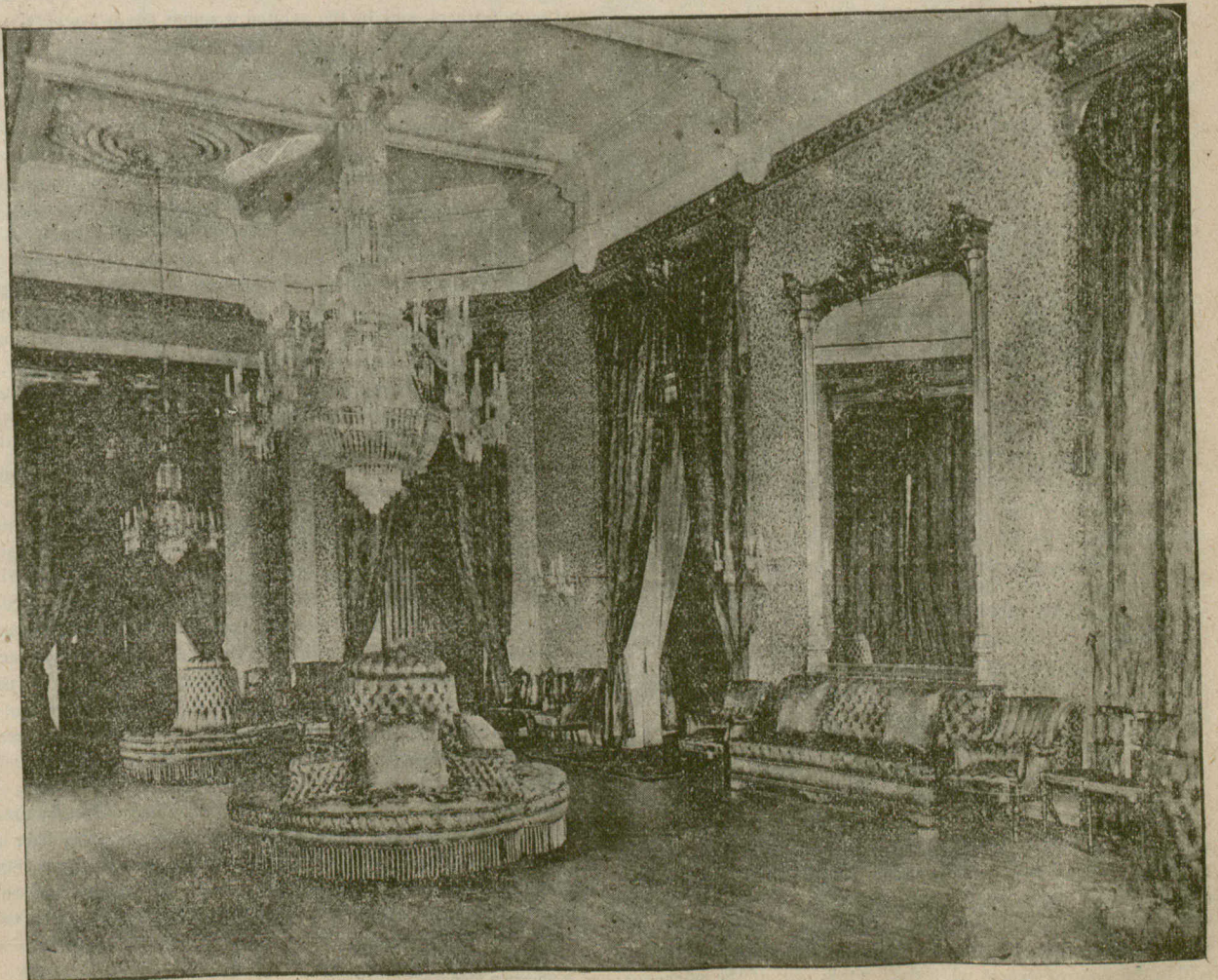
FRANK R. STOCKTON sails this week to be absent four or five months in England and Scotland. With the exception of a brief visit to Paris, Mr. Stockton will do no Continental travel, his main object being to see English rural life. While absent Mr. Stockton will work on his play for the Independent Theater in New York, but aside from this will do no literary work.



BRITISH LEGATION AT WASHINGTON.

English girl, with very dark eyes and hair, with her father's characteristics. The youngest, a fair-haired little maiden of thirteen summers is enthusiastic in her admiration of Washington, as she is of her music. Her heart is no doubt even yet touched by the sight of the handsome goat turnouts seen here, for she used to drive a team of goats in the parks of London.

Since Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote became residents of Washington, they have identified themselves with many philanthropic interests, prominent among which was their proffering the ball-room of the British Legation for a concert in aid of the Woman's Hospital and Dispensary during the Lenten season. Sir Julian and Lady Pauncefote after greeting their friends, sat with the family just outside the ball-room where they enjoyed the rare musical selections.



RECEPTION ROOM.