

# Women Who Have Ruled at Capital

Of All the Charming and Stately Mistresses of the White House, Mrs. Grover Cleveland Is the Only One Now Living.

The passing of Mrs. William McKinley appreciably depleted the list of surviving White House ladies, to the point that they have become almost as few as living ex-presidents—and of this latter there is only one. While Mrs. McKinley, by reason of the continuing illness which had for many years beset her, could scarcely be looked upon as an active figure in social life at the executive mansion, her influence on the American nation, through the thoroughly sympathetic relations she enjoyed with her husband, was not slight.

There have, in the course of our comparatively very brief history, been gay White Houses and quiet White Houses. To the latter class belong the administrations of William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt and of



Martha Washington.

some earlier executives. Of the former, Dolly Madison is generally looked upon as the most notable example, with the period of Grover Cleveland's occupancy of the throne as a close second by reason of the great public interest which attended his marriage with Miss Frances Folsom.

## The Roosevelt Regime.

Certainly, of recent years, the Cleveland regime must stand out as the most socially important, in any consideration of the activities of the ladies of the White House. Mrs. McKinley, practically an invalid, had not the strength necessary to the prosecution of a vigorous social campaign. Mrs. Roosevelt has not the inclination. She has been ever a retiring woman, content with her family and her home life, caring nothing at all for the pomp and circumstance that go with high office.

Whatever gaiety of the sort Washington expects from the executive family has been, in the main, due to Nicholas Longworth, formerly Joe Roosevelt. That young woman enjoyed a national popularity which few ladies of the White House have ever exceeded.

The wife of President Benjamin Harrison was never particularly prominent in Washington fashion. President Arthur's administration was unrelieved by the presence of a wife.

## An Everyday Heroine.

Lucretia Rudolph Garfield was essentially a homebody. She had been a school teacher in Ohio before she and James A. Garfield were married. She took no highfalutin notions to Washington, when she went there as the first lady in the land. She was a farmer's daughter, and her ways were plain. The Hon. A. M. Pratt, of Bayou, O., telling of the lives and loves of the Garfields some years ago, said:

"Mrs. Garfield sough'd taught scholars in painting wing in my, then very insignificant, village. She did not get very large classes and lived in my house, the guest and friend of my then wife. The future president was frequently entertained at my table; he a young, strong, great-hearted, large-headed youth, but two years from college, hopeful, full of life and push; she graceful, sweet, amiable, retiring, with a disposition as lovely as a star-lit sky—both poor. Their fortune was their youth, health, hearts, intellects, hope and, glad am I to say, love."

Mrs. Garfield before her elevation, was very often compelled to do much of her own housework. Ten years before she went into the White House she wrote her husband, from their farm home, a letter which shows the lines of her character, and which, in part, is as follows:

"I am glad to tell that out of all the toil and disappointments of the summer just ended I have risen up to a victory; that silence of thought since you have been away has won for my spirit a triumph. I read something like this the other day: 'There is no healthy thought without labor, and thought makes the laborer happy.' Perhaps this is the way I have been able to climb up higher. It came to me one morning when I was making bread. I said to myself, 'Here I am, compelled by an inevitable necessity to make our bread this summer. Why not consider it a pleasant occupation

and make it so by trying to see what perfect bread I can make?"

"It seemed like an inspiration, and the whole of life grew brighter. The very sunshine seemed flowing down through my spirit into the white loaves, and now I believe my table is furnished with better bread than ever before; and this truth, old as creation, seems just now to have become wholly mine—that I need not be the shrinking slave of toil, but its regal mistress, making whatever I do yield me its best fruits? You have been king of your work so long that maybe you laugh at me for having lived so long without my crown, but I am too glad to have found it at all to be entirely discontented, even by your merriment."

## Mary Lincoln's Ambitions.

Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of the other American president, to meet death by assassination, held from early youth the ambition to marry a man who should rule the nation. She picked out as her choice Abraham Lincoln, and this at a time when her selection seemed to have little of recommendation in it. She refused the offer of marriage of Stephen A. Douglas, and wedded the man she was sure was to go to Washington as the chief of America. She realized her ambition and went to the capital, holding her first reception March 9, 1861. This is how an old-timer recalls that occasion:

"Mrs. Lincoln stood a few paces from her husband, assisted by her sisters, Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Baker, together with two of her nieces, and was attired in a rich pink moire antique, pearl ornaments and flowers in her hair and hands. She is a pleasant looking, elegantly appearing lady of perhaps 40, somewhat inclined



Dolly Madison.

to stoutness, but, withal, fine looking and self-possessed."

It was the proudest day of Mrs. Lincoln's life. Laura C. Holloway, in speaking of the influence of Mrs. Lincoln of official America, is inclined to the belief that much of unfortunate effect was due to Mrs. Lincoln's lack of tact.

## Plucky Dolly Madison.

Of a happier tone was the White House experience of Dorothy Payne Madison, wife of the president of that name. Her family came from Virginia, and she, herself, despite the fact of her North Carolina birth, always took pride in referring to herself as a daughter of the Old Dominion. When her family removed to Philadelphia and joined the Quaker sect, Mistress Dorothy was brought up in that severe doctrine. She married, very young, John Todd, a Philadelphia lawyer, and was a widow at 22. Her second marriage—to the then Congressman Madison—took place less than a year after the death of Mr. Todd.

Mrs. Madison's disposition was of the sunniest. She proved an invaluable ally when her husband was elected president and moved to Washington. At that early day of our history, Washington was little less than a wilderness. Steamboats were just coming in, railroads were unknown. Five hundred mile trips on horseback were frequently taken, even by women. The times were rough. Mrs. Madison, however, with the softening influences which were hers from birth, made of the president's home a court of politeness, fashion and charm. She made for her husband friends by the hundred and was never happier than when presiding at the parlor cabinet. That was her history for awhile—the mainspring in the scheme of happiness. Then came the darker side of things, wars and rumors of wars, the bayonets of the British gleaming in the Washington sunshine—and American officials in danger of sudden death. Just how the volatile lady bore herself under these changed conditions is well shown in a letter she wrote to her sister at Mount Vernon:

"Tuesday, August 23, 1814. 'Dear Sister—My husband left me yesterday morning to join Gen. Winder. He inquired anxiously whether I had courage or firmness to remain in the president's house until his return on the morrow or succeeding day, and on my assurance that I had no fear but for him, and the success of our army, he left

me, beseeching me to take care of myself, and of the cabinet papers, public and private. I have since received two dispatches from him, written with pencil; the last is alarming, because he desires that I should be ready at a moment's warning to enter my carriage and leave the city; that the enemy seemed stronger than had been reported, and that it might happen they would reach the city, with intention to destroy it.

"I am accordingly ready; I have pressed as many cabinet papers into trunks as to fill one carriage; our private property must be sacrificed, as it is impossible to secure wagons for its transportation. I am determined not to go myself until I see Mr. Madison safe and he accompany me—as I hear of much hostility towards him. Disaffection stalks around us. My friends and acquaintances are all gone, even Col. C., with his hundred men, who were stationed as a guard in this inclosure. French John (a faithful domestic) with his usual activity and resolution, offers to spike the cannon at the gate and lay a train of powder which would blow up the British should they enter the house. To the last proposition I positively object, without being able, however, to make him understand why all advantages in war may not be taken."

On the following day, she wrote: "Will you believe it, my sister? We have had a battle or skirmish near Bladensburg, and I am still here within sound of the cannon. Mr. Madison comes not, may God protect him! Two messengers, covered with dust, come to bid me fly; but I wait for him. At this late hour a wagon has been procured. I have had it filled with plate and most valuable portable articles belonging to the house; whether it will reach its destination, the Bank of Maryland, or fall into the hands of British soldiery, events must determine. Our kind friend, Mr. Carroll, has come to hasten my departure, and is in a very bad humor with me because I insist on waiting until the large picture of Gen. Washington is secured, and it requires to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found to be too tedious for these perilous moments; I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvas taken out—it is done, and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen of New York for safe keeping. And now, my dear sister, I must leave this house, or the retreating army will make me a prisoner in it by filling up the road I am directed to take. When I shall again write to you, or where I shall be to-morrow, I cannot tell."

**Rachel Jackson's Sad History.**  
A very sad history was that of Rachel, wife of President Andrew Jackson. Early in life she had contracted a marriage which had resulted unfortunately, and, on a divorce being granted—or, as was thought at the time, granted—she married Andrew Jackson. The repetition of the report that this marriage took place before a divorce had positively separated the woman from her first husband, Robards, so worked upon Mrs. Jackson as to aggravate a heart affec-



Rachel Jackson.

tion which had given her much trouble.

The fact that a second ceremony positively united Jackson and the daughter of Col. John Donelson, was ignored in the gossip attendant upon the lives of the parties, and in the campaign for the presidency made by Jackson, his enemies made much capital of the situation. Just as she was preparing to leave for Washington to rule as mistress of the executive mansion, Mrs. Jackson overheard a gathering of women in a room adjoining hers in a hotel discussing her with a freedom and malice that resulted in her complete prostration and subsequent death.

## Other Ladies of the White House.

Other women who have graced the White House have, each, their places in history. Martha Washington, Lucy Webb Hayes, Julia Dent Grant, Martha Patterson, who aided her father, President Johnson; Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Harriet Lane, the beloved niece of President Buchanan, Abigail Fillmore, Mrs. James K. Polk, Letitia Christian Tyler, Angelica Van Buren, Mrs. Martin Van Buren, Louisa Catherine Adams and Martha Jefferson.

Their impression on their country's future has been scarcely less defined than was the mark made by the distinguished men whose names they bore. For the social influence is every bit as important as the political influence, and its victories, though unofficial, just as pronounced.

## World's Population.

The population of the world is 1,400,000,000, of whom 35,124,000 die every year. The births amount to 36,792,000 every year, or more than one a second.

## CALLED JUDGMENT OF GOD.

Thief's Death at Hands of Child Whose Parents He Had Robbed.

The New York Sunday World's correspondent in Budapest sends it the following account of a recent tragedy in the village of Kaposvar, Hungary:

Janos Verga, a stock farmer, sold some oxen for 900 crowns and concealed the money in his house. Ferenc Gal, a ne'er-do-well of the village, knew of this transaction and determined to get the money. He watched the house until he saw Verga and his wife leave it. Then he entered and had no difficulty in finding the money, which he pocketed.

As he was about to leave he noticed sitting in a corner, staring silently and intently at him, the Vargas six-year-old daughter. Realizing that she had watched his theft, he determined to get rid of this witness against him. He threw a rope over a beam in the ceiling and tied a noose in one end of it. Picking up the little girl, he tried to persuade her to put her head into the noose, saying it was a nice game.

"How?" she asked. "I'll show you," said the robber, laughing.

Gal put down the little girl, drew up a chair, stood upon it and put his head through the noose.

"Like this," he said, again laughing, is it it was all a game he was playing with the girl.

The child pulled the chair away suddenly; the robber fell, his neck in the noose and was strangled to death.

The child watched her victim's death struggles until they ceased, then went outside to await for her parents. When they returned she took them to the room where the dead thief still dangled and told them in great glee what had taken place. The 900 crowns were found in the pockets of the robber and the six-year-old child is now the heroine of the village, where the event is called a "judgment of God."

## New Orleans Cities of the Dead.

"New Orleans has several miniature cities within its boundaries, and they are the cities of the dead," said Louis W. Le Blanc of the Crescent City.

"I mean," he explained, "that every cemetery in New Orleans is a miniature city. They are built above the ground and laid out in streets, just as the larger city. Every house is of marble and some of the tombs are miniature. In them are buried many men who won fame under the dominion of Spain and France. In them, too, are to be found inscriptions that tell of sweet Creole romances, such as that of Jeanne Laclède, the popular singer of nearly a century ago, who died of a broken heart.

Certain days are set apart, according to the old French Catholic custom, for visiting these miniature cities, and on these days they are crowded all day long. As they were built so long ago they are now in the center of the city and at night low weird indeed. Long ago it was found necessary to build the cemeteries above the ground, because of the fact that the city itself is below the level of the Mississippi river."

## Voice of Experience.

A young girl recently went to her aunt on a momentous occasion. She explained that a gentleman was coming to see her.

"I am sure he likes me," she sobbed, "and—and I think he means to propose. I don't like to ask mother how I should act under the circumstances, but—"

"Do you like him?" interrupted aunt sternly.

"Very much," observed her niece.

"Enough to marry him?"

The girl blushed and replied in the affirmative.

"Then," said aunt, with an air of authority, "don't let there be any shilly-shallying. When he pops, don't turn red and look down at the carpet. Just throw your arms around his neck, look him full in the face and begin talking about the furniture."

## A Korean Romance.

A romantic little story comes from the Chuk San district, says the Korea Daily Times. One of the residents having died of illness, his only wife declared her intention of killing herself. Arguing that it was not right for a woman to remain alive after her husband was dead and that she would be far happier if she followed him she put her plan into execution and committed suicide the same night. She was only 20 years of age.

## A Difference.

"Why should my anxious breast re- pine because my youth has fled?" she sang with great feeling in the hotel parlor.

"Were you married to the youth or only engaged?" asked an impudent debutante who stood near the piano.

## Unconsciously Frank.

Mrs. Brown—How do you do, Mrs. Miller? Why haven't you been to see me? It is six months since you last called.

Mrs. Miller—Dear me! Can it be possible that it is six months since my husband has given me any diamonds?

## A Fresh Clerk.

Customer—What have you got that is strictly fresh?  
Grocer—One moment, please. Here, Johnny, wait on the lady.

# NEWS OF THE LABOR WORLD

Minneapolis.—A beltmakers' union was recently formed here.

San Francisco.—Retail grocery clerks are forming a union.

Toronto, Canada.—Guelph stove workers are out on strike.

Winona, Minn.—A new union of electrical workers has been organized.

Chico, Cal.—A local of the American Federation of Musicians was organized recently.

Newark, N. J.—Union men succeeded in defeating a nonunion clothing manufacturer for a place on the city police board.

Toledo, O.—The international convention of the bartenders' union will not be held this year. It will meet in this city next year.

Grand Forks, N. D.—A new union of carpenters has been formed. The union starts with a big membership and bright prospects.

Chicago.—Over 4,000 freight handlers are negotiating with railroads for an advance in wages of two and one-half cents an hour.

Rochester, N. Y.—The International Association of Car Workers will revise its constitution at the annual convention to be held here next October.

Edinburgh.—The Scottish Cooperative society was organized in 1868 with a capital of less than \$9,000. Now it has a capital of more than \$1,500,000.

New York.—Many members of the United Association of Plumbers, Gasfitters and Steamfitters are urging that the organization establish a home for the aged and infirm, along the same lines as the printers.

Cincinnati, O.—The latest labor organization is the Milkmen's union, which has received a charter from the American Federation of Labor. It is composed of men who do the actual work in supplying the city with milk.

Cleveland, O.—The amalgamation of the International Railway Boiler-makers and the Master Boiler-makers' association was effected at the joint convention held here recently. The two associations have been rivals.

Arizona, Mexico.—The strike in the textile mills, involving more than 25,000 operatives, has been practically settled by concessions, and those operatives who had not left the city in search of employment elsewhere have returned to work.

Litchfield, Ill.—All the machinists in the employ of the Litchfield Foundry and Machine company walked out on a strike because Superintendent Dan Sweeney refused to reinstate two men who had been discharged because of disobeying the rules of the company. It is believed the strike will lead to other labor complications here.

Washington.—According to United States Consul Alexander Heingartner of Riga, the conditions governing the politico-economic life of Russia during the last two or three years have influenced manufacturing industries unfavorably; the output of several branches has been materially reduced, and that of others have ceased entirely.

New York.—Remarkable strides have been made by the Commercial Telegraphers' union during the last few months, and officials of the organization now boast that the membership of the international body has passed the 10,000 mark. Its strength has increased so rapidly that the union now ranks among the best in the country. Five thousand new members since last October is the record set by the union.

San Francisco, Cal.—The telephone linemen have defied the Pacific council of the International Brotherhood of Electrical workers and refused to obey their council, which ordered the men to return to work because their strike was unauthorized and in violation of an agreement with the company. Their charter may be revoked.

San Francisco.—The Japanese industrial society is planning a movement to raise the price of Japanese labor throughout the United States. It desires to advance wages 40 per cent. in every line where Japanese labor is employed. As yet it is an entirely local measure, but the Japanese in every city will be requested to act in conjunction. The society also believes in the eight-hour day.

Aurora, Ill.—An increase in wages has been granted by the officials of the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago Electric railway to the members of the Brotherhood of Interurban Trainmen employed on the various branches of the third rail line. The new contract was drawn up last evening. For the first year the men will receive 23 cents an hour, second year 26 cents and after the second year 29 cents.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Work on the docks of the Union Furnace company is progressing without interruption. The Longshoremen's union has furnished men to take the place of the striking ore handlers, and no further trouble is anticipated.

Boston.—The Boiler-makers' union, the members of which are on strike for a ten per cent. wage increase, has again declined the bosses' offer of a 7½ per cent. raise. The men originally asked for 15 per cent., but agreed to compromise on a ten per cent. raise, and struck for it when the bosses said that 7½ was the best they could do.

Taunton, Mass.—A new local of horseshoers has lately been formed.

Philadelphia.—The Hagood child labor bill was defeated in the Pennsylvania house recently on the ground that, as amended, the bill was unconstitutional.

Hamburg, Germany.—The "Patriotic Association of Labor Unions" has been formed as a means of opposing socialists in the labor movement of that country.

Burr Oak, Ill.—One hundred and twenty-five freight handlers and clerks have gone on strike against the Rock Island road because their demands for more wages were refused.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Fourteen organizations have affiliated with the Minnesota State Federation of Labor since April 15, and this number may be doubled before the convention meets this month.

San Francisco.—Street Carriers' union having failed to secure the eight-hour day in the recent arbitration proceedings, will ask the board of supervisors to insert an eight-hour provision in its future franchises.

Edinburgh.—The Scottish conciliation board decided to concede six and one-fourth per cent. advance in wages at its meeting in Glasgow, to come into effect at once. This is the third advance in the present year. The concession affects 80,000 miners.

Detroit, Mich.—After several weeks' correspondence between the two organizations, the National Foundrymen's association has decided to cooperate with the Pacific Coast Foundrymen's association in the effort to break the strike which exists in several branches of the iron trade along the coast.

Washington.—The latest and most up-to-date form of government sick insurance is now being considered by Holland. The proposed insurance is obligatory, and extends to all laborers employed regularly. Every laborer, 16 years old, who receives less than \$480 a year, is obliged to insure himself and family against the risk of illness.

Swansea, England.—A conference between the unions engaged in the steel trade and the employers resulted in an eight-hour working day being conceded; also other concessions were granted, by means of which the lower-paid men will not suffer in pocket through the reduction of hours. This decision affects 3,000 men. It will provide work for 1,500 men additional.

Boston.—Cigar Factory Tobacco Strippers' union recently presented an increased wage list to the cigar manufacturers. The C. L. U. unanimously indorsed the requests as fair and equitable and pledged full support of organized labor in Boston in any efforts necessary to obtain a betterment of wages and conditions for the 500 women and girls who compose the union.

Albany, N. Y.—A decision which will be far-reaching regarding the employment of women was handed down by the New York court of appeals when it held that the penal law providing that women shall be employed in factories only within certain hours is unconstitutional, and thereby sustaining a decision of the lower courts. The court maintains that adult women must be recognized as on an equal plane with men in matters of employment, and that the state cannot exercise any authority to prohibit or limit their hours of work.

San Francisco.—There is a movement on foot to organize the salesmen in cigar stores.

Toronto, Canada.—It is possible that the dispute between the master plumbers and men will be submitted to arbitration.

Fair Haven, Vt.—There is a strike of the slate workers in and around this city that has practically tied up all the quarries in the vicinity. The men are all members of the International Union of Slate Workers, and are connected with the American Federation of Labor. The strike is for a reduction of the work day from ten hours to nine hours, without reduction of pay. The wages have been \$2 and \$2.50 a day of ten hours.

San Francisco, Cal.—Local Union No. 22, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, has unanimously adopted a resolution to the effect that "any member known to violate any law of the state or city by interfering in any way with strike breakers or nonunion men or riding on any car run by a nonunion man, shall be fined \$25 for the first offense, and the fine increased by \$10 for each succeeding offense."

Washington.—Out of every five women over 16 years of age the average over, one is a bread winner. As if this were not startling enough, out of all the women in the country between the ages of 16 and 20, which is really the time of girlhood, one in three is a wage earner.

Spring Valley, Ill.—John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, who has been here since April 28, most of the time in the hospital, left for Indianapolis to resume his work. He was a special guest at the St. Margaret's hospital picnic here, his first public appearance.