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## LIFE AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

### How Mrs. Cleveland Took The Political Defeat—A Beautiful Picture Of Home Felicity—The Pets Of The House—hold!

Mr. S. E. Archer writes in the current number of the Epoch an interesting sketch of White House life, which gives a glimpse of the inner circle such as is not usually accorded to correspondents. He says:

"That Mrs. Cleveland was disappointed over the result of the election, she very frankly admitted to the intimate friends who gathered about her on the evening of Nov. 6, when the day was lost and won, and electricity was flashing the returns over the wires to the White House.

"She sat in the Red Parlor with her mother, Mrs. Folsom, and Mrs. Vilas and her daughter, Secretary and Mrs. Whitney and Mrs. Endicott, and chatted over the disaster which was clearly predicted after the news from New York and Indiana had been received. To those who were trying to find topics of greater pleasantness to discuss she lent a ready smile and cheerful word, and when some one would try to offer an explanation of the astounding news she would dismiss the subject with a quiet reply and talk to Mrs. Endicott of her daughter's approaching marriage. With a girl's enthusiasm she entered into the particulars and made many kind inquiries regarding the event. Her ready sympathy went out to Mrs. Endicott, when one of the company asked her if Miss Mary would live in England, and the lady falteringly answered in the affirmative. Miss Endicott, like Mrs. Cleveland is an only daughter and the latter with the impulses of a warm-hearted woman expressed regret that the couple were not to reside nearer to the old home of her parents. Mrs. Cleveland readily accepted for her husband and herself the invitation to be present at the marriage ceremony, and kept the drooping spirits of all present by her animation and cheerfulness.

"The President was busy in his office and did not join his wife and guests, and when the latter had departed Mrs. Cleveland went at once to her own apartments to meet him.

"Callers occupied her time for a brief period the next forenoon, but she was enabled to get away from the White House early in the day and go to Oak View, where she was alone with her mother until the President and Col. Lamont arrived for dinner. On Thursday morning she returned with the President and busied herself with her personal affairs until callers came, when she appeared as radiant as usual and as apparently unconscious of self. Only her friends were admitted, and she seemed to enjoy their presence. To one lady, for whom she has a strong liking and is somewhat intimate terms, she said very seriously: 'I am sorry for the President and for his sake wish it had been otherwise, but what cannot be helped must be met.

"You will stay among us here after next March, we all hope," was said to her in reply.

"Too early to talk of that," smilingly replied Mrs. Cleveland. "We love our country home here and we love New York, and we women follow our husbands fortunes you know."

"And are you happy anywhere," said her friend.

"I have never had cause to belong otherwise. The old gay manner had come back, and Mrs. Cleveland was soon laughing and talking with other callers. The same friend in speaking afterward with Mrs. Folsom, remarked upon her daughter's admirable manner and behavior and in complimentary terms spoke of her career as 'the lady of the White House.'

Mrs. Folsom listened and then made the reply that from her earliest years her daughter had been of

loving, jovious nature and not even sickness could dampen her ardor. 'She is always the same happy nature,' was the fond mother's comment as she looked at her beautiful daughter.

"In speaking of the defeat of the President this same authority said 'You will never hear of anything impudent emanating from Mrs. Cleveland. She is wonderfully prudent and cautious in all her words and conduct. The President has the greatest of blessings in his young wife and he is in his heart too happy to be long cast down by political fortune. Though older, considerably, than she, he does not permit her to realize it, and her affection for him is extreme. Do you remember George Eliot's saying that the happiest wife is she who finds combined in her husband the tenderness of a father with the devotion of a husband? Mrs. Cleveland looks up to her husband with the trust and confidence she felt as a child in him, and she is very proud of her heart's choice. He is indeed that, as you would have seen for yourself had you witnessed their meeting after an absence of several weeks not a great while ago. Mrs. Cleveland saw the coachman's livery from the car window at the depot, and as she stepped to the door as the train stopped she looked toward the carriage anxiously. It was empty and her face revealed the disappointment she felt. The President was directly beside her and saw her eager glance and the look that succeeded it. He smilingly touched her and as she caught sight of him she impetuously threw herself into his arms. The rosy, blushing face was kissed and the President handed her to her seat and the prancing horses had dashed away with the happy pair.

"How will she like to return to Buffalo?"

"Mr. Cleveland has no interest to take him back there, and he will live wherever she will be happiest. There is no question as to his future residence and the matter was decided long ago. He is not so ambitious in any direction as he is for the happiness of the beautiful girl who made a hero of him before she was out of short dresses, who looks at him through the glamour of love's young dream. The only comfort I find in the defeat of the President is that the public will have opportunity to correct some misapprehensions entertained toward him and his wife. He is a peculiar man, but one of the noblest in the world."

"From this same lady, whose familiarity with the White House life entitles her to speak were learned several pleasant facts all bearing out her assertion that no home circle in the land is more delightful than the Cleverlands.' She said that Mrs. Cleveland is extremely fond of pets and talks to her dogs, coos to her birds and caresses her horses with a child's delight. But when others are about she restrains her feeling and gives her pets only such notice as is a necessary recognition of their delight at seeing her. So with her school-girl friends. At the table she is as dignified and mature in manner as is the President and far more gracious naturally, but in her private apartments her merry laugh and gay conversation are heard continuously. When she has her school-mates with her the President is ever ready with suggestions for their entertainment and he finds frequent excuses for going to her sitting room, where he is sure of a hearty welcome. There is a kind and friendly welcome for every one whom his wife cares for, and as a shot he is most urbane and attentive. The long line of women who have presided as hostesses of the White House have had new luster thrown about the position by the graceful girl who was the first and only one among Presidents' wives to celebrate her wedding in the historic mansion. She will be ranked in coming time with Mrs. Madison and Miss Harriet Lane as one of the three most popular wo-

men who have held the position. 'Side by side with the queenly Martha Washington's portrait should hang that of Frances Folsom the sweet girl-wife of the twenty-second President of the United States.

## Petty Superstitions.

Each new generation asks, When will the world have done with its superstitions? Why should people cling to strange beliefs in evil influences, beliefs which, for the most part had their rise in delusions of heathenism, centuries after the Christian religion has had full sway in the civilized world? We know that many strange and bloody superstitions have faded away in the past two centuries. "Witches" are no longer put to death, and incantations are no longer practiced in civilized countries; but a thousand petty beliefs in lucky and unlucky things survive these darker superstitions; and these, though they are proved false every day, continue to influence the minds of people of no little intelligence.

In some parts of the country the receipts of the railroads are smaller on Fridays than on other week days, because so many people fear some harm if they start on a journey on that day. Very many people, who would be ashamed to confess that they are influenced by this notion, hide it under some pretence, and perhaps convince themselves that they are guided by some other reason, in refraining from traveling on Friday, than their superstition; but the proof is plain that the influence of the day is feared.

A great many people have a fear of certain numbers, and a belief in luckiness of other numbers. If they stopped to think about it, they would be ashamed to be influenced by so unreasonable a feeling. They do not, however, stop to think. Superstition is simply a form of letting very ignorant people, who lived long before us, do our thinking for us.

Many men, who are incredulous about most things, have little tricks to bring about good fortune, such as turning a chair around before they sit down, carrying coins with holes in them, keeping a certain coin as a "pocket-piece," to bring good fortune, or a horse chestnut to "keep off the rheumatism." Inas-much as rheumatism is a disease of the blood, it is impossible to understand how a nut carried in a pocket could "keep it off."

The distinguished archaeologist, Dr. Henry Schliemann, is said by his friends to possess many superstitions, one of which leads him to be very careful always to put his left stocking and shoe on before the right, to put his left leg into his trousers, and his left arm first into his coat-sleeve.

His practice is the opposite of that of a great many people who believe that it is "luckiest" to put on the right stocking and shoe first. People who are superstitious would find much trouble, probably, to make their own superstitions agree with other people's.

One superstition which influences many is the fear of changing or turning a stocking which has been put on wrong side out. If the stocking has once been put on that way, it must be left, or else it will make the day unlucky. If the stocking possessed intelligence and power enough to bring people bad luck under any circumstances, it should do so when it is not turned, in indignation at being left wrong side out!

One of the most extraordinary individual superstitions of the present time is that of an Italian marchioness, who carries about with her a bottle in which is imprisoned an insect of the sort called a "multiplied"—a wood-worm with many feet.

This lady, who is not considered insane by those who know her, never does anything involving risk without taking out this bottle and holding it in her hand. This is simply the fetishism of the African negroes, and nothing more nor less. Among the French it is consid-

ered rather dangerous to talk of railroad accidents while on the trains, for fear the talk will bring on another accident. If this superstition was founded on a reason it must be because the locomotives and cars do not like to hear their misdeeds and mistakes spoken of!

A custom which prevails in Europe is the covering of all pictures and mirrors with cloths while a burial is taking place from the house.

The hundred small superstitions, such as fear of evil consequences from the spilling salt, from the breaking of a looking-glass, from howling of dogs at night, and many more such trifling cirious stances, are passing away, no doubt, but they still have a strange power over many people who do not believe in them, but who are thoughtlessly influenced by them through a sort of habit. Such a habit may be destroyed by a little serious thought when one is tempted to yield to a foolish impulse of the sort, and by really following out certain cherished "signs," and ascertaining whether they came true. A little faithful study of these signs, on one's own account, without taking the mere word of others, is pretty sure to convince of the falsity of all superstitions.—*Ex.*

## The Marriage of Near Kin.

Scientific American.

There is a widespread idea that consanguineous unions produce either defective offspring or none at all. When a marriage between cousins is spoken of, sterility or a deaf mute, idiotic, or deformed progeny is predicted, and examples are always at hand to cite in support of the prophecy.

Does this opinion rest upon positive and well authenticated facts, or is it erroneous? This is a question that was examined a few years ago by Mr. G. H. Darwin, who after a profound study of the subject, came to the conclusion that, in the present state of science, there is nothing to justify the common prejudice that exists against the marriage of near kin. More recently, the subject has been further examined by Mr. A. H. Huth, who has just published an exhaustive work upon it, in which he arrives at the same conclusions that Mr. Darwin did.

Mr. Huth thinks that consanguinity of itself plays no particular role in the union of individuals of the same stock. In the descendents it increases the tendencies common to the two progenitors. By reason of their relationship, the closer this is and the relationship of the ancestors, the greater is the tendency of the descendants to exhibit the same dispositions. If these are good, consanguineous unions will be advantageous, in that they will fortify and intensify them. If, on the contrary, they are bad, such unions should be avoided, in order to prevent a reinforcement of unfavorable tendencies, which should be suppressed. But the case is identical where it is a question of unrelated persons. No reasonable person would urge two neuropathic individuals of different family to unite, because he knows that the nervous has every chance to become intense in the descendants. On the contrary, a union between consanguineous individuals, equally healthy and well favored, ought to be encouraged. What must be urged against marriages of near kin is the facility with which unfavorable tendencies are transmitted and the relative rarity and the circumstances in which such marriages can really be advised. But, this admitted and explained, consanguinity of itself presents no inconvenience, especially if we consider how remote by reason of the existing laws upon marriage, is the degree of consanguinity between individuals capable of uniting legitimately.

Upon the whole, consanguinity accumulates and intensifies tendencies. If these are bad, the marriage of near kin should be avoided, if good, it may be favored. But as, unfortunately, the unfavorable tendencies are more easily and frequently transmitted, because they

are the ones that are established with the most facility, there is often more reason for avoiding than seeking such unions. Upon the whole, Mr. Huth concludes that the accusations directed against marriages of near kin are not justified in the present state of science.

## The Birmingham Butchery.

L. L. Poik, in Progressive Farmer.

On our return from the meeting of the National Alliance on Saturday night, the 8th, and as we neared the city of Birmingham, the rumor was caught on our train as we passed a station and was quickly passed from coach to coach that a tremendous riot was going on in the city. At 3 a. m. our train rolled in a large depot shed and a hasty glance at the scene presented under the glare of the electric lights, at once impressed us with the fact that the city was throbbing and surging under intense excitement. The walking bulletin—always on hands on such occasions—stood at the depot, on the street corners and everywhere, ready and eager to communicate all and more than he knew, and from him we learned that a number had been killed at the jail. On the streets, at the crossings, in the saloons, hotels, restaurants and drugstores, thousands of men were gathered in groups, discussing the terrible affair. Briefly stated, we learned the following facts: That one Hayes, a locomotive engineer, had killed his wife and two little daughters, had sunk their bodies in East Lake, went off to Columbus, Miss., and married a young woman. During his absence, the body of one of the children was found with sufficient evidence to justify his arrest, which was done promptly on his return on Friday, with his bride. He was placed in jail and on Saturday the body of the murdered woman was found in the deepest portion of the lake with 150 pounds of railroad iron tied about her neck, body and feet. The already excited populace now became furious, and as the startling and horrible story flew from mouth to mouth and house and street, the infuriated people gravitated to the vicinity of the jail. The sheriff placed a force of 50 men, armed with Winchester repeating rifles, in the jail to guard it. Every minute but added to the numbers and to the rage of the crowd, until at 11:25 they began to move into an alley leading to the jail. The Sheriff ordered them to desist, but the surging mass pressed the foremost forward. Again the sheriff warned them, and ordered the guard to fire. A volley was poured on the crowd; it broke to fly and another volley, and the sickening, horrible work was over. Seven men killed outright and seventeen badly wounded, a majority of whom it was thought would die.

## THE LESSON OF BLOOD.

Lynching has become alarmingly frequent. We have never yet heard that even a mob visiting this swift and wild justice, justified their course by pleading the inadequacy of the law. Through the incompetency of officers charged with executing the law, through avarice, venality and corruption, justice is too often invoked in vain in our court houses, hence men claim the right to seek it through the broken doors of our jail houses. Let the sober-minded and order-loving citizens of the country feel that attorneys, jurors and judges stand with uncovered heads in the presence of the majesty of law and justice; let them no longer dread packed juries, bribed witnesses and corrupt judges, and a healthful, righteous public sentiment will banish lynch law from the land.

Again: Never were we so forcibly impressed with the importance of having at hand a well organized, well equipped and thoroughly efficient military company in such emergencies. Placing the jail in Birmingham under charge of such a guard on that fatal day would have averted the horrible butchery of its citizens. The timely appearance of such a force, of itself, would have deterred them from any attempt on the jail.

## Counting the Electoral Vote.

Philadelphia Times.

By the act of February 3, 1887, the day for the meeting of the Presidential Electors in the several States is changed from the first Wednesday of December to the second Monday in January following their election. The reason for this change was to give the States ample time for determining any disputes that might arise concerning the legality of the choice of its Electors, so that when the Electors meet there may be no doubt of their right to cast the vote of the State for candidates for President and Vice-President.

Under the old law the Electors in each State were required to appoint a person to take charge of the certificate setting forth their action and deliver it to the President of the Senate before the first Wednesday of January. In the act of 1887, requiring the electors to meet on the second Monday in January, Congress failed to change the date of delivery to the President of the Senate, thus leaving the Electors in the anomalous position of being required to deliver the certificate of their final action before that action was taken. This inconsistency was discovered, however, and remedied by a supplementary Act passed in the closing hours of the recent session, which provides that the certificates and list of votes cast on the second Monday of January shall be forwarded to the President of the Senate as soon as possible thereafter, and empowering the latter official, in case the certificate from any State fails to turn up by the first Monday in January, to send a special messenger to the District Judge, in whose custody one certificate is required to be left for his copy.

This is to insure certificates from every State by the time the two Houses of Congress meet to count and declare the vote, which is fixed by the fourth section of the law of 1887 at 1 P. M., on the second Wednesday of February. The last three sections of the law prescribe the rules of procedure during the count in the presence of the two Houses and are aimed to compel a conclusion of the count before the day fixed by law for the inauguration of the President.

Fortunately, in the first count of the electoral vote under the new law no serious dispute or complication is likely to arise, as General Harrison's majority of the electoral vote is so pronounced as to leave no grounds or excuse for a contest. The machinery of the new law will therefore be put in operation under favorable conditions and without friction. While it is not all that could be desired in the matter of providing against any possible future complication, like that arising in 1876, the law of 1887 is certainly an improvement on former laws and rules governing the electoral count and will, in all probability, be found adequate to any necessities that may arise under it.

## Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland's trip to Europe.

The Washington correspondent of the *Balt. Sun* says, that in deference to the wishes of Mrs. Cleveland the President and she will make an extended European tour after March 4. The projected trip it is said, will include a sojourn in France, England, Spain, Italy, Norway and Sweden, and last perhaps a year or more, President Cleveland is better known all over Europe than any of his predecessors, except, perhaps, Lincoln Grant, and would, no doubt be the recipient of much attention should he conclude to cross the ocean. It is scarcely to be expected that any other American would receive so much attention as did Gen. Grant.

A quack doctor heads his advertisement. "Ho, all ye dispeptics! That's just what they won't do. If they would all hoe vigorously they might not need any medicine.—*Ex.*

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## Lay a Fainting Person Down.

It is surprising how everybody rushes at a fainting person and strives to raise him up, and especially to keep his head erect. There must be an instinctive apprehension that if a person seized with a fainting or other fit, fall into the recumbent position death is more imminent. I must have driven a mile to-day while a lady fainting was held upright. I found her pulseless, white, and apparently dying, and I believe that if I had delayed ten minutes longer she would really have died. I laid her head down on a lower level than her body, and immediately color returned to her lips and cheeks, and she became conscious. To the excited group of friends I said: Always remember this fact—namely: Fainting is caused by a want of blood in the brain; the heart ceases to act with sufficient force to send the usual amount of blood to the brain, and hence the person loses consciousness because the function of the brain ceases. Restore the blood to the brain and instantly the person recovers. Now, though the blood is propelled to all parts of the body by the action of the heart, yet it is still under the influence of the laws of gravitation. In the erect position the blood ascends to the head against gravitation, and the supply to the brain is diminished, as compared with the recumbent position, the heart's pulsation being equal. If, then, you place a person sitting, whose heart has nearly ceased to beat, his brain will fail to receive blood, while if you lay him down, with the head lower than the heart, blood will run into the brain by the mere force of gravity; and, in fainting, in sufficient quantity to restore consciousness. Indeed, it teaches us how to manage the fainting persons, for they always fall, and frequently are at once restored by the recumbent position into which they are thrown.—*Medical Journal.*

## Bad Temper.

Westminster Teacher.

The matter of temper is one which ought to concern us all. Some one in England has been setting spies on a goodly number of people unawares, and has gathered reports on their temper. The result reached is that more than fifty per cent. of those under espionage were put down as bad tempered. The statement is not very flattering, but it is probably not far wrong. There certainly are a great many bad tempered people. There are even a goodly number of professing Christians whose tempers are not the sweetest. A Christian home ought to be as heavenlike as is possible in this world of sin and human imperfection; yet there are Christian homes in which there is much of bickering and strife and sharp, cruel speaking and other manifestations of bad temper. Is there in Christianity no cure for this? Is there no power in divine grace that can sweeten the bitter fountains in human hearts and make Christ's disciples gentle in spirit and quiet and kindly in speech? One of the lines of beauty in St. Paul's portrait of love is—"not easily provoked." That seems to be the missing line in many otherwise fine characters. Is St. Paul's picture meant for real life or is it too fine to be attainable? Certainly it stands for an ideal toward which every Christian should continually strive. If therefore we learn love's lesson well, we ought to be sweet tempered. We ought to be able to control our ugly feelings and dispositions and our quick, fiery tongues. Of course, the work must begin in the heart and must be wrought by divine grace. But a good deal of it rests with ourselves; we must train ourselves to sweeter moods and kinder words. It will not do to lay the whole responsibility on our religion; we have to be co-workers with God.

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