

(Copyright, 1912, by Associated Literary Press.)

Elisha Ridgeway was a simple man of forty and lived on a farm alone and made his own bed and did his own cooking. Time after time he was asked why he didn't marry, and time after time his reply was:

"Mebbe I orter and mebbe not. I dunno 'bout it."

But there came a time when he did know. It was about a year after the death of farmer Baker. Elisha had known him and his wife for ten years. For twelve months he went over and helped the widow out as a duty, but one day he stopped his horses at the plow and rubbed his chin in a reflective way and said to himself:

"Gosh all fish-hooks, but I guess ought to marry Nancy! That hired man of hers needs a man to boss him. and some of her cows are always ailin' or the hogs havin' the cholera. Elisha Ridgeway, it's your duty."

That evening he went over to see the widow. He was more quiet than usual, and by and by she took notice and asked:

'Lisha, anything on your mind?" "Jest a leetle," was the reply. "Tater-bugs ain't come, have they?"

"Haven't got a squint of a single one.

"Didn't lose any turkeys by the last cold rain?"

"Noap. What's on my mind, Nancy, is gettin' married."

'For the land's sake!" "Yes, I thought you'n me would get

married."

"Hear the man talk!"

"Yes, I'm a-talkin'. Thought it all over this afternoon. Better set the weddin' day."

Elisha Ridgeway was a good-natured man and meant well, but he made a mistake. He made it because he was an old bachelor. It did not occur to him that a woman must be won. Even a cross-eyed, lop-shouldered woman isn't going to be picked up and lugged off to the altar without enough hanging back to save appearances. Had Elisha been courting for even a month things might have been different, but he hadn't courted at all. He had simply sat on the porch with the widow and talked crops and country gossip. There had been glorious sunsets and silvery moons and songs by the whippoorwills, but not so much as a sigh from him. And there was something



CDI "I thought from what Jim said when he found he'd got to go that he er pected us to get married." "Mebbe he did, but we ain't goin' to

-not yet, anyway. 'Lish, I'm a wom an of my word. When I heard of what Sarah Jones said I said to myself that wouldn't marry agin under five years at least, and I'll keep my word." There was a groan from poor Elisha that touched her heart, and her voice was sympathetic as she said: "I ain't sayin' that I don't like you.

but I'm sayin' you'll have to wait four 'ears more." Another long-drawn groan.

"But you come over and court. Courtin' is next to marryin'." Elisha groaned some more, but the vidow Baker was implacable. Four years more if it killed her stone dead! It was a lonely man that went home

Baleigh --- Mr. W. N. Hutt, state horto a lonely house. The very next day, while he was at ticulturist, has given out the following ing into the matter of locating a test the plow again, he heard the widow concerning fruit prospects in North farm for tobacco. From here they calling for help and started on the Carolina run to the rescue. A couple of tramps had invaded the farmhouse and were "I have hesitated in giving a remaking threats. Elisha went for them port of fruit prospects in North like a locomotive running away. He Carolina until I was sure that the offering the best advantages. panged them and slammed them, and mantle of Jack Frost had safely slammed them, and booted them, and when they had crawled away to the passed beyond the borders of the road the grateful widow said to him: state. At every report of a drop in

"'Lisha, I hate to break my word. but we'll take a year off them four and make the time three."

to see if the cold wave would be tled the matter in the majority of in-The old bachelor sighed over it, but fierce enough to extend over his prowent his way. Three years was not tecting barrier of mountains. as long as four, no matter what almanac one had in the house.

vere in the South and fruit trees Luck is erratic. She will slam-bang man one day, and let him find a fat were kept in a perfectly dormant wallet in the road on the next. In this condition until much later in spring case, she didn't slam-bang at all. She than is usual for this part of the country. They were not in bloom just cuddled up to Elisha and told him to go ahead and she would back him. this season until nearly a month later than they were last year. This very Two days after the tramp episode much shortened the danger period of the widow Baker raised a ladder beside the house to tie up a growing possible injury from cold. "In a comparison or reports for the

vine, and by a bit of carelessness she last thirty years, the United States Chairman, Gen. J. S. Carr; auditor, lost her hold and hung head down-Weather Bureau has set April 20th as W. H. Rogers; secretary, M. H. Jones. wards. It was Elisha that came to her rescue again, and it was the woman average date for the last killing frost in spring for the general fruit an who, after drinking a pint of hard region of North Carolina, but occacider to steady her nerves, looked up at him with grateful eyes and said: sionally gold spells have occurred as "'Lisha Ridgeway, I'm a woman of late as May 10th. This extreme date my word, but I'll be snummed if I has now safely been passed at which

don't take a year off them three, leav- the fruit can be injured by cold. There has not been a single setback, ing only two for you to wait! But for you I'd be a dead woman now."

Elisha thought of the two long years able to a heavy set of fruit. Trees all over the state have bloomed proand sighed and went his way with a fusely and the "set" of all kinds of feeling that Luck might keep things fruit has been exceptionally heavy. going. She did. Only three days later. when he went to carry back a bor-There has been no untoward weather since to cause much dropping and the rowed hoe, he found the widow Baker fruit has developed so rapidly that proached Rev. R. L. Davis, superinin the well, where she had been for three long hours, and was chilled in spite of the late spring it is now through and through. In drawing a about as big as in the average seabucket of water she had leaned too far SOL "There will be urgent need this year over the curb.

"I was praying for you to come," for thinning of peaches and apples she said with chattering teeth as he all over the state.' looked down at her.

"You the the end of the rope around you when I let it down. Stop! Does this take off another year?"

'Lisha, you know I'm a woman of my word," was the reply. 'You are, Nancy."

"I said four years and then three years, and now, though I know how Sarah Jones will giggle, I'm goin' to knock off still another year."

tion, intimating that he may decide election officials and the party head-'Good for you! Come up!" One year now-only one! Elisha to recommend commutation. The evi- quarters men, know no more about wondered if Luck was going to turn dence was that Wilkin's wife had been who has been nominated for county on him or continue being good. If he forced to leave him and that he went could only smash that other year! to her mother's house where she was He had his opportunity. There came stopping and shot her, then buried

thunderstorm one midnight, and the her body under the corn crib. bolt that struck the widow Baker's house and set it afire raised him out of bed and sent him running. The rain, aided by a few pails of water. doused the flames, and some more hard cider brought the widow clear of the shock. She had given herself up for dead. After she could talk Elisha seemed to expect her to say something. She realized that he did, and therefore led off:



to ships flying the American flag. The

measure passed. Mr. Small was the

only North Carolinian that voted for it.

of the city.

growers would wait with bated breath ed contests, the primaries having set-

Webb, Gudger and Kitchin were out

Durham .-- Dr. W. W. Gardner of

Washington, of the Agricultural De

partment, R. W. Scott of Alamance,

member of the North Carolina agricul-

tural board, and J. L. Burgess of A.

and M. College, were in the city lock-

stances. The ticket as nominated is:

W. H. Allen, sheriff; J. A. Turner,

representative to legislature; J. B.

Yarborough, register of deeds; P. B.

of Gen. Julian S. Carr, chairman of

the board, Mr. E. J. Green was elected

superintendent of the city graded

schools for the coming year to suc-

ceed himself. Other officers of the

school board that were elected were:

The teachers are to be elected at the

Wilson,-W. J. Strickland, an alleg-

reported be," and who was tried by

the costs in the superior court.

Griffin, treasurer.

June meeting.

NORTH CAROLINA.

HAD HESITATED IN REPORT

Past Winter Was Unusually Severe in

the South and Fruit Trees Were

Kept in Dormant Condition-Month

temperature in the Northwest and

Mississippi regions, the Southern fruit

"The past winter was unusually se

but everything has been most favor-

Wife Murderer Gets Reprieve.

die in the electric chair here gets a

reprieve from Governor Kitchin to

Raleigh .- The Nash county wife

Later In Blooming.

CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF of the North Carolina delegation voted against the Doremus substitute provid-ORIENTE CONTINUE TO BE ing for free tolls in the Panama canal

ALARMING.

PILLAGING TOWNS

THE CALL FOR PROTECTION The Rebels Have Surrounded Palma Seriana and Inhabitants Are Vainly Appealing to the Government For

Help-The Situation is Serious.

went to Oxford, where they will look Santiago, Cuba .-- Conditions in the over the farming land in that section. province of Oriente continue extreme-After making a thorough inspection ly alarming. From all quarters petithey will decide on and buy the land ions are pouring in for protection which the government is unable to Louisburg .- The regular Democratic furnish because of all available troops convention for Franklin county, held are teing concentrated for the purpose for the purpose of nominating candiof surrounding the main bodies of the dates for the various offices, was very rebols under Generals Estonez and harmonious, and there were no spirit-

Ivonet. Troops under Colonel Machada had an engagement at Parral with the rebels in which a number of the rebels are reported to have been killed or wounded, the remainder being dispersed. At Tivuabos, near Guantanamo, government forces under Captain Durham. - At a meeting of the Percy routed a band of insurgents, board of education, held in the office

killing several. Great alarm is felt at Baracca. The town is without protection and is cut off from communication with the interior. An urgent appeal has been made to the government to send a gunboat.

General Ivonet with a band of 150 negroes, mounted and armed with new rifles, is pillaging the stores at La Caroling and vicinity.

The rebels have been again sur-Washington .-- Of th 25 North Carorounded Palma Soriano, north of Sanlina claims in the omnibus bill as it tiago, the inhabitants of which are passed the House only 9 remain in the vainly appealing for protection. The bill as it was reported by the Senate Atlantic Fruit Steamship Company committee on claims. The House prohas also asked protection for its propposed to pay off an enormous number erty at Sagua de Tanoma on the north of claims approved by the court which grew out of damages to private propcoast of Oriente, but no troops are erty through its use or destruction by available.

Reports from Manzantillo, on the Union soldiers duirng the Civil War. west coast, state that a number of negroes who were leaving town to join ed blind tiger, who on March 4th apthe insurgents in the field, exchanged sho's with a police patrol, some of tendent of the Anti-Saloon League. them being wounled. said: "D- you, you are the man who

Are After Long Distance Record.

Mayor Dickinson and fined \$25 and San Antonio, Tex .- The balloon "St. costs and who appealed from his de-Louis" ascended here in an effort to cision, was up before Judge Frank lift the Lahm cup for long distance Carter. After hearing the statements flights. Traveling rapidly and at high of Mr. Strickland and Rev. Mr. Davis, altitude, the balloon disappeared in Judge Carter affirmed the decision by the North. In the basket are Albert murderer, G. G. Wilkins, who was to Mayor Dickinson and added to the Von Hoffman and Capt. John Berry, fine and costs imposed by the Mayor both widely known aeronauts. The St. Louis is better equipped than any of June 7th. There will be presented to Newton .-- The preferential primary the balloons that have flown from the governor in the meantime a peti- idea failed to work smoothly in Cahere in the past two years in an ention for commutation to life imprison- tawba county and three days after deavor to break the long distance ment. The solicitor of the district the primary was held the candidates record Features of the equipment are has added his request for commuta- themselves, together with the primary oxygen tanks, which the aeronauts believe will enable them to fly high over Arkansas, where the storm areas are usually encountered. treasurer than they did three days

Atlantic Fleet Ordered To Cuba.

Washington .- Insurrection and disorders in Cuba, threatening the life



Chauncey M. Depew, seventy-eight years old, stepped into the recep-tion room of his wide, high-cellinged house at No. 27 West Fifty-fourth street, with the same springy, erect carriage which has distinguished him always. With his same old genial smile and hand clasp he demanded to know of a reporter if he were not as young looking as wer. He appeared to be.

"Well," said Mr. Depew, "I suppose you want to know the secret of youth? What? Most wealthy Americans don't know it? So, so. Well, they use their acquisitive faculties so much that they forget how to play. I always mixed work with play in physicianlike quantities. It's the secret of health, wealth and pleasure. But I fear it has won me the reputation of being a frivolous person." Mr. Depew shook his head. "A frivolous person," he repeated

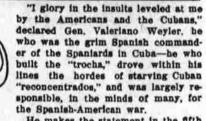
editatively. Then his eyes twinkled. "Yes," in answer to a question. He had read Joseph H. Choate's declara-

tiontion that this is an age of defamation and crimination. But he (Mr. De pew) did not agree with it.

"This age isn't a circumstance to former ages," he said. "Why, back in the days when the republic first started if you were to have read the opposition papers you must have concluded that George Washington was everything from a hypocritical liar to an unmentionable bigot, not to mention the other unmentionable mentions made of him. Hamilton was secretary of the treasury, and saying he was a defaulter was a mild form of praise. If he had lived then Mr. Choate would probably have been speechless. "However, I was reading over some letters written by a Federalist ances

tor of mine to his son just after Jefferson's election. He wrote that Jefferson was 'an infidel and a Jacobin.' Further, he said that he was glad he was leaving a republic that was going to the dogs under Jefferson's administration. Whenever I'm blue I read those letters and grow optimistic."

WEYLER MAKES NO APOLOGIES



He makes the statement in the fifth volume of his book, "My Command in Cuba," which has just been published in Madrid. It is the last of the series of volumes, the four previous ones having followed each other at intervals during the past two years.

Weyler makes no apologies for the acts that caused his name to be execrated here and in Cubs, except in so far as to state that he believes in justice tempered with severity and never treated his opponents with unmerited cruelty. In the "epilogue," which sums up his

work he confidently maintains that, if he had been in command of the Spanish forces in Cuba when the Americans under Gen. Shafter invaded that island, he would have driven the invaders into the sea and caused the war to go down in history as a Spanish, and not an American, triumph. He criticizes in unsparing terms the conciliatory tactics of his successor. Gen. Blanco, and the latter's faulty military judgment, insisting that, had he been in Blanco's place, his severity would have crushed the Cuban insurrection long before the advent of Shafter, thus depriving the Americans of the aid of Calixto Garcia and other Cuban allies, and that his military judgment would have told him that Santiago was the objective of the Americans, instead of Havana, as Blanco erroneously thought.

Moreover, Weyler has no regrets on the score of his "reconcentrado" policy, which earned for him such bitter criticism. Not only was the scheme of driving the inhabitants of the countryside within an army's lines in order to deprive the enemy of succor, no invention of his own, according to him, but he points out that it was later adopted as a legitimate military expedient by the British against the Boers and by the Americans against the Filipinos -by those very Americans who so furiously denounced the Spanlards for herding the Cuban peasants behind their rows of sentries and block houses.





"Yes, Lisha, Them Are the Very Words."

else to obstruct the way. The widow looked at him for a moment and then sald: "'Lisha, there ain't goin' to be no

weddin' dav!" "But why?"

"In the first place I'm all eat up with astonishment, and in the next time been made to utilize this enoryou must have heard what Sarah Jones said the day my husband was any great measure of success. burled?"

"Don't remember."

"But I do, and so does a heap of other folks. She keeps quiet for a minute and then nods her head and says:

'You jest put it down in black and white that Nancy Baker will marry agin as soon as the year is up.""

'Yes, 'Lisha, them are her very words, and more'n a dozen women have got 'em writ down. D'ye think I'm goin' to let the words of that old grasswidow come true? No siree!

"But it's over a year," he protested. "Yes, it's thirteen months, one day and two hours, to be exact, but Sarah Jones would giggle just the same"

"'Lisha, I'm a woman of my word! said five years, and then four-three -Iwo

"And now Nancy ?" "Sarah Jones is goin' to giggle."

Sun Power Wasted. Measurements have shown that on a

clear, sunny day the sun transmitted to the earth energy which corresponded to about 7,000 horsepower per

acre. At present all that is practically wasted, or rather generally in localities where any addition to the temperature could well be dispensed with Attempts have from time to

mous supply of energy, but not with

Woman an Active Politician. Rough and Ready, Cal., is lucky enough to have for registrars of vot-

ers Miss Mamie Morrison, an expert horsewoman who is highly popular, and she has made a new record by

hunting up every voter in her bailtwick, spending ten hours a day in the saddle. She takes her book to county

dances, too, and not a man or woman escapes without registering .- Indianapolis News.

Speculation.

Most people speculate because they believe there are bigger fools than themselves who will draw the blanks

Hard to Get in a Word

Charles Rann Kennedy, the play-wright, holds the American and Eng-lish record for talking, according to the New York correspondent of the an Englishman, but he has no trouble Cincinnati Times-Star. Mr. Kennedy with the limber. The manager did not glories in talk. He revels in it. He complete his sentence. The third day can talk more on any given subject the manager called again. They spent than any other playwright on earth. four hours in pleasant converse by Mr. He can talk without a subject. He Kennedy. At the expiration of that of Third Infantry. He can talk without a subject. He period the manager rose, put on his will furnish his own topic or talk on period the manager rose, put on his makes no difference to him, hat and withdrew a typewritten paper

yours. It makes no difference to him. All he asks is a listener. He has all from his pocket. "What's this?" asked Kennedy. "A rest of the works. Once Mr. Ken-

the rest of the works. Once Mr. Ken-nedy's manager dropped his watch while visiting the playwright. "Let me have that watch," said Kennery. "I know a fine watchmaker, and I'll take it to him for repairs."

week later the manager dropp. Mr. Kennedy began to talk. It made a few fut ts of his hands, waved his

ements of his manage, a status, in adian and want away, he must day the manager called on Kannedy again. Mr. Kennedy be-

summons? I remomber-

Man is the only animal which cher-

Mistrial Ordered in Brewer Case, Asheville.-After deliberating on the charged with the murder of Patrolman McConnel last July, the jury came into the court room and informed Judge Long that they were unable to agree, consequently a juror was withdrawp and a mistrial ordered.

Lillington-Harnett county is threefourth for Wilson. The reports to the contrary are misleading.

Patritoic Some of America.

Concord .- At the meeting of the Pa- Asheville for the past 14 years, retritotic Sons of America state officers were elected as follows: M. G. Ray, Raleigh, president; S. R. Swink, High Point, vice president; Z. P. Smith, gage in business with O. D. Revell, for-Fayetteville, recording secretary; H. H. Koonce, Lexington, master of forms; T. Ivey, Cary, treasurer; J. D. Jimison, Marion, conductor; P. A. Peeler, Faith, inspector; P. G. Cook, Concord, guard; M. C. Reeves, Winston-Salem, trustee. James D. Patten secretary of the national camp, made an able address.

Two Youths Killed In Wreck. Hendersonville .-- Otto Edney and Ernest Hill, aged 15 and 13 years, respectively, Hendersonville boys were killed in a Southern freight wreck at Naples, 4 miles north of here, while hoboing from Asheville. Medical attention was given them, but both died about the same time while being is said that Ball went to spend the brought to this city in an auto truck. night with Williams at whose house Their bodies were badly bruised. The cause of the wreck is unknown. The track was torn up for some distance and traffic was delayed for a number of hours.

Commissions Have Been Issued. Raleigh .- The following commissions have been issued from the Adjutant General's office: Mr. George L. Lyerly, of Hickory, as Captain of Company "A," First Infantry. Mr. J. H. Kivitt, of Asheboro, as Captain of Company "A," Third Infantry. Mr. Leo. E. Byrum, of Oxford, as Second Lieutenant of Company "E," Third Infantry. Mr. George L. Pittman, of Goldsboro, Second Lieutenant, Battal-ion Commissary and Quartermaster

Big Fire Does Much Damage. Wilmington .- Fire just across the

river at Acme Tea Chest Company did summons? I remumber——" Mr. Kennedy spent a few minutes in profitable and pleasing remini-scence. In the midst of it the man ager fied, howing like a wolf. When he had gone Mr. Kennedy looked at the paper. It contained these words: "Whore did you take my watch to be fixed? I've been trying to ask you this for three days." When be shipped to New York. The loss is ited at nearly covered by insurance. The words: cause of the fire was a spark falling it to be on top of the house. The machinery sk you was not materially damaged. A reve-nue cutter nearby did fine service get-ting a schooner and barge out of the

way of the flames.

Raleigh .-- A Wake superior court jury returned a verdict for \$10,000 case of Wes Brewer, allas John Huff, damages for the plaintiff in the case of George B. Fleming against the Norfolk and Southern Railroad Company. Fleming sued for \$50,000 for personal injuries sustained in a wreck in August, 1910, in the Raleigh yard. He was engineer on an incoming passenger train that collided with yard engine, the engine which was attempting to get out to a siding without orders

before the primary. There are no re-

turns to date about this contest and

no information about the whole vote

cast.

The latter was killed. Asheville .- James L. Wagner, who has been assistant, postmaster at

signed, his resignation to take effect at once, for the purpose of removing to Muskogee, Okla., where he will enmerly of this city.

Raleigh .-- Locomotive Engineer R. R. Seward secured from the supreme court an order for a new trial in his damage suit against the Seaboard Air Line, in which a non-suit was entered in the trial below, the court holding that there was evidence presented that the jury should pass upon.

Rocky Mount .--- Claiming that John Davis, colored, had taken five dollars and some cents and a quart of liquor from him, J. W. Lyles, a white man, shot and killed the negro. The shooting occurred at South Rocky Mount, near the railroad shops.

Henderson.-Several days ago Elijah Ball shot R. T. Williams twice. It the shooting occurred. Ball is at large and Williams is in the hospital in a precarlous condition. Whiskey, it is said, was at the bottom of the trouble

Wilmington .-- G. C. Campbell, aged 27, of Mecklenburg county, a steward. on a camp car, of a force of Western Union Telegraph Company linemen. committed suicide by shooting him-self in the head, while alone in the car at Lake Waccamaw, Columbus county. No cause is assigned. Henderson .- While taking up the collection at the Second colored Baptist church, superintendent of the Sunday school, Columbus Foster, began to stagger, but was caught before falling to the floor, and survived only a minute after an attack of paralysis of the heart.

Newbern.-Chief of Police Rouse, of Dover, left for Omaha, Neb., to take charge of Harold T. Pratt, the former Newburn insurance agent, who, it is alleged, committed various offenses here several months ago and left for parts unknown and who was captured at Omaha several days ago.

ed at Omaha several days ago. Dunn.—People are about done plant-ing in this section now and cotton chopping will be the rage for two weeks. The stands are fine and every-thing tooks good for mother hig crop in this section. Wheat and onts are good and our folks can eat biscuit and feed their teams soon.

and property of Americans and believed by the United States to be spreading beyond control of the Cuban government, caused the American government to take active steps in preparation to cope with any situation which may arise in the island republic. The third and fourth divisions of the Atlantic battleship fleet were ordered to take on their full

The Aftermath of the Flood.

quota of marines.

New Orleans .- Railroads in the submerged territory north and east of Melville are organizing repair gangs to be sent out to rush the work of repairing roadbeds and bridges damaged by the waters from the Dogtail, Torfras, Panther Forest and Beaulah breaks. There will be a large demand for labor, but the supply made available by idle farm hands is expected to more than equal the demand. The Texas & Pacific. Southern Pacific and the Vicksburg, Shreveport & Pacific sustained considerable damage by washouts. Section damage gangs will probably be the first to begin repairs.

Oldest Hotel in Baltinore Burned Baltimore.-The Eutaw House at Baltimore and Eutaw streets, the oldest hotel in Baltimore, was badly damaged by fire which started in the basement from an explosion origin. Much of the damage was caused by the deluge of water poured into the structure, a five-story brick building, from practically the full strength of the fire department. All the guests in the house at the time escaped in safety, but several were obliged to use the fire escape because of the smoke which filled the corridors.

May Take Over C. C. & O. Railroad. Richmond, Va .-- To further perfect its scheme to get a direct western outlet, as well as 'a through route from the Great Lakes to South Atlantic seaboard, preliminary to the completion of the Panama canal, it is declared in railway circles here to be the principal motive behind the deal for the sale of 210,000 shares of Seaboard Air Line Stock by the Cumberland Corporation, which owns the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio, running from Spartanburg, S. C., to St. Paul, in outhewest Virginia.

Fifteen Officers Retired.

Washington-Fifteen retired officers, nostly of high rank, who have been erforming active service were reliev ed. Heading list are three rear admirals, Lieutze commanding the New York navy yard; Wainwright, who has York navy yard; Wainwright, who and been on the general board and Mahou on duty at the naval war college. The others are Captain Little Halsey and Koester; commanders Hulme, Wella, Poyter and Morita; Lieut. Command-er Whittlesey, Lieuts, McIntosh and Davenport and Chief Engineers Craw-lord and Williamson.

SHE'S MRS. JOHN ASTOR NOW

Although Ava, Willing Astor has proclaimed herself a resident of England, and has announced her intention of rearing her daughter Muriel abroad,

no intimation has come as to when she will start back to London. Society is waiting impatiently for this announcement, as from it a fairly definite answer may be gleaned to the one big question which is agitating the four hundred now:

Will Mrs. Ava Willing Astor try to resume her place in society here and become the recognized feminine head of the Astor family?

Public discussion of this phase of the complicated Astor family situation is considered out of the question during the present period of mourning, but private speculation upon it is rife in all circles of society.

The fact that Mrs. Astor, immediately upon her arrival here, took pains to identify herself to interviewers as Mrs. John Astor is taken by many to

indicate that she aspires for reception here as THE Mrs. Astor. That her experience in society would give her a considerable advantage over the youthful Mrs. Madeline Force Astor is conceded. Doubts, however, exist at pres-ent as to whether either of the Mrs. Astors will ever be able to grasp the scepter held by Mrs. William Astor, the colonel's mother.

Had Colonel Astor lived, it is probable that his bride eventually would have been accepted in his set as a leader. But as the colonel died before abe could be established in that position, and as before her marriage she starred on tennis courts, rather than in ball rooms, it is considered doubtful whether she can ever become the social celebrity that she surely would have become had her husband lived.

In addition it is asserted that there is no real social leader in New York today—that society is divided into chiques, each with its own leader—and that the Astor clique would oppose Mrs. Ava Willing Astor trying to take the place formerly occupied by her mother-in-law.

MAJ. RHOADES SUCCEEDS BUTT

Mai, Thomas L. Rhoads, who has suc ceeded the late Maj. Archibald W. Butt at the president's chief military aid, was chosen from the medical branch of the army service. He is 42 years old and unmarried, like all his predecessors. Serving as the president's aid is one of the most exacting occupations known, and for that rea-son a bachelor is invariably given the

Until recently Major Rhoads served on the medical staff of the Walter Reed General hospital, near Bright-wood, a suburb of Washington city. His duties there naturally kept him His duties there naturally kept him from mingling much in the social life of the capital and restricted the range of his acquaintances. But that restric-tion has now been removed, and Major Rhoads is making friends rap-tidly. He has always been well liked in army circles. He is somewhat old-or in appearance than Major Butt, and has more gravity of manner. Major

er in appearance it han Major Butt, and has more gravity of manner. Major Burope several months ago. Major Butt's duties since the latter left for dent's physician, and when Major Butt left the president selected him to fill the aid's post temporarily. Major Bhonds' appointment was decided as soon as it became certain that Major Butt had perished in the wreck of the Titanic. The new appointes got a tasts of his new duties during the new



