

Four Prominent Fort Dodge Society Girl's



Noted Woman Spy--- Served Country Well

Miss Elizabeth L. Van Lew, the noted union spy, who kept General Grant so well posted during the war in regard to the movements and plans of the confederates, died at 4 a. m. September 25, after an heroic struggle of two years against illness. She died at her quaint old mansion on Church hill, Richmond, Va.

Miss Van Lew was the daughter of John Van Lew, a New Yorker of Dutch descent, who married Elizabeth Baker, a daughter of Hilliard Baker, mayor of Philadelphia, who died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1798. Her father prospered after locating in Richmond. His family was received in polite society and the wit and beauty of his eldest daughter made her a belle even in the cavalier society and sentiment of that time and place. But she never married. In the light of active events it might not be disbelieved that some romance or disappointment in earlier years embittered her. For when the civil war commenced she took a pronounced stand against the south and the cause her Virginia companions espoused. She remained in Richmond and spied upon the confederacy and all its agents, civil and military, and such was her intelligence and acumen that she found means to communicate with the federal army during the years it thundered at the gates of the confederate capital. In this capacity she rendered the north services exceeding in value those of any woman in the south.

When Grant hovered about Richmond Miss Van Lew was in constant communi-

cation with him. Flowers cut in her garden in the morning found their way to Grant's table at City Point before night-fall. The Van Lews owned a farm below Richmond. Thither would go servants, who, by reason of their humble station, passed the guards unsuspected. Yet these carried, usually in the soles of their shoes, missives of great importance to the enemy.

During the war the old residence harbored many a federal prisoner of war. Miss Van Lew was constantly in communication with Libby prison and helped in the escape of prisoners, hiding them, as well as their horses, at her home until opportunity presented itself for them to get out of the city. She aided in the escape of Colonel Straight, the noted raider, who, together with 1,800 men, was captured by Forrest and confined in Libby prison. Colonel Straight bored his way out of the prison with implements provided for him by Miss Van Lew. He was afterward concealed at her home until he finally found a chance to get through the confederate cordon.

The one incident with which Miss Van Lew's name is most notably linked is that of the removal of the body of Colonel Ulrich Dahlgren, a son of Admiral Dahlgren, who, while in command of a raiding party, was killed in King and Queen county. The body was brought to Richmond and was buried in Oakwood cemetery in the section set apart as a burial place for federal soldiers. Admiral Dahlgren upon learning of

late of his son, wrote to President Davis from Fort Monroe begging the return of the body, but when the grave was opened it was found the body had been removed. President Davis had to inform Admiral Dahlgren of the disappearance. The admiral and his people, knowing the intense feeling against his son, did not believe the body had ever been buried, but had been cast into the river. A few weeks later Miss Van Lew wrote him a letter that explained the situation and relieved his anxiety.

Miss Van Lew planned the enterprise which resulted in the removal of Dahlgren's body, though it was not known till the close of the war. Between the time of burial and Admiral Dahlgren's request the body was taken from its resting place, conveyed through the lines and interred near Hungary station.

When the war was over and General Grant had been made president, one of his first acts was to appoint Miss Van Lew postmaster at Richmond—March 19, 1869, fifteen days after his inauguration. Four years later he reappointed her, but she went out of office at the end of her second term. President Hayes, yielding to the importunities of politicians, and appointing Colonel W. W. Forbes, who succeeded her. After remaining out of office for a while Miss Van Lew secured a departmental appointment at Washington, which she held until the first Cleveland administration, when she was reassigned. This caused her to resign.

Afterward Miss Van Lew again made her home in Richmond and, with her most of the time, a niece, also named Elizabeth Van Lew, who died a few months ago.

"Star-Eyed Egyptians"

The condition of the women in Egypt has greatly changed since the old days when Cleopatra reigned supreme upon the Nile and had the whole world at her feet. Miss Carrie Buchanan, a missionary of seven years' experience, testifies that woman's lot is, perhaps, the most deplorable feature of the country. "They are rated below brutes," she says. "A man might speak of his domestic animals, but to mention his wife's name in public is a breach of etiquette in its worst form. If it does happen that by a slip of the tongue the wife's name is spoken the husband spits on the ground immediately afterward, to show his contempt and cleanse his mouth."

"Most of the people in Egypt," says Mrs. Buchanan, "are of the Mohammedan faith, and are yet controlled in a large measure by the ruling hand of the Turkish empire." She says it is the religion that has caused numerous uprisings in Egypt and that the spirit of the Mohammedan faith is responsible for the riotous and unruly "Boxer" element in China.

"But Egypt is facing a brighter future, and with the 196 schools flourishing, with an enrollment of 29,000, 4,000 of which are girls, there is ample ground for encouragement. Many of the wealthy Egyptians and those of higher classes are now desirous of bringing their daughters up in the style of the American women and are sending them to the mission schools for American education."

"One of the greatest hindrances the missionaries experience is the lack of home life and influences, which form a foundation on which to build character. When a woman enters into the matrimonial contract under the Mohammedan law she practically enters upon a life's imprisonment. A small percentage of the population that is not Mohammedan is less strict in imposing matrimonial obligations, and a wife may leave the house five years after the marriage ceremony, providing there has been no death in the family. Each death adds one year to a wife's exclusive domestic duties, and so many members of the same family live under the same roof that unless

health is extraordinarily good chances are very meager that the wife will get an outing until the last rites are said over her body. This condition has eliminated all that is implied by the word home."

Told Out of Court

The opinion in an early Maryland case "acknowledges the corn" by saying that something referred to was "at a former sitting when the court was full."

"I tell you, sir," explained the lawyer, "I lost that case solely because of the despicable trick played on me by the opposing counsel. He led me to believe he was going to make a long-winded argument, and after I had talked for six hours he earned the eternal gratitude of the jury by closing with a fifteen-minute speech."

The recent case of Skipwith against Hart was an action by a county judge on a county treasurer's bond. The county treasurer was Skipwith, who skipped with the funds, and the county judge, who was Hart, brought the action.

This anecdote of the famous Judge Martin Grover of the New York court of appeals is related by Case and Comment. An attorney, deliberately opening his case in the court of appeals, made an unusually

long pause, after announcing that it was an appeal from the general term of the * * * department, the judges of which were then regarded as very weak, whereupon Judge Grover broke in and said: "Proceed, Mr. * * * your first point seems to be well taken."

Expressing his opinion of the court often seems to give a defeated attorney permanent relief. Some compliments to the bench are given below. One writes concerning an adverse decision: "The case is a legal curiosity, and seems to have been decided by main force." Another, who had been overthrown in a highway case, writes of the court: "They do not know a highway even when they stumble over it." Some ask us to overrule and chastise the court. One writes: "It will be of great benefit to the profession that this case be thoroughly aired and the fallacy and danger of it in its far reaching results exposed." Another very prominent lawyer says: "The opinion of our court is a school boy blunder, deserving of nothing but scathing rebuke, and a review of it should run in that line." But the most seductive suggestion comes in this form: "I should be very willing to pay for such a criticism of the decision as is herein above indicated by me." This recalls the Quaker chasing his hat in the wind, who fired an urchin to curse it.



MISS ALICE BROOKS—QUEEN OF THE FLOWER PARADE AT LINCOLN, Neb.



MISS UTIE MCKAY—QUEEN OF FLOWER CARNIVAL, MISSOURI VALLEY, Ia.—Photo by W. O. Reed.