

The New Cabinet Hostesses

Washington (D. C.) Sunday Star: "The King is dead! Long Live the King!" is the spirit which has prevailed since the 4th of March. The old court has disbanded and departed and the court of the new president has stepped into its place. The republican party, after sixteen years of supremacy, has bowed its head in defeat, furling its standards and stepped down into oblivion, while the banners of democracy are flying to the breezes in every quarter.

The new president has ushered in a new order, a plainer, simpler, less complex order of living and his cabinet follows his lead.

Mrs. Wilson, the first lady of the land, quietly assumed her place at the helm of the social ship of state and without any demonstration or blare of trumpets a new social regime is launched upon its course.

Home interests are paramount. For the present, at least, simple, quiet entertaining is the order of the hour. Even precedence, the autocrat of Washington, is gently given a side seat and Washington rubs its eyes to behold itself in place of the ever waxing brilliance of the past with its constant whirl of social events, going to bed when the sage says it should, going to church on Sunday with the ban on work and elaborate entertaining and withal going back to a revival of the times when Sunday was a day of rest, and with a general sort of understanding that wines and liquors will not be considered an essential part of hospitality.

There seems to be a general desire among the new cabinet women to dress simply, live simply and enjoy life, and to "keep within their means." As one cabinet hostess expressed it:

"None of us are millionaires, none of us are even rich and if we are to practice the principles of true democracy we will live within our husbands' salaries. True hospitality means something beyond a mere gratification of the senses. Brilliant decorations and elaborate feasts without the true spirit of mutual appreciation and enjoyment are but the hollow shams of ostentation."

The ladies of the new cabinet are a remarkable group of women. All of them are of unusual mental caliber, and their outlook upon life has necessarily been serious enough to consider questions from several sides, but with them all at present home life stands first and their entertaining during the spring at least will follow the simple lines. After that, when the official season begins in the fall—well, there is something in Washington official life which gets into the blood and then the social whirl begins.

What the official standard of the administration will be with regard to its entertaining is a riddle and the capital has neither sphinx nor oracle.

It is a matter of congratulation, both to the administration and the public at large, that Mrs. William Jennings Bryan is the third lady of the land today and the social mentor for the other cabinet hostesses. Out of the galaxy of the charming women of the new regime there is none better fitted by temperament and intellectual attainment to be the wife of the premier of the nation than Mrs. Bryan, who combines the qualities of wife, mother, talented lawyer, noted club woman, linguist and earnest student, with the result that when the diplomats call at the home of the secretary of state they will be met by a woman of cosmopolitan culture who is thoroughly familiar with the various political phases of their home government.

In a recent interview Mrs. Bryan declared that with the appointments only a few hours old it was entirely too early to make any statements about her social plans in view of the fact that she had not formed any other than that after a time she would take a house and spend the most of her time here with Mr. Bryan when his duties required his presence in the capital.

At the suggestion that her new duties would be likely to cause her to relinquish a large proportion of her club and philanthropic work, Mrs. Bryan explained that she would never allow the exactions of any position to submerge her individuality and that she could see no reason why the social duties of the cabinet hostess should absorb all of her time to the exclusion of other interests.

Mrs. Bryan was Miss Mary Baird, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Baird of Perry, Ill., where she was born in June, 1861. At twenty she was graduated with first honors from a Presbyterian school for young ladies in Jack-

sonville, Ill. After graduation she did special work in the Illinois college and also in the University of Nebraska.

Her marriage to Mr. Bryan occurred at Perry, Ill., in 1884, after which, under her husband's supervision, she pursued the course of law laid down by the Union college of Chicago and was admitted to the bar in district and supreme courts of Nebraska in 1887. This was done without any intention of practicing, but simply to enable her to enter more thoroughly into her husband's work and ambition.

His entrance into politics forced her to follow him into that field also and she has endeavored for the last twenty years to keep herself thoroughly informed upon political conditions both locally and internationally.

Mrs. Bryan feels a sympathetic interest in the intellectual growth of the women of the country, and rejoices in their progress along the industrial lines which is broadening their spheres of usefulness. Twenty-five years ago she helped to organize the Sorosis of Lincoln, which has been a most successful organization. She is connected with the Fortnightly club and has maintained her membership in the Women's club of Lincoln from the beginning. This club now has an enrollment of about 1,200 members, and has been responsible for many reforms and innovations along civic lines in the city and its environs. She also is one of the sustaining members of the Y. W. C. A. of that city.

While Mrs. Bryan is doubly qualified to fall in line in the D. A. R. ranks, she has never joined that organization. Her family is wholly American, both branches having sent members into the revolutionary war. Her maternal ancestors were descended from Sir Gregory Dexter, who was sent back to England to secure the charter for the state of Rhode Island. Her father comes of old Pennsylvania stock, the first of whom came to this country in the early part of the seventeenth century.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan have three children, all of whom are married, and there is now an interesting group of grandchildren.

Mrs. Bryan has the balance and poise that nothing disturbs. She is absolutely certain of herself, knows her privileges and her limitations perfectly, and one knows without doubt that her decisions will be made in perfect fairness and honesty of purpose.

She knows Washington official and social life down to the tiniest red-tape-bound detail. To her will fall the duty of preserving harmonious relations between the wives of the diplomatic contingent and the women of the cabinet and the rest of the social world. She will also preside and participate in the most brilliant functions outside of those of the White House.

She is a firm believer in college education for girls, provided the girls themselves have the mental endowments and the ambition to make it worth while rather than merely to satisfy the ambition of their parents.

As to fads she has none. Her life has been so fully occupied with serious matters that she has not kept up the accomplishments with which she, like every other young ladies' seminary graduate, started out in life. In her girlhood Mrs. Bryan devoted much time to music and painting, but after her marriage she gave her attention to so many other matters, as well as to the study of law, that she kept up only her music and that in a desultory fashion simply as a means of relaxation for herself and a pleasure to her family.

Mrs. Bryan is deeply interested in all philanthropic work along civic lines, but has not as yet given any thought to affiliating herself with either club or philanthropic work in the capital, though she may do both in time.

In Mrs. Franklin K. Lane, wife of the secretary of the interior, Washington society has one of its most progressive hostesses. Mrs. Lane is an avowed suffragist, and is enthusiastically in favor of the success of the "votes for women" movement.

"I was in California," she said, "during the suffrage campaign in that state. Up to that time I had taken very little interest in the subject beyond having a strong sympathy with the women of England. Then the realization came to me that woman suffrage was needed in this country also, and, after giving the matter further study, I became an advocate of the cause, though I have not taken an active part."

Mrs. Lane, though in possession of all the necessary qualifications in the way of patriotic

ancestry, has not as yet identified herself with the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her Dutch ancestors settled in New York early in the seventeenth century and fought in the Indian wars long before the revolution. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Wintermute of Elmira, N. Y. Her marriage to Mr. Lane occurred in Tacoma, Wash., in 1893, and their family consists of a son, Franklin Lane, jr., in his fifteenth year, and Nancy, aged ten, both of whom were born in California.

"Are you a clubwoman?"

"Though I have no club interests in Washington, I belong to a number in San Francisco. Of all of these, my membership in the Round Table was the most interesting. We organized this dinner club as an experiment, but it soon became one of the most interesting and famous women's clubs of California. The Round Table membership consisted of twenty-five women. Besides such writers as Mrs. Fremont Older, Alice Prescott Smith and others equally famous, there were lawyers, artists, doctors, business and society women, who like Miss Lucy Sprague and Miss Grace Lewelleyn Jones, were local celebrities.

"The club met once a month at a dinner, when a topic was chosen and every woman was expected to speak. Once a year the club gave a special dinner to which each woman brought a man, and following this reversal of the usual order of things the topics chosen were treated from the woman's side.

"The dinner club with its unique programs became so popular that we decided to print its history. Then came the earthquake, which scattered records and members alike."

In addition to the Round Table Dinner club, Mrs. Lane also belonged to the California Civic club, the Sorosis and several literary clubs.

Mrs. Lane's Washington life has been devoted so entirely to her family and friends that fads and athletics have alike been excluded, but she is a devotee of both art and music.

The Lanes are the only members of the new cabinet as yet established in their own home, where they have entertained frequently.

"We are going to transplant our home from Raleigh to Washington, and we hope to see our friends just as often and enjoy them as much as ever. We have always had a real home, entirely as much for our boys as for ourselves, and we are not going to part with our home life or change it in any material respect," said Mrs. Josephus Daniels, wife of the secretary of the navy.

The appointment of Josephus Daniels of Raleigh, N. C., to the portfolio of secretary of the navy gives to the cabinet coterie another most delightful and charming addition in the sister of Ensign Worth Bagley, who was the first United States officer killed in the war with Spain.

Mrs. Daniels comes of an old and distinguished family of North Carolina; as she expressed it, "In North Carolina we know everybody and everybody knows us."

She is a daughter of the late Judge William H. Bagley, who was clerk of the supreme court of North Carolina and a major in the confederate army.

Her grandfather, Jonathan Worth, was the first democratic governor of the state after the civil war. Her younger brother, David Worth Bagley, is also in the navy. She is thus fully identified with the circle in which her husband's position gives her a high rank.

Mrs. Daniels has a variety of club memberships. She is a Colonial Dame on both sides, through her father's family from North Carolina and her mother's Massachusetts relationship to John Howland from whom she is descended in direct line.

Mrs. Daniels is also a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy, of the Women's club of Raleigh, and is president of the Alumnae association of Peace institute of that city. She also belongs to the Society of Sponsors of Battleships, and christened the torpedo boat Bagley.

Mrs. Daniels is well known to Washington, as her mother and two sisters, Miss Adelaide Worth Bagley and Miss Ethel Worth Bagley, reside in Washington. Secretary and Mrs. Daniels have four boys, of whom they are intensely proud. "If I have a hobby in the world," said their mother, "it is my boys."

Josephus, jr., the oldest boy in college, is in line for an editorship on his father's paper. Worth Bagley, the thirteen-year-old, aspires to be a surgeon, while Jonathan Worth, about twelve, is the playwright and literary man of the family. The other and youngest of this lively quartet is too busy, just being an all-

(Continued on Page 9.)