

LUCKY WIVES OF YOUNG MILLIONAIRES



Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt



Mrs. Robert Goelet

THERE are no wives in the world so lucky as the wives of the young American money kings. While it is fine to marry a coronet even if one has to pay for it in millions, and while the patriotic American can only rejoice in the way the young American bride carries all before her and walks in far countries—there is another side to the question. That is that so many domestic clouds have from time to time come upon her horizon that a start of nervous apprehension can only express the way in which news about her is received by her average compatriot.

But with the girl who marries into the American money aristocracy it is different. It is not only that the American young man makes the best husband in the world, but according to the experience of many of the late American brides his father has equal adaptability toward playing the part of a good father-in-law. Millions are not the password with which he takes his son's wife to his heart, as these he is willing to supply if he approves of her in other ways. And although, as the father of young Cornelius Vanderbilt showed, he can be emphatic in ways of expressing disapproval when he chooses, once his consent is gained he has a way of supplying tokens of approval which it would seem would tempt any girl who could help it from going abroad for a husband.

Mrs. Wm. De Lansey Kountze

Mrs. Clarence Mackay



Stillman's Fortunate Daughters-in-Law.

It is said that there are no brides who have received a warmer welcome into the family of their adoption than the wives of Charles Chauncey Stillman and James A. Stillman, the sons of the banker, James Stillman. When the wedding of "Fid" Potter, otherwise Anne Treubart Potter, to the young Harvard graduate finally took place, after repeated denials of the engagement, it was an open secret that the Stillman family highly approved of the match. Even the sisters of young Stillman, one of whom is Mrs. W. G. Rockefeller, and the other, who lately became Mrs. Percy Avery Rockefeller, both were delighted that their brother was to marry the granddaughter of Bishop Potter and the beautiful daughter of Cora Treubart Potter.

She was welcomed into the family with open arms and it cannot be denied that from the bride's point of view it is also a lucky match. As wealth goes the Potters are not rich, although they have enough. James Brown Potter has for years lived quietly and by no means lavishly at Tuxedo. As will be remembered, it was the lack of wealth and its accessories that made her mother, Cora Treubart Potter, discontented with what her husband could give her. It was the enforced "narrowness" of the life which did not offer her the means to take that wide fling in society which she desired.

Her daughter, however, will have almost unlimited wealth at her command. Few young men have such prospects as young Stillman. To be in partnership with his father, who is president of the National City bank, means that he has behind him the Standard Oil million. The statement of the bank itself reads \$40,000,000 reserve fund and \$17,000,000 deposits, besides the numberless other great enterprises in which his father is a stockholder.

Mrs. Wm. Vanderbilt Jr.

Mrs. Payne Whitney

the beginning, and there has been nobody prouder of his successes than she.

There was, however, no lack of warmth in the welcome given to the girl by the Stillmans and the Rockefellers, who went to the marriage of the young couple in the little Mission chapel on the other side of the Keanebec river. There never has been any indication that she was not as great a favorite with her father-in-law, James Stillman, or her sisters-in-law, the two Mrs. Rockefellers, as is "Fid" Stillman, who was a petted New York society girl.

Potter never there was a case in which family affection was showered on a bride so lavishly as it was on Mrs. Payne Whitney, who is always much benighted with that other young matron, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. When "Mrs. Payne" came into the family it seemed that in a certain sense she was handicapped. Her father-in-law, the late William C. Whitney, had already made that plan, carried out later in his will, of bestowing upon his oldest son one-half his fortune, and making him trustee of the balance. The younger son, Payne, however, had a financial backer, who was no less a personage than Col. Oliver Payne. The colonel's dearly loved sister was Flora Payne, Mr. Whitney's first wife. His best friend from boyhood up was William C. Whitney himself. His favorite of all their children was the boy Payne. Later, when a difference grew between the elder Whitney and himself, he still further lavished his affection on Payne.



Mrs. C. C. Stillman

Romance of Secretary Hay's Daughter.

Then came the time when the boy fell in love with the beautiful and talented Helen Hay. His father, who was said to be a little critical of daughters-in-law prospective, observed her from afar. The result of his inspection was that he admired her immediately, and told his son to go in and win, which he did, with promises of ample worldly reward if he should succeed.

This was not the only conquest, however, made by the bride. She made equally successful work of winning the heart of the bachelor uncle, Oliver Payne. The more he saw of her the more he thought that he had never seen so fine a girl. And after he had read her poems and heard her recite, his admiration of her became more ardent than ever. Among the presents which he gave her were a yacht, a furnished house on Fifth avenue, a country place at Tuxedo, a trip around the world, a diamond tiara, a diamond necklace, a choice of books for the library, and an order on a Paris dressmaker.

All of these things meant more to Mrs. Payne Whitney than they would have done to her sister-in-law, Mrs. Harry Payne, who was Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt before her marriage, and who had \$10,000,000 in her own right. At the time of her coming into the family, however, equally charming things were done to delight her. It is often remembered how, when the young couple went to the Berkshires expecting to spend their honeymoon camping out, that they came upon a veritable Aladdin's palace which had sprung up on the top of October mountain, and which stood completely furnished, with the dinner waiting ready on the table. It

Inherits Her Mother's Beauty.

The girl is beautiful, with a not unbecoming hauteur, which she inherits from the Potters, and with a strange, almost hypnotic expression in her lovely eyes, which, with all her beauty, as even the Potters admit, she gets from her mother. She has been taken abroad a great deal and is said to have refused the offer of more than one coronet. She has seen her mother only once since babyhood, and on that occasion, a few years ago, they met by appointment, but there was no affection between them. She is an athlete like her husband, and, like her mother, is afraid of nothing. A little while ago, when she was thrown out of her victoria by an accident on Fifth avenue, she was the comeliest of all concerned and walked to her home a few blocks away at Seventy-second street.

Beside her love of all outdoor sports, she also loves picturesque gowns for their appropriate occasions. She not only knows how to select them, but how and when to wear them, and how to produce the most charming artistic effects.

From the pretty house in East Seventy-second street, of which Mrs. Stillman is mistress, it is a far call to the Queen Anne flat in San Francisco, where lives Mrs. Chauncey Stillman. She may be said to be the luckiest of all young millionaires' wives, because she had no fortune of her own, and because, as the daughter of a country Jeweler in Maine, she had started out to earn her living as a trained nurse. Now she is the wife of a young man who has \$2,500,000 in his own right. One does not expect to find a young couple of such financial belongings keeping house in just this way, even though the flat is beautifully furnished and Mrs. Stillman keeps a small retinue of servants. Still less does one expect to find the young man himself going to work every morning as a truckman on the Southern Pacific, and in blue overalls. Before he was promoted to the position of truckman he was janitor of the station house at Oakland, and the young couple then lived in a little cottage near the railroad.

Won After a Long Wooing.

To the young wife, whose romance was so wonderful that it would not have happened to one girl in a million, is partly due the decision of her husband to follow, for the time at least, the life of an ordinary railroad hand. After a long illness, through which she nursed him back to health, the young man not only fell in love with the girl, but began a long and persistent wooing. He followed her through many phases of settlement work in New York, and it was not long before he gained a new point of view of life. Eight years after they first met they were married, and the young wife, though beautiful, magnetic, and exquisitely graceful, had no ambitions to shine in New York society. She encouraged her husband, who shared her aversion to the gayest form of social life, in his ambition to learn the railroad business from

Mrs. Elsie Whelen belongs to a Philadelphia family where family and blood count for more than money. Just where, between \$25,000,000 and \$40,000,000, the exact point of young Robert Wilson Goelet's fortune lies, is not quite clear. It is a well known fact that during the days of Mr. Goelet's wooing he was not the only millionaire in the field. His cousin, Robert Walton Goelet, who, on account of the death of his sister, is worth some few millions more than Robert Wilson, was also in love with the beautiful Miss Whelen. "Bobby" Goelet and "Bertie" Goelet are the names by which these young men are often called to distinguish them from one another. For a long time it was not clear whether Miss Whelen preferred Bobby or Bertie. After it became pretty generally known that it was Bertie, or the son of the late Ogden Goelet, that she fancied, it was by no means certain that he would win her. After many denials, however, the wedding finally took place, with the delight of everybody that the bride had come into such good fortune.

Most Extravagant Woman in America.

A few years ago there was the same rejoicing when Miss Catherine Duer, who had family, position, and beauty, but not millions, married the son of John W. Mackay. The first thing which her father-in-law did was to present her with a country place comprising a mansion and seven hundred acres of land. Now, since the millionaire's son has succeeded in his business and fortune, the young matron has a fortune of \$40,000,000 at her command, and probably of all the society girls who have married money she has more frankly taken sheer delight in its acquisition than any of them. She is often credited with being the most extravagant woman in America, although her extravagance, so far, has not had any perceptible effect upon the great Mackay fortune. That her husband Clarence Mackay, delights in his wife's fads and expenditures is one of the prettiest parts of it.

Other matches in which the brides have been exceptionally lucky in stepping into great wealth from families which, though having social position, were not classed as having "money," were Miss Alva Willing of Philadelphia, who married John Jacob Astor, and Mrs. William Heberton, the daughter of Mrs. Albert Pancoast, who later married young Joseph Widener. The seasons which Mrs. Widener spent at Newport and the popularity which she achieved there has impressed everybody with the beauty and social tact of this young woman. Less pronounced was the change in Miss Abby Aldrich's manner of life when she married John D. Rockefeller Jr. She has always shared the tastes of her husband, and, like him, cares little for society and takes an interest in religious activities.

Latest of the Vanderbilt Brides.

Of the latest Vanderbilt brides, Mrs. Reginald and Mrs. Willis K. Jr., it is only Mrs. Reginald to whom marriage has brought access of worldly fortune in quantity so much greater than her own that it will make any perceptible difference in her life. As Miss Virginia Fair, Mrs. Willis K. Vanderbilt Jr. inherited wealth, which, with what more will come to her, amounts, without the help of any of the Vanderbilt money, to \$7,000,000 or \$8,000,000. With Mrs. Reginald, however, it was different. The mother of Adelaide Neilson was said at the time of the girl's marriage to have an income of about \$50,000 a year from the Gebhard estate. As part of this sum was settled upon her, she cannot be accused of marrying for spending money. In fact, when, after several years of playing together as a little girl and boy, Kathleen Neilson and Reggie Vanderbilt found that the inevitable had happened and that they had fallen in love, there was a great storm. Mrs. Neilson could not see her baby taken away from her, and it was five years before her consent was finally obtained. Even then she is said to have spent many tears upon the matter and a close friend declared that she wept all one night, after she had given her consent. Mrs. Vanderbilt also put away the last moment of her boy's childhood and with a long, deep sigh admitted that she supposed it could not be helped, although her objection was concerned more with the boy's youth than with his choice. In point of family, Miss Neilson had as much to offer as he, as her grandfather, old Mr. Gebhard, was trading furs with the Indians early in the last century when Cornelius Vanderbilt was ferrying people over from Staten Island.

Gave Up Millions for His Wife.

To have the approval of Mrs. Vanderbilt was something to be proud of, for, as is well known, both father and mother in the Cornelius Vanderbilt family have played an active part in their son's matrimonial affairs. One day young Cornelius Vanderbilt fell in love with Grace Wilson and another day he married her. When his father declared that he would disinherit him on account of the severe pain which this step caused him, nobody believed him. How dearly he meant it, however, was disclosed on Aug. 18, 1898, when at a great reception at the "Breakers" he introduced his son Alfred, then nearing his majority, as the heir to the Vanderbilt millions. So it comes that Elsie French, who married Alfred Gwynn Vanderbilt, is now the possessor of the \$50,000,000 which would otherwise have been shared by the beautiful Grace Wilson. Mrs. Cornelius, however, has many things that money cannot buy, although she has, withal, still a fair quantity of money itself, in the \$7,000,000, which finally came to her husband. She has wonderful tact and social faculty. She has the great gift of diplomacy, and has the reputation of being the most popular woman in New York society. She has a well filled nursery and her children are cared for by herself to a considerable extent. She has a beautiful voice. King Edward once took her in to dinner when she was Miss Grace Wilson. After dinner he remarked that she had the most sympathetic voice that ever cheered him through a dinner. And now that her husband has ambitions toward a political career, it is believed that her help will be of untold value to him.

was just a little surprise which the elder Whitney had prepared for his daughter-in-law.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and Mrs. Payne are both serious in their tastes. The first has a beautiful studio on Fifth avenue and has done some things of real worth in art. Mrs. Payne Whitney has not only written poems but she has tried her hand at a play, and has written a book. Among all the things that she has done, none of them without value, that which is perhaps most closely associated with the particular charm of "Mrs. Payne," are the little verses purporting to have been written by a little boy:

"When little boys come in to lunch,
And stay till after tea,
My mother says, 'How kind they are'
To come and play with me.

"They take my marbles, break my toys,
And when I want to fight,
My mother says, 'They're visitors,
And you must be polite'.

"Give George the whip," she says, "and you
Can be the little horse."
And 'He must have the biggest pear,'
And 'Be the king, of course'.

"When we are hunting, he's the cat;
I'm just the frightened mouse;
And I think I'll be visitor
At some one else's house."

Blue Blood and Little Money.

Since the marriage of Mrs. Payne Whitney, excepting perhaps that of young Mrs. James Stillman, there have been no matches which have called forth such genuine delight as that of Miss Elsie Whelen to Robert Goelet, and the wedding last April of the beautiful southern belle, Martha Johnston to De Lansey Kountze. It would be hard to tell which is considered more beautiful, the Philadelphia belle or the immensely popular southern girl. The latter is a typical southern beauty, who has playfully been christened a "Georgia peach." This to the people of Georgia expressed in the strongest way all that was beautiful. The charm of her voice, the languor of her steps, and the pretty droop of her brown eyes are things about which all her admirers rave. It is already a multi-millionaire himself, besides having the best of expectations. The family to which he belongs has been rich for generations, and the young man himself is already a financier of distinction.