

The NATION'S WEALTHY WIDOWS

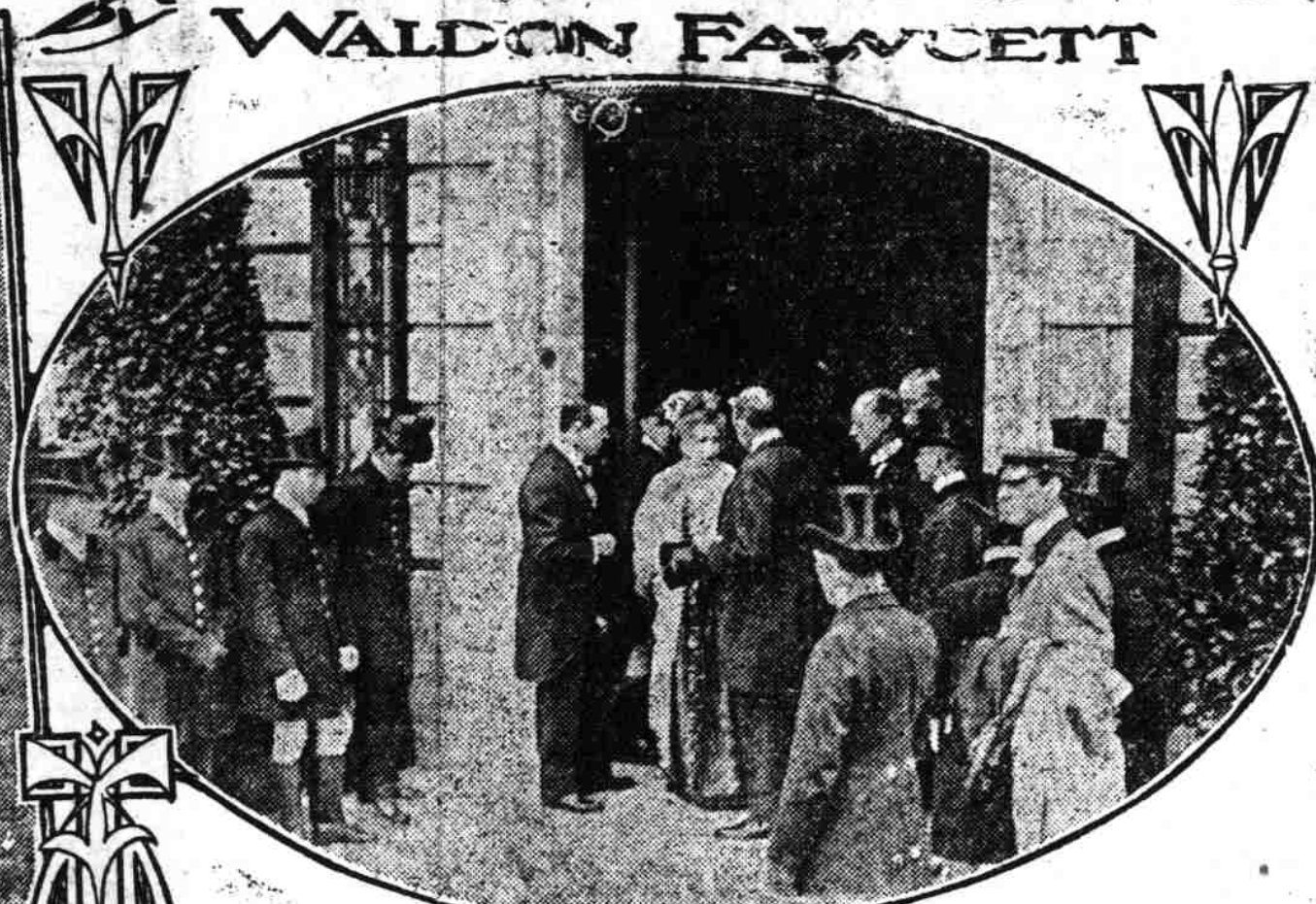
W EALTHY American widows have come in recent years to play a most important part in several important divisions of the world's affairs. It is not, either, merely here in the United States that these moneyed women are making their influence felt. On the contrary, their influence has proven fully as potent in many circles abroad—so much so, indeed, that the good people of Europe have been compelled to sit up and take notice of the American widows as a class well worthy to rank with any subdivision of society abroad (not even excepting the nobility), if the comparison be made on the basis of gowns or millinery or jewelry or any of the other standards by which the feminine world sets such store.

Here in the United States it would be difficult to name a sphere in which the wealthy widows have not been exerting tremendous influence of late years. Even in politics they have not waited upon the victory of the suffrage cause to enable them to take a hand. For the present, to be sure, their influence is indirect, but it is none the less tangible, as witness the power of the salon maintained by that brilliant woman, Mrs. Hitt, widow of the late chairman of the foreign relations committee of the house of representatives and the backing which Senator Beveridge of Indiana has had through the fact that his wife is the kinswoman of Mrs. Marshall Field, widow of the Chicago merchant.

Socially there is no question as to the tremendous power of the American widow. To realize it one has only to stop to reflect how the polite world is dominated by the hospitalities of such well-to-do widows as Mrs. L. Z. Leiter, widow of the Chicago multi-millionaire and mother of the late Lady Curzon, late vicereine of India; Mrs. George M. Pullman, widow of the car builder; Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, widow of the "Mining King"; Mrs. Mary Scott Townsend, widow of



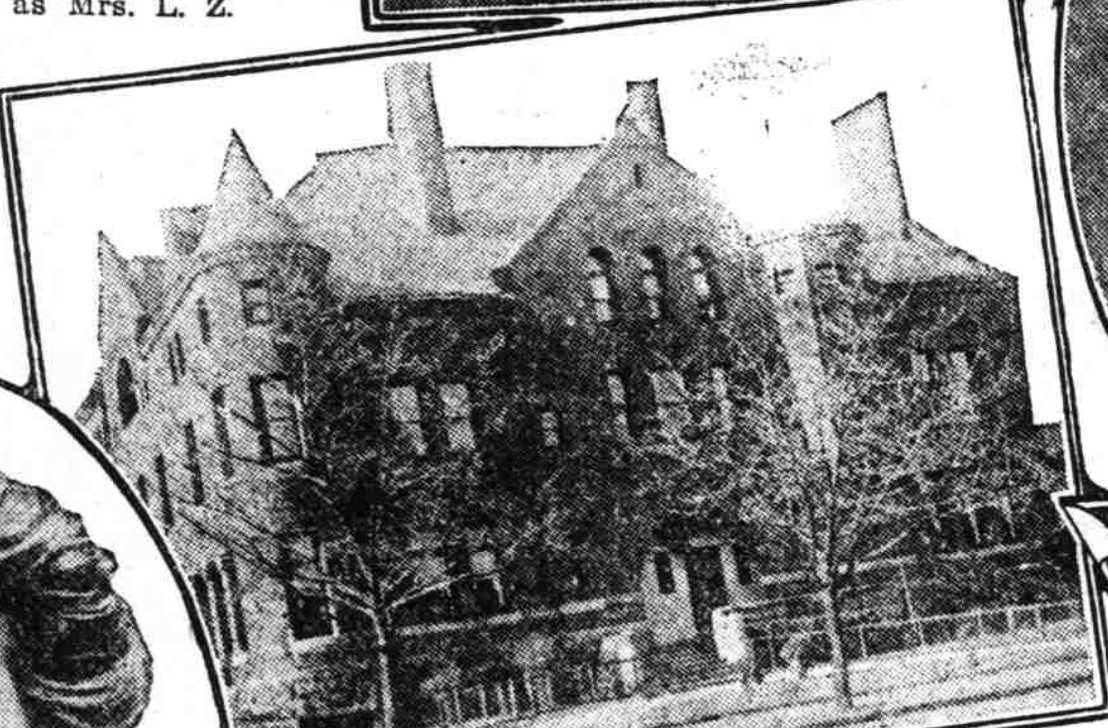
Mrs. JOHN A. LOGAN AND CLARA BARTON



Mrs. L. Z. LEITER TALKING TO JOHN BARRETT AND PRESTON GIBSON



Mrs. PHILIP SHERIDAN



Mrs. BENJAMIN HARRISON



BARONESS VON STERNBURG



Mrs. M. A. HANNA

the Pennsylvania coal and oil magnate, and Mrs. M. A. Hanna, widow of the late United States senator from Ohio.

Mrs. Hanna's life since the death of her husband, we may here digress to explain, has illustrated how great is the latitude of life open to the modern wealthy widow in contrast to the circumscribed existence of the average widow of a prominent official of a century ago, who, upon the death of her husband, was wont to retire to his plantation or country seat and live in the utmost quietude if not in actual seclusion. After the death of her husband Mrs. Hanna lived for a time in a fashionable hotel in Washington. Then she built a large house and occupied it for a time, later disposing of it to a prominent army officer. Next she had a special apartment arranged to her order in one of the largest of the new hotels in New York, even providing a special kitchen for "Maggie," her "jewel" of a cook. Then desiring a change, she hit upon the idea of her present program of life, which calls for an extended sojourn in Europe each spring and summer and a winter residence in Washington, where she has two apartments of 14 rooms each in a fashionable apartment house.

Mrs. Hanna's 28-room apartment might seem a pretty pretentious residential establishment for a lone woman to maintain, but it is scarcely a circumstance to the enormous four-story mansion erected at the national capital

built a splendid home since the death of her husband and the wealthy Mrs. Wyeth of Philadelphia had her nephew-architect carry out her ideas of a distinctive home.

In point of achievement, however, unquestionably the greatest of all the house builders in the coteries of wealthy widows is Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney, who inherited one fortune from her father, a Cincinnati pioneer, and married another. Mrs. Barney is of a most artistic temperament and is indeed an artist of no mean ability in both oils and water colors. She spends much time in Paris, where she and two of her daughters, who devote themselves respectively to painting and sculpture, are much in their element. When she is in this country Mrs. Barney divides her time and her boundless energy between the staging of Greek plays and other amateur theatricals of a most ambitious character and the designing and building of houses for love of it. These unique habitations that she creates Mrs. Barney sells or rents, and be it said to her credit that she is a clever enough business woman to make her art profitable in dollars and cents as well as in personal satisfaction.

In the field of philanthropy American widows have of late years accomplished so much good as to make these bereaved ones as a class the most respected and most admired contingent of American multimillionaires. The generosity of Mrs. Phoebe Hearst in good works has insured her a place for all time in our real hall of fame and Mrs. Harriman's gift of a splendid park to the state of New York bids fair to be but the first of a series of notable benefactions. Mrs. Russell Sage is another woman who in a comparatively brief widowhood has helped the needy in many ways, and the late Mrs. Gardner Hubbard, widow of the man who reaped the greatest financial rewards from the invention of the telephone, was lavish during her lifetime in good works.

There is one group of widows in the United States in the members of which—for all that they are most of them living very quietly—the public is bound to take a keen interest. This group is made up of the widows of

former high officials of the nation, including the widows of our military and naval heroes. Conspicuous among the number are the two surviving widows of presidents, Mrs. Mary Lord Harrison and Mrs. Grover Cleveland. Mrs. Cleveland spends most of her time in the family home at Princeton or at her farm in New Hampshire, though she has of late devoted no little time to residence in Switzerland, where her children are being educated. Mrs. Harrison, likewise, spends much time abroad, though she maintains a home in Indianapolis and indulges in occasional lengthy vacations in a log house in the Adirondacks.

Of the widows of the nation's warriors probably the public hears most frequently of Mrs. Phil Sheridan, widow of the famous cavalry leader, although Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Pickett, the latter the widow of the Confederate chieftain who led the desperate charge at Gettysburg, have been more or less in the public eye owing to their literary work and their careers on the lecture platform. Mrs. Sheridan, alike to both these other widows, resides at the national capital and an anecdote is told of Mrs. Sheridan to the effect that she silenced some gossip which speculated as to her remarriage by the remark, "I would rather be the widow of Phil Sheridan than the wife of any man alive."

And speaking of the remarriage of widows, it may be added that one of the circumstances that renders these widowed women of wealth interesting to many people is the possibility of remarriage—an ever-present incentive to speculation, even though the object of such public curiosity may have not the slightest intention of again entering the bonds of matrimony. And that this solicitude is by no means restricted to disinterested observers or confined to the United States is eloquently attested by the attentions which eligible members of the nobility of Europe have showered upon Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. "Jack" Gardner, Mrs. Marshall Field and—most courted of all—Mrs. Nonnie Worthington Stewart Leeds, the dazzlingly wealthy as well as dazzlingly beautiful young widow of a multimillionaire who garnered the golden harvest of the tinplate industry and sundry railroads.

Almost all the wealthy American widows seem to have a penchant for spending more or less of their time in Europe and there are others who live there continuously, returning but seldom to their native land, and then only for visits. In this class are the widows of foreign diplomats who receive pensions from the governments served by their late husbands. A conspicuous example is afforded by Baroness Sternburg—the former Miss Langham, a Kentucky beauty, who as the result of a genuine romance that began as a case of love at first sight on a transatlantic liner, married Baron Speck von Sternburg, a very capable German diplomat, who lost his life as the result of disease contracted while serving his government in India.

In the field of art many American widows, such as Mrs. St. Gaudens, are factors, if not by virtue of their own talents at least as custodians of the masterpieces left by their deceased husbands, and the same is true in the spheres of literature and public life, where the collection of the papers of an eminent man or the publication of his memoirs has frequently devolved upon the widow. In the financial world wealthy widows, by sheer force of their monetary possessions, wield an influence recognized by all men of affairs. The most notable example, of course, is that afforded by Mrs. Hetty Green, who controls one of the wealthiest and most powerful of the New York banks.

THE HAPPY MAN.



First Lady—How very happy the bridegroom looks! Really it is pleasant to see a young man looking so joyful.

Second Lady—Hush! That's not the bridegroom; that's a gentleman the bride jilted six months ago.

WEAK BACKS MADE STRONG.

Backache in most cases is kidney-ache, and usually accompanied by irregularities of the urine. To remove the pain and weakness you must cure the kidneys. Do so with Doan's Kidney Pills. Mrs. Perry Hillman, Monongahela City, Pa., says: "I was so bad with kidney disease I despaired of relief. I had inflammatory rheumatism and finally dropsy set in. My ankles became bloated, my heart was affected and the doctors gave me no relief. Soon after using Doan's Kidney Pills, I grew stronger and ere long I was able to do my housework."

Remember the name—Doan's. For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Brought the Tears.
An unusual incident marked a recent fire in New York. The fire started in the cellar of a five-story tenement and before it was extinguished the 18 families in the building and all the firemen were weeping copiously from inflamed eyes. In the cellar many bags of onions had been stored. The chief fireman allowed the tenants to remain in the building, assuring them that the fire was confined to the cellar. They did not stay, however, when the onions had got well afire.

Dare to Be Happy.
Let us never be afraid of innocent joy; God is good and what he does is well done; resign yourself to everything, even to happiness; ask for the spirit of sacrifice, of detachment, of renunciation, and above all, for the spirit of joy and gratitude, the genuine and religious optimism which sees in God a Father, and asks no pardon for his benefits. We must dare to be happy and dare to confess it, regarding ourselves always as the depositaries, not as the authors of our own joy.—Amiel.

Home and School.
Home and school are two different spheres and have of necessity different duties to perform and different work to accomplish in the training and teaching of the child. But unless the ideals are the same and unless there is a systematic attitude of mind between parents and teachers, the best result cannot be achieved and the child must suffer.—Mrs. E. L. Franklin, Secretary Parents' National Educational Union, England.

EDITOR BROWNE
Of The Rockford Morning Star.

"About seven years ago I ceased drinking coffee to give your Postum a trial.

"I had suffered acutely from various forms of indigestion and my stomach had become so disordered as to repel almost every sort of substantial food. My general health was bad. At close intervals I would suffer severe attacks which confined me in bed for a week or more. Soon after changing from coffee to Postum the indigestion abated, and in a short time ceased entirely. I have continued the daily use of your excellent Food Drink and assure you most cordially that I am indebted to you for the relief it has brought me.

"Wishing you a continued success, I am
Yours very truly,
J. Stanley Browne,
Managing Editor."

Of course, when a man's health shows he can stand coffee without trouble, let him drink it, but most highly organized brain-workers simply cannot.

The drugs natural to the coffee berry affect the stomach and other organs and thence to the complex nervous system, throwing it out of balance and producing disorders in various parts of the body. Keep up this daily poisoning and serious disease generally supervenes. So when man or woman finds that coffee is a smooth but deadly enemy and health is of any value at all, there is but one road—quit.

It is easy to find out if coffee be the cause of the troubles, for if left off 10 days and Postum be used in its place and the sick and diseased conditions begin to disappear, the proof is unanswerable.

Postum is not good if made by short boiling. It must be boiled full 15 minutes after boiling begins, when the crisp flavor and the food elements are brought out of the grains and the beverage is ready to fulfill its mission of palatable comfort and renewing the cells and nerve centers broken down by coffee.

"There's a Reason."
Get the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pgs.

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

CURRENT WRECKS A BRIDGE

Twenty-Seven Big Timbers Are Cut Through in One Day by Aid of Electricity.

One of the most ingenious uses to which electricity was ever put was in the wrecking of a bridge over the Wabash in Indiana.

This bridge had been purchased by the county authorities, who intended to replace it by a steel structure erected on the old piers and abutments. The owner agreed to remove the bridge in 30 days.

The chief difficulty lay in the short time agreed upon for the removal of the bridge. Several wreckers to whom the matter was submitted declared that it would be impossible within 30 days to pull down the old bridge without injury to the piers.

The structure might be blown up with dynamite, but the explosion would also destroy the piers. Were it fired, the heat would crack and injure the masonry of the bridge. The 30 days expired, and an extension of one week was granted.

The owner was at his wits' end, when he chanced upon an electrician who proposed, not to blow up the

bridge, but to burn it apart. His proposal was gladly accepted.

Each span of the bridge was composed of nine chords of three timbers each. The 27 sills were to be cut simultaneously, so that the span would drop between the piers into the river. The cutting was to be accomplished by burning through the wood with loops of iron resistance made red-hot by the passage of the electric current. Fifty-four resistance loops were heated to wreck each span, and the spans were wrecked one at a time. Sufficient current was used to heat the iron wires cherry red. The result was

exactly the same with every span. Between the turning on of the current and the fall of the span an hour and 40 minutes elapsed. Then the mass of timbers fell into the water well inside the piers, so that they were uninjured.

The cut made by the hot wire was sharp and clean, and the wood was not charred more than an inch from the place of fracture.

The current was first turned on at about five o'clock in the morning, and at two in the afternoon the last span crashed down to the river bed.—Scientific American.

A BALL FOR BABY

If ever love is stitched into a gift it goes into the one that celebrates baby's first birthday. One of the prettiest presents, which will give the little one great joy, is a large edition of those balls which the happy mothers of today delighted to fashion as children with two circles of cardboard perforated in the center.

Instead of making the circles an inch or two in diameter, make them full six inches in size, and use pink and white or pale blue and white wool of a very fleecy type. Tie the wool

through the perforation in the cardboard and then proceed to fill up the hole by drawing the wool through and through over the cardboard until no more will pass. Cut it and tie it between the two circles and remove these by tearing them away.

The ball should be sewn on to narrow satin ribbon, blue or pink, as the case may be, and to this ribbon should be attached a quantity of little gold or silver bells, which will jingle merrily when the ball is swung to and fro by the ribbons.

RENEWS ANTIQUE WASHSTAND

Long Islander Sells Piece of Furniture for Fifty Cents and Buys It Back for \$20.

An elderly Long Islander once attended an auction of old furniture. Among the articles for which bids were asked was a heavy marble-topped washstand. The Long Islander bid ten cents for it, and as he was the only one who spoke the washstand was knocked down to him—rather to his dismay, as he had to have it conveyed to his distant home. For several years this ten-cent antique was an occupant of the barn, its marble top being removed and the interior of the stand serving as a receptacle for cans of paint.

One day a clerk from a furniture store in the neighborhood called at the Long Islander's and accidentally caught sight of the unappreciated washstand. He made some inquiries concerning it, and eventually purchased it for 50 cents. The clerk took his purchase to the store, gave it a thorough renovating and it became a handsome piece of hardwood furniture, the marble top adding the finishing touch. Not long after this transformation the elderly Long

Islander and his wife visited the furniture store, and when the wife saw that beautifully polished antique washstand she fell in love with it, for it just filled her ideal. Her husband seemed to have a suspicion of the truth, and endeavored to distract her attention. But the affair ended by the woman purchasing the stand for \$20, and it is now one of her most highly prized possessions.

Bell Must Be Tuned.

The general impression is that the tone of a bell is largely a matter of accident, but this is not so. A bell must be tuned the same as a piano or any other musical instrument. Every bell has five sounds, which must blend together in perfect harmony, and this is accomplished by shaving down certain parts until the desired harmony is secured. In the event of shaving too deep the bell is not injured, but the tuning operation is prolonged, as other parts must be operated on and cut away to a corresponding degree.

Just the Thing.

Fig—What are you having carved on the photographer's tombstone?
Fogg—Taken from life.—Boston Transcript.