



WOMEN WHO COUNT

This department is devoted to the women who are doing things worth while, who count for something in the world's progress—it may be in the humblest way. If you know of any woman whose example has helped you, or might be an incentive to others, send in a brief account of her and what she has done. From two to five dollars will be paid for every item accepted, and one dollar for each photograph used. Address WOMEN WHO COUNT BUREAU, Room 1263, Fifth Avenue Building, New York.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt

WHILE THE Chicago Auditorium was roaring with the applause of shouting delegates and bellowing galleries, a quietly-dressed, dark-eyed lady rose in her box and, with just a hint of embarrassment, and a feminine graciousness that was wholly winning, bowed her thanks to the first Progressive National Convention. A friend said at the time:

"That is the most conspicuous thing Mrs. Roosevelt has ever done."

It was quite true. Since the first day of her married life, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt has been the wife of a public man; for the greater part of that time she has been the wife of the most conspicuous American; and she was with her husband, when, for a few weeks, he was the most conspicuous person in Europe as well. Yet, she has kept inviolate the privacy of her own life and of her home to a degree that few women with distinguished husbands have ever attained.

The explanation lies deep in the character of the woman herself. First of all, she shuns public notice, not from belief, but from deep and genuine feeling. She does not proclaim whether or not Woman's Place is in the Home—but she makes it very clear where she believes her own place is. She does not discountenance women's clubs; but she has never entered the circle of club women. She once refused to become president-general of the Daughters of the American Revolution when that office was offered to her, and it is said that the only woman's organization with which she has been closely affiliated is the Mothers' Association.

Yet, her own choice of privacy would help her but little, in the great crush of public importunity by which she lives surrounded, were it not that she has also a gift that amounts almost to genius for quietly, delicately and unmistakably getting her own way in matters in which she is interested. She handles a difficult situation, not by making an escape, but by giving it just the deft turn that makes an occasion seem a bit more charming still.

For instance, when her husband was elected Governor of New York, her friends told her that she would "have to" shake hands with the crowd of guests who would march up in line at the Governor's reception. Mrs. Roosevelt said she would have to do nothing of the sort, and she was warned at



Photo by Underwood & Underwood  
Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt at the Progressive Convention in Chicago

length against offending her husband's political friends by any such apparent impoliteness. When the occasion arrived, however, the Governor received his guests, and his wife stood beside him as she was expected to do. But her arms were filled with a great sheaf of red roses. No one, of course, tried to shake her hand, and certainly no one felt slighted by the smiling and gracious greeting of the Governor's lady.

Before her marriage Mrs. Roosevelt was Miss Edith Kermit Carow. Her father was Charles Carow, a wealthy New York merchant, of Welsh and Huguenot descent. She has had five children: Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Kermit, Ethel, Archibald and Quentin, and has filled the place of a mother for Alice, her husband's daughter by his first marriage.

She is a good horse-woman and rides frequently with her husband, though she does not care for other outdoor sports except as they interest her children. The dexterity and grace with which she arranged the social life of the White House during her husband's long occupancy are well remembered. It is well remembered, too, how he and she traveled together over the route of their wedding journey through Italy and Switzerland when they were reunited after the ex-President's return from his African hunting.—Joseph Boardman, Jr.

Mrs. William H. Taft

A fine comradeship exists between the President and Mrs. Taft. She shares all his interests, and is a capable adviser in political matters. In appearance Mrs. Taft is tall, with dark brown hair touched with gray; and there is about her an air of dignity, which, coupled with remarkable self-control, is apt to give one the impression of a nature cold and reserved; yet, to her friends she is a sensitive and sympathetic woman.

Apart from the interest she takes in her husband's pursuits, Mrs. Taft's most absorbing interest is music, in which she is very proficient. For eight years, Mrs. Taft was president of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and the organizer of their annual May Festival. When Mrs. Taft came to the White House as the wife of the President, it was by no means her first visit there. As a girl of sixteen she had been the guest of Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes. She presided gracefully as the First Lady of the Philippines, at the time her husband was Governor-General.—Harriet Gillespie.



Photo by the Campbell Studios  
Mrs. William H. Taft

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