

WASHINGTON SOCIETY.

It Takes Its Cue from the Lady of the White House.

An Epitome of the Social Life of the Executive Mansion—Dolly Madison's Long and Successful Reign.

[Special Washington Letter.]
The history of social life in the white house is recalled by passing events, and should be elaborated.

Mrs. George Washington, after her husband's inauguration, set up the "first republican court" at No. 3 Franklin square, New York. Its etiquette was copied after that of foreign courts. The rules were very strict, and persons



THE FIRST RECEPTION.

were excluded unless they wore the required dress. Access was not easy, and dignified staidness reigned. In the second year of that administration the seat of government was removed to Philadelphia, where Washington took a house on Market street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. Mrs. Washington held her drawing-rooms on Friday evenings of each week, the company assembling early and retiring before 10:30 p. m. The lady of the mansion always sat. The president had his hair powdered and did not shake hands with anyone.

Although all these things have undergone a great change, the regulations which Martha Washington adopted are to a great extent in force to-day. Though she was not, probably, a woman of remarkable intellect, her social influence and wealth were a great help to the Father of His Country, and it is not surprising that David Burns, when Washington was bargaining with him for a piece of land south of the white house, should have remarked derisively: "Where would you be if it had not been for the Widow Custis?"

Abigail, the wife of President John Adams, lived in Washington only four months, preferring to reside at Quincy, Mass., where she could take care of her husband's estate. She complained that there was no comfort to be had in the white house, because it was "on such a grand and superb scale, requiring at least 30 servants to attend to it." While occupying it, she could not get wood enough to keep the mansion warm, and the most convenient use she found for the East room, then unfurnished, was to hang her clothes to dry in it. She was by all odds the most heroic figure of the revolution, and her letters to Jefferson were so admirable that they have become historic.

Jefferson had no liking for social ceremonial, but, becoming convinced that it was necessary for him to bestow some attention on such matters, he asked Mrs. Madison, the wife of his secretary of state, to act as mistress of the executive mansion, assisted by his daughter. He was a widower. Thus the never-to-be-forgotten "Dolly Madison" took the place of "first lady in the land," which position she continued to occupy for 16 years, her husband succeeding Jefferson. Under her regime, the formal etiquette which had made the drawing-rooms of Mrs. Washington and Mrs. Adams dull and tedious was laid aside, and no stiffness was permitted. For all this a cheerful Virginia hospitality was substituted. On one occasion, the abundance and size of Mrs. Madison's dishes were made subjects of ridicule by a foreign minister, but she was indifferent to such criticism. She used rouge to some extent and was very fond of snuff. At the first inauguration of her husband she wore a dress of buff velvet, a Paris turban with a bird-of-paradise plume, and pearls on her neck and arms. Withal she was the most popular woman in the United States, and she never forgot the name of a person who had been introduced to her. The senate granted her a seat on the floor of that body—an honor which has never been accorded to any other person of her sex.

It is generally regretted in our social circles that Mrs. McKinley cannot entertain at the white house as her predecessors have done. The little lady has been an invalid nearly all of her life, and her physical strength is very meager.

During the past 20 years the giving of ladies' luncheons has become an important part of entertaining at the executive mansion. Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Cleveland gave many such "spreads." Both women made numerous calls on friends, though etiquette did not oblige them to do so, for the president's wife need never return a visit,

and she is not even required to send a card instead.

President McKinley is a poor man. His business reverses were so serious a few years ago that he was practically impoverished. But he will be able to bear the burdens imposed by his official position, and yet can probably save something out of his salary of \$50,000 per annum.

Even if Mrs. McKinley had been blessed with health and strength, she might have found her position somewhat exacting because the duties of the "first lady of the land" are exceedingly onerous during the social season. She is expected to please everybody, for any offense she may give is sure to be magnified a thousand times.

The praises of the wife of President Hayes are still heard in all social circles. She was exceedingly popular with both sexes and with all classes. It is claimed by ladies who may now respectfully be called "veterans" in society that her hospitality and open-heartedness made the administration of her husband a great social success. She thoroughly enjoyed the high position in which she found herself, and the white house was always full of guests while she governed it.

It is 30 years since we have had in the white house an invalid wife of a president, at the beginning of an administration. Of course our society people remember with regret the illness of Mrs. Harrison and the ceremonies of mourning which enshrouded the executive mansion when that sweet lady closed her social and earthly career.

There was another administration which lacked the social influence of the wife of the president. Mrs. McKinley is an invalid. Mrs. Johnson was an invalid. The wife of President Franklin Pierce was in mourning because of the death of her little boy, an only child, who was killed in an accident on the railway. Mrs. Fillmore was a woman of literary tastes. She formed the beginning of the white house library, and it was in the library room that she used commonly to receive her friends.

Franklin Pierce was one of the most popular of all presidents, and his treatment of his friends was always royal. President Arthur alone, of all our chief magistrates, could compare with genial "Frank Pierce," as he was called by his intimates.

James K. Polk was a typical southern gentleman who was always noted for his hospitality and good fellowship. It was his sunny disposition which won for him friendships as strong and true as ever man was blest withal. But his wife was a Yankee, and one of the strictest of Puritans in everything. She was her husband's private secretary, and had entire charge of his correspondence. No other woman so dominated the business end of the white house. She was as cold socially as Benjamin Harrison was politically. Our society folk were glad when Mrs. Polk invited the beautiful and lovable daughter-in-law of John Tyler to assume the social duties of the executive mansion. That lovely woman



DOROTHY P. MADISON.
(For 16 Years She Was Mistress of the White House.)

continued to be the center of the social world during the Tyler administration, because Mrs. Tyler was an invalid.

The play of Hamlet could not well be staged, without the appearance of Hamlet in the scenes. The history of Rome could not be written without mention of Caesar, the greatest man of his age, a soldier and a statesman whose life was taken by fanatics and fools. The history of France would be incomplete without an account of the life of Napoleon.

Who could write the social history of the executive mansion with mere mention of "Dolly Madison?" She was the only woman that ever reigned a social queen in a republic for a term of sixteen consecutive years. Her husband was secretary of state for eight years, and during that time Dolly Madison was the social leader. She, of course, continued her life work and pleasure while her husband was president, and hence her history marks more than one-tenth of the history of society in the national capital.

The importance of society in Washington, the influence of ladies upon legislation, the ability of the wife of a public man to enhance her husband's popularity, the strength or weakness of an administration because of the standing of a president's wife, all these things are enigmatical to many people remote from the capital city of the republic.

It may be said briefly, however, that the influence of women in national affairs has always been greater than the people suppose, and that influence has grown with the passing years.

SMITH D. FRY.

FARM AND GARDEN.

CARING FOR HEIFERS.

A System of Feeding That Will Assure Satisfactory Results.

Most of the difficulties in growing valuable cows, where the breeding has been what it should be, come from their feeding. It is hard to say whether the fattening or the starvation policy is worse for the future of the cow. By the first she is made fit only for the butcher. By the second the animal is stunted and its digestion impaired so that it is little good for any purpose. There should be abundance of food, and a good share of this should be succulent, so as to furnish nutrition in bulky form and stimulate the glands that carry the milk. All the large milk-producing breeds of cows have originated in mild and moist climates, where succulent food can be had during most of the year. Ensilage is good food for heifers, though if it be of corn fodder some dry clover hay should be fed with it to increase the material for growth. If clover cannot be had, a small ration of wheat bran mixed with the corn ensilage will make a better feed than ensilage alone.

We believe in breeding heifers early, and at the same time feeding liberally of food that will make growth rather than fatten. If a heifer drops her first calf when she is a year and a half old she will always be a better milker than if she were kept from breeding until a year later. If the heifer is too small, let there be a long time between the first and second breeding, and in the meantime feed more liberally than ever, not with corn. Some oats may, however, be given, if the milk production is large enough to keep the heifer thin in flesh, but the grain feeding should be stopped when the heifer dries off as she approaches her second parturition. Heifers thus managed will be about as large as if they were kept until they were past two years old before being bred, and they will all their lives be much better milkers.—American Cultivator.

MILK REFRIGERATION.

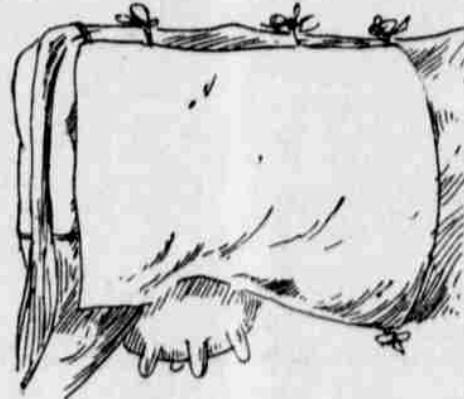
A New Process Which Has Been Tested with Good Results.

A new method of refrigerating milk, which is free from the objection urged against other processes of preservation, namely, that they modify the quality of the liquid, is described in Ice and Refrigeration. As soon as possible after milking a quarter or thereabouts of the milk to be transported to a distance is frozen in blocks of 22 to 35 pounds; these are then put into large tin vessels which are then filled with milk just as it comes from the cow and then tightly closed, though not hermetically sealed. The blocks of frozen milk swimming on the surface soon form a sort of granulated mass on the top, the continuous thawing of which is sufficient to keep enough circulation in the vessel to prevent the cream from spreading and preserve the milk for 15 or 20 days in a perfectly homogeneous condition, and as fresh as at the time of milking. At the places of consumption the milk may be drawn off as wanted. A somewhat similar process of preserving and shipping cream has also been evolved, which consists in placing the containing vessel within a cold water jacket, the refrigerating water being cold enough to keep the cream just at the point of freezing without actually freezing.

FOR CLEAN MILKING.

A Light Cotton Blanket Affords the Best Protection.

Dirt and hairs will come off from the cows' sides and udders when one is milking, even when the animals are kept in clean quarters. Straining will not keep the milk pure once such impurities have been in it. Keep them



HOW TO KEEP THE MILK CLEAN.

out altogether. One way to help is shown in the cut. A cotton cloth is fitted to go about the cow as suggested, the teats only being exposed. It is but a moment's work to tie the blanket on. Take to the door and shake it before putting it on cow No. 2.—Orange Judd Farmer.

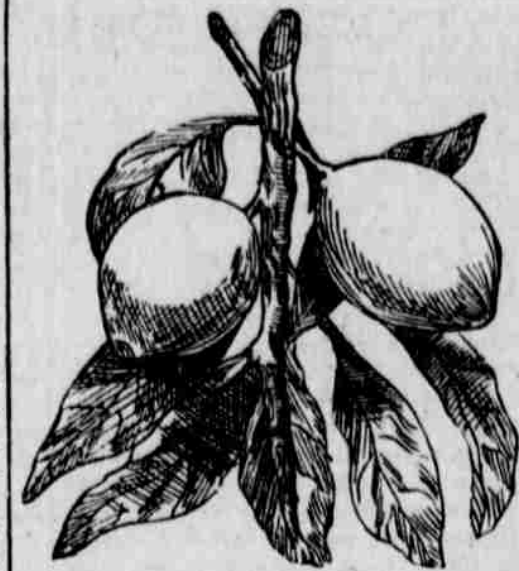
Bagging Grapes Is Profitable.

A writer who claims to know says: "Bagging grapes cannot but bring pleasure to the owner, especially when but a few vines are owned and the fruit used wholly on the home table. But the bagging of grapes has an economical as well as pleasurable feature to the owner, as it produces choice, clean fruit. Bagging fruit is a sure preventative of grape rot. Again, when the newly formed, small grape clusters are covered with a bag and securely fastened, the depredations of birds and insects will be almost, if not wholly avoided. The latter sting many of the berries and make them wormy."—Oklahoma Farmer.

THE EGG FRUIT TREE.

It Produces a Fruit Evidently Very Rich in Nourishment.

This fruit, the botanical name of which is *Lucuma villosa*, var. *Augustifolia*, is known by a variety of popular names. In Key West it is locally called Tiesi, but I am informed more correctly Canitel. It is known as Canista, or Canistel in Cuba, and as Tomot and Cancellia on the west coast. The tree is a native of tropical America, and perhaps its introduction from different points and at different times may account for the remarkable diversity of names. While the fruit is quite common in the Key West market it has been so far little cultivated in Florida, and is really little known outside the tropics. Only occasional trees are yet to be seen on the keys or on the main land of Florida. Repeated efforts have been made to introduce the tree north of the limits to which its tropical character manifestly assigns it, with little success. Like the sapodilla and the mam-



FRUIT AND FOLIAGE OF EGG FRUIT TREE.

meesapota it will not endure frost, and under favorable conditions, also like the sapodilla and ceriman (*Monstera deliciosa*) it is everbearing, being frequently loaded with three successive crops at the same time. This everbearing quality must always mark the limits of its profitable culture. In its endurance of drought, hot sun and dry soil, it strangely resembles the mango. The tree is much smaller than the mango while the leaves have a marked family resemblance to the mammeesapota, of which the fruit has been called "small edition." The pulp of the fruit resembles the yolk of a hard-boiled egg, tasting as one might imagine the egg would taste if well sweetened. The fruit is evidently very rich in nourishment. One caution should be observed by those investigating this fruit for the first time, that is, that in an unripe state the fruit is unpleasantly bitter. The taste of some people—not all—will need cultivation in the use of the Canitel, as is true of many other valuable fruits of the tropics. This fruit always sells well in the Key West market. It will always be in demand with those who know what it is.

The tree fruits at three or four years old, and is manifestly at home in dry and sandy soil, growing with little care and fruiting abundantly, without irrigation, and surrounded on all sides by fruiting pineapples. The fruit is as yet so little known that few people outside of the tropics have learned its real value. Its intrinsic merit as a nourishing food, its firmness and reasonable keeping qualities and the ease with which it can be grown, all conspire to encourage its more general introduction and culture wherever the mango, avocado pear and the sapodilla can be successfully grown. Its introduction and general use is only a question of time. The ingenious and enterprising housekeeper, as soon as the fruit can be furnished in sufficient quantities to her hand, will find many ways to profitably dispose of its rich and buttery pulp. The foliage is large, glossy, dark green, and the entire tree is very beautiful and ornamental. As a greenhouse and conservatory plant, for colder climates, it presents a highly pleasing appearance.—Elbridge Gale, in American Agriculturist.

How Butter Is Spoiled.

I know one party that keeps good cows, feeds them well and makes good-flavored and good-grained butter, but who spoils much of it by leaving too much water in it—say 20 per cent.—and it shrinks very much on standing. Ten to 12 per cent. of water is all butter can have and score high, yet it must have this much to have a vehicle for the salt it must contain. Dry butter will not contain brine enough to hold the salt or it will have a good deal of undissolved salt through its texture, and that will not do. Water must not run from butter, yet when a tryer is run into it and withdrawn the butter should show a good bedewing of brine. This is an important feature of good butter.—Farmers' Voice.

Why Business Is Stagnated.

"The worst drawback of this section of country," says the Clifton (Ill.) Comet, "at the present time, is the exceedingly bad roads we must contend with at wet seasons of the year. As has been the case the past few days, farmers cannot market their products, and on this account they do little buying of the merchants, and business is stagnated at the very season when it should be the liveliest of any season of the year."

PROPHETS ABROAD.

Queer Things Predicted in the European Almanacs for 1898.

Now that we have actually entered upon the new year, and thousands of prophetic almanacs will be regularly consulted for signs of notable events, we should remember that our own kingdom does not possess a monopoly of this species of prophecy.

It is not as if we should not seem to take a French or German-made prediction in preference to Old Moore, Zadkiel or Orion's, but where our own prophets disagree (or agree upon nothing at all) it is only reasonable that one should turn abroad for the correct astrological information to fill up the gaps.

For instance, in "Zadkiel" we read that "the principles of astrology are built upon the foundation of observations made through many centuries, of coincidences, of natural phenomena and great events in the history of nations." After this, no less than three of our prophets agree that "sorrow and suffering in high places" will occur on January 8, while, curiously enough, that is the very date when the "Almanach Strasburg" and the "Agenda-Potin" declare will be a period for "rejoicing in a European reigning family," thus possibly foreshadowing the birth of an heir.

"A terrible tragedy will take place in England which will shock the whole world" is the way the "Almanac de Mars" comments on January 30, with the "Agenda-Potin" remarks under that date, "Grave American political riot; many persons will be killed." The only other reference the writer can find is in "Zadkiel," which observes, "The 30th of January is a good birthday anniversary."

The continental almanacs seem, in no fewer than three instances, to insist that the Kaiser is to suffer some calamity on February 3. Perhaps in the case of the "Agenda-Potin" and the "Almanac de Mars" the wish is father to the thought, but this would hardly apply to the "Kalendar-Helsingfors," which remarks that the German emperor should beware of February 5—just missing the French prediction by two days.

Our little island is again prominently to the fore in the "Agenda-Potin" for April. We are to have a political deadlock on the 19th—with a possible overthrow of the ministry. Old Potin seems very sure about this prophecy, for he has marked it with an asterisk. The 19th, is of course, Primrose day.

In May, the prophet of the "Kalendar-Helsingfors" gives us promise of trouble between Canada and the United States. It is to occur about the 16th. Curiously enough, all our own almanacs are insistent on friction between our big colony and its American neighbor, although none of them agree on the precise month. One puts it in February, another in April and another in October.

Passing on to July, the "Agenda-Potin" points to the 18th as the beginning of a great strike in Scotland and the north of England. We can only hope that this item of prophecy was omitted by the printer from last year's almanac for the same month, and now unofficially transferred to the current one.

The following month the Russian prophet, "Kalendar-Helsingfors," declares we are to witness a terrible conflagration, in which hundreds of persons are to perish. As the scene of this catastrophe is Berlin, it rather takes the fun out of our Old Moore's prophecy: "Grand news will come from Germany which will be very cheering to the emperor of that great nation."

According to "Old Moore," England is to be in a bad way about October 7, and "Zadkiel" corroborates this pessimism; but they do not approach the gloomy predictions of the "Agenda-Potin" prophet, who foresees that during this month England's tide will have begun to ebb forever to the sea. An awful disaster—a dreadful loss—is to occur to our prestige somewhere about the middle of the month.

Finally, in December, when "Zadkiel" kills off an "illustrious Frenchman or Italian," the "Almanac Strasburg" stabs one of our public men; and so these little international tragic courtesies receive some slight equalization.—London Mail.

Court Opened on Time.

Judge Gaslin opened the spring term of court at Minden a number of years ago with the announcement that the matters had to be pushed. He kept the lawyers jumping all day, but his remarks when adjourning court for the night awoke a protest. "Court is adjourned until seven o'clock to-morrow morning," said the judge. John McPheely, who was then county attorney, and had a number of cases to try, arose and protested against such an unseemly hour for convening court. "Your honor, seven o'clock is an inconvenient hour to open court. I would suggest nine o'clock as more convenient." "This court will convene to-morrow morning at seven o'clock," shouted Gaslin. "You lawyers are not a bit better than the farmers, and they have to get up at four o'clock in the morning to pay the expenses of running this court. Court's adjourned till seven o'clock." And it opened on time the following morning.—Omaha World-Herald.

—Compressed air will soon replace steam as the motive power of a woolen mill in Almonte, Ont.