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### THE WHITE HOUSE BRIDE.

Washington, Oct. 23.—Twice before presidents of the United States have taken unto themselves wives while in their high office. It is safe to say that Woodrow Wilson and the winsome Edith Galt will follow neither of the two precedents set.

President John Tyler evidently distrusted his public. Two years after the death of his first wife in 1844, he came to New York and while the people were still under the impression that his wedding to Miss Julia Gardner, of New York was several weeks off, they learned suddenly that the chief executive had led his bride to the altar in the church of the Ascension. It was almost an ekpement.

There was a similar lack of warning, though not quite so extreme, when President Cleveland married Frances Folsom, probably the most beautiful of all the brides of the white house, in 1886. The engagement was published two weeks before the day when the ceremony actually took place; but the day and the hour were not announced until about forty-eight hours before the arrival of the bride-elect and her mother in the capital. They had just come from several months in Europe.

The guests at the Cleveland wedding number fewer than forty. The only officials present were the cabinet and the president's private secretary. The scene was set in the blue room.

No foreign diplomatists were invited and the gifts came chiefly from the members of the president's cabinet and the relatives of the bride and bridegroom.

Those in confidence of Mrs. Galt here believe she will arrange everything for a fine, old Virginia wedding, not an unwieldy affair, but on the other hand nothing hurried or ill-considered.

Those who have visited the Galt home in Pennsylvania avenue agree that the future "first lady of the land" is a queen of hostesses and a marvel of forethought and graceful tact. Her mother, who lives with her and is a favorite of Mr. Wilson, is also an adept at the little things which make functions a pleasurable success instead of a bore.

All in all Washington society has learned of the president's coming marriage with a feeling akin to relief. The capital is a distinctly less lively and gay affair with no white house social season to set the pace.

With Mrs. Galt at the head of the president's establishment Washington's great hostesses will breathe easier. She has never figured large on the society pages of the newspapers but she has a large circle of friends and these agree she can be depended upon as a worthy successor to a long line of gracious presidents' wives.

All Washington winter functions are arranged so as not to interfere with white house engagements. For this reason no other invitations can go out until the white house schedule is known. The president and his wife always open the series of state banquets each season with the cabinet dinner, usually held about December 15. This is followed by the diplomatic dinner, the supreme court dinner and the speaker's dinner. Until the dates of these are known no hostess dares to arrange for a dinner of her own.

The cabinet officers entertain the president and others in turn, beginning with the secretary of state.

These dinners are necessarily limited to a small circle.

But there will be at least four formal evening receptions at the white house between January 1 and Shrove Tuesday. It is estimated here that the new Mrs. Wilson will be hostess to at least eight thousand persons the coming winter.

Former mistresses of the white house have also given evening musicales, invitations to which are highly prized. As Mrs. Galt is an excellent pianist and has a melodious voice, singing the old songs which the president loves, with great beauty, it is probable that these musicales will be continued. The president's unmarried daughter, Miss Margaret Wilson, also has a fine voice.

The second Mrs. Wilson is an attractive dresser and she may well set the fashion for women of her age. Since she put away her mourning several years ago, Mrs. Galt has usually selected soft greys or combinations of white and black. For her afternoon and evening gown material she has adopted crepe de chine and for street wear serge velours de laine and broadcloth.

While she was the guest of Miss Wilson and incidentally, the sweetheart of Miss Wilson's widowed father at Karlakenden house, Cornish, N. H., last summer, Mrs. Galt was seen usually in white tailored skirts and blouses for morning and either white chiffon or white silk in the evening. She also appeared in

a number of exquisite white muslin brothers run for her costumes.

Violets were her favorite corsage bouquet until she returned from Cornish. Since then she has often appeared with a bunch of orchids and it is now realized that these are from the white house conservatories, where at the present moment six thousand chrysanthemums of white and gold are being pushed to quick blossoms for the new white house lady's pleasure.

When walking about Washington, Mrs. Galt was seen in a white serge tailored suit, the jacket decorated in military fashion in white silk braid, white kid low shoes, white silk hosiery and a small black velvet hat.

For a woman of about forty years Mrs. Galt is strikingly handsome. She has dark eyes and wavy dark hair, splendid teeth, a peach bloom complexion and regular features. It is when she smiles, however, that she is irresistible.

Her exceedingly warm, sympathetic nature make those who have the honor of entering her home immediately at ease and she has the faculty of the great French dames of causing those conveying with her to feel they have never before been so brilliant.

The president is not a poor man, but it is probable that Mrs. Galt will bring him a fortune greater than his own. Her husband is understood to have left her about \$250,000. As her expenses have never been large, this has been increased considerably. She owns the century-old Galt jewelry store in Washington which two of her

Mrs. Galt is a woman of manifold interests. Her home is full of good books, which share with her music the long winter evenings. She is fond of the theatre. She drives her own electric automobile about Washington.

She plays a fair game of tennis and her golf has improved rapidly under Mr. Wilson's tuition. She proved an ardent baseball "fan" at one of the recent world series games and it is said that the president arranged to see this contest at his fiancée's expressed wish.

Mrs. Galt has not devoted herself to her own amusement by any means. She is active in St. Thomas Episcopal church where she was for some time chairman of the rector's aid society. Besides other local charities she has done much work for the mountain whites of the south, an activity in which the first Mrs. Wilson was also a leader. Mrs. Galt's efforts have always been most unobtrusive.

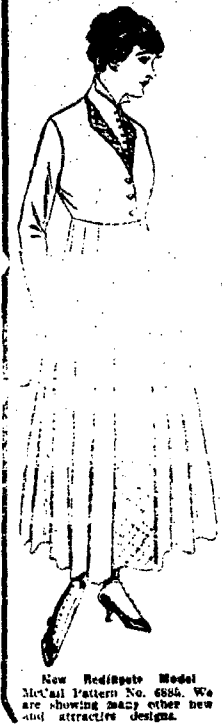
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