

## Democratic Women Meet in Washington

The following is taken from the news columns of the Washington (D. C.) Post: Four hundred women, good democrats and true, wore their hearts on their sleeves at a love feast given by the congressional women of the party, with guests from every section of the country present. Assembling shortly after 1 o'clock for a luncheon in honor of Dolly Madison, it was well after 5 o'clock before the last guest had gone her way. With Mrs. Champ Clark as toastmistress, wielding a fan as successfully as her husband wields a gavel, the three hours devoted to responses to the various toasts moved with a swing, until the naive query of the toastmistress, "How much more time have we?" brought a consciousness of time's flight, followed by a speedy adjournment.

The meeting which brought together the most notable women connected with the democratic party was unique in the social and political annals not only of Washington, but of the country. Many women crossed the continent to be present, and the assemblage which included the wives of three candidates for the presidential nomination of the party, the wife of a man who has been its standard bearer through three presidential campaigns, the descendants of John Tyler, James Monroe, and Thomas Jefferson, and the nieces and great-nieces of Madison's wife, were representative of every chapter in the history of the oldest political party yet extant in the country.

From the venerable great-niece of Mrs. Madison, Mrs. Mary Craig, in her full black satin skirt, point d'esprit cap, and a miniature of "Aunt Madison" on her breast, down to the group of undergraduate school misses who acted as ushers, including the pretty daughter of the speaker and Mrs. Clark, in her modish frock of mull, with a big rose-laden garden hat, and the

quaint necklace given to Dolly Madison by James Madison on their wedding day around her girlish throat, good feeling prevailed throughout the entire assemblage, making a gigantic success of the women's harmony breakfast.

The entire ballroom suite at Dauscher's was festooned with southern smilax. American beauty roses divided honors among the decorations with the more democratic peony, and the old-fashioned althea had a place in the colonial crystal vases that graced the center of the many round tables at which the guests were seated. During the breakfast an orchestra played a series of familiar airs that have been the inspiration of the party through generations, and afterward came the speeches, in the soft accents of the south, with Mrs. Henry D. Clayton, of Alabama, opening the program in an address of welcome; the crisp tones of the north, including Mrs. Norman E. Mack's splendid contribution in her response to the toast, "Women of the White House," and the leisurely drawl of the west.

The life-size portrait of Dolly Madison, painted by E. F. Andrews, its frame festooned with southern smilax, had a place of honor in the large, mirror-lined ballroom opposite the long table at which were seated the guests of honor and the heads of the various committees.

There were other reminders of the woman the 140th anniversary of whose natal day the function was designed to commemorate. A quaint gown from her wardrobe at the time she led the Washington world of fashion was displayed in the reception room. Over a petticoat of flower-strewn silk, yellowed by time, was draped a full overdress of buff, brocaded in silver and finished with lace fichu and ruffles in half-length sleeves. At each plate was another memento in a replica in silver of her

famous snuff box with a bas relief of the head from the Andrews portrait.

Another reproduction of the portrait adorned the cover of the booklet, also found at each plate, and containing a sketch of Mrs. Madison by Miss Roberts V. Bradshaw; a program of the toasts, menu, music, list of guests, and a biographical directory of the democratic women of congress edited and compiled by Mrs. Henry T. Rainey and dedicated to Mrs. Champ Clark, at whose suggestion the compilation was made. Mrs. Charles Linthicum furnished the funds for the directory "Who's Who," which was one of the pretty souvenirs.

Many impromptu receptions were held preceding the breakfast, the arrival of the notables creating a ripple of excitement among the admirers of each. Mrs. Champ Clark, as she entered the banquet room, was greeted with rounds of applause.

Mrs. William Jennings Bryan, as she rose to speak, had the same pleasing tribute, and was obliged to wait several minutes before she could begin. Mrs. Judson Harmon was greeted not only with prolonged hand-clapping, but with shouts of enthusiasm. As soon as she entered the room she sought Mrs. Bryan and shook hands cordially. Mrs. Oscar Underwood, who took no part in the program, was constantly surrounded as she moved about the rooms before the breakfast began, the groups including not only acquaintances, but many seeking to be presented to her.

Mrs. Norman E. Mack, in her response to the toast, "Women of the White House," gave a comprehensive recital of the lives of all the women who have presided in that historic mansion. Her mention of Mrs. Grover Cleveland was received with ringing applause. A tactful allusion to Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Taft concluded her address. "Suffice it to say," said Mrs. Mack, "that both of these charming and accomplished women have, in every respect, met and fulfilled the high duties which have devolved upon them in such a way as to make us proud of the American womanhood which they represent."

An excellent speech was made by Mrs. Owen, daughter of Senator Bankhead, in replying to the toast "Congressmen's Wives." Mrs. Owen told graphically the story of the average representative's wife. She spoke with a ringing voice that could be heard in every corner of the room, and proved herself the possessor of telling eloquence.

Second in interest to the group of honor guests was the group of descendants of democratic presidents and vice presidents, who occupied a table directly in front of the speakers' table.

Among them were three great-granddaughters of President Monroe, Mrs. Randall Hoes, Mrs. William Crawford Johnson, and Miss Maude Gouverneur, whose grandmother, Maria Monroe, was married in the White house during her father's administration to her father's secretary, Mr. Samuel Gouverneur.

Another group of descendants included the nieces and great-nieces of Dolly Madison, among whom were Mrs. Mary Cutts Craig, granddaughter of Mrs. Madison's youngest sister; Miss Marie McMillin Brown, granddaughter of one of Mrs. Madison's brothers, and Mrs. Harmon Miller and Miss Virginia Griffith Miller. Mrs. Pearl Tyler Ellis, daughter of President John Tyler, by his second marriage, and Mrs. Wilson, granddaughter of President Tyler, who came to Washington from Williamsburg, Va., Mrs. Tyler's old home, also gave a historic background to the occasion.

Letters regretting the inability of their wives to be present, from Gov.

Wilson and former Judge Parker, were read by Mrs. George E. Chamberlain, chairman of the invitation committee. A telegram from Mrs. William Randolph Hearst, also explaining her inability to be present, was announced. Mrs. Henry T. Rainey made a few remarks in Mrs. Hearst's place on the program. Miss Nannie Barbee, wearing a quaint Dolly Madison costume, gave some humorous suggestions as to the best means of holding a husband's affections, and with a sprightly note from Dolly Madison, written in 1839, ten years before her death, regretting an invitation, read by Mrs. Claude A. Swanson, marked the breaking up of the harmony breakfast party.

The following toasts were given with a ten-minute limit on each response:

"Dolly Madison"—Mrs. W. J. Bryan. "Popular, brave and tolerant."

"James Madison"—Mrs. A. S. Burleson. "Man is but half without a woman."

"Dolly Madison's Snuff Box"—Mrs. S. W. Ralston. "You are aware that she snuffed, but in her hands the snuff box became only a gracious implement with which to charm."

"Women of the White House"—Mrs. Norman E. Mack. "Be to her virtues ever kind."

"Women of the Cabinet."—Mrs. Judson Harmon. "The best example is acquired from the noblest in station."

"The Congressman's Wife"—Mrs. T. M. Owen. "Be what you are, that is a woman."

"Thomas Jefferson, friend of Dolly Madison"—Mrs. M. W. Littleton. "I have professed thee my friend, and I confess me knit to thy deserving."

Mrs. Champ Clark, wife of the speaker of the house, presided as toastmistress. The guests were welcomed by the wife of Representative Henry D. Clayton, chairman of the house judiciary committee. That Mrs. Madison took snuff was admitted by Mrs. W. R. Ralston, who said, "In her hands the snuffbox seems but a gracious implement with which she charms."

Mrs. Judson Harmon, wife of the Ohio governor, paid tribute to "The Women of the Cabinet." Mrs. Norman E. Mack responded to the toast, "Women of the White House;" Mrs. Martin W. Littleton eulogized "Thomas Jefferson, the Friend of Dolly Madison," and an address also was made by Mrs. Robert C. Wickliffe, of Louisiana, who originated the idea of the "Harmony Breakfast."

Mrs. Madison's personality, indelibly imprinted on the life of her day and generation, was recounted by several modern women of democracy.

Mrs. William J. Bryan, speaking on Mrs. Madison's character, first paid her respects to Mrs. Madison by recognizing "a large debt to the bright mind which first thought of promoting good feeling among democratic women by having them meet each other."

Making allowances for Mrs. Madison's lack of early education and the advantages of travel, Mrs. Bryan said the famous mistress of the White house would be remembered "for what she was fully as much as for what she did." Continuing, Mrs. Bryan said of the famous Dolly: "As a Quakeress she was sober and demure; in official life she was tactful, gracious, and dignified or gay as the occasion demanded; in later life faithful, and in old age serene."

"With Jefferson began the reign of democracy," Mrs. Bryan continued, "and Mrs. Madison was the first democratic woman to assume authority. A daughter of Virginia, her paternal grandfather was English, her grandmother Scotch, and her mother



## EXTRA BARGAIN

### THE COMMONER

Devoted to the cause of good government.

### THE AMERICAN HOMESTEAD

The popular farm and household monthly.

### THE HOUSEWIFE

A beautifully printed and illustrated monthly home magazine, containing best continued and short stories, fashions, fancy work, home decoration and kindred subjects.

**All Three for 1 Year, Prepaid \$1.00**

Under this offer, present subscriptions to any of above publications will be advanced one year. Send remittance to

The Commoner, Lincoln, Neb

## Twelve Special One Dollar Club Offers

The Thrice-a-Week New York World.....	Our Special Price	The Housewife.....	Our Special Price
The Commoner.....	\$1.00	American Homestead.....	\$1.00
American Homestead.....	Our Special Price	Weekly Kans. City Star.....	Our Special Price
Woman's World.....	\$1.00	American Homestead.....	\$1.00
The Commoner.....	Our Special Price	The Commoner.....	\$1.00
Chattanooga News.....	\$1.00	People Popular Monthly.....	Our Special Price
American Homestead.....	Our Special Price	American Homestead.....	\$1.00
The Commoner.....	\$1.00	The Commoner.....	\$1.00
Commercial Appeal.....	Our Special Price	Reliable Poultry Journal.....	Our Special Price
American Homestead.....	\$1.00	American Homestead.....	\$1.00
The Commoner.....	Our Special Price	The Commoner.....	\$1.00
Weekly Enquirer.....	\$1.00	Southern Fruit Grower.....	Our Special Price
American Homestead.....	Our Special Price	American Homestead.....	\$1.00
The Commoner.....	\$1.00	The Commoner.....	\$1.00
Industrious Hen.....	Our Special Price	Boy's World.....	Our Special Price
American Homestead.....	\$1.00	American Homestead.....	\$1.00
The Commoner.....	Our Special Price	The Commoner.....	\$1.00

ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.