

MRS. CLEVELAND ON OFFICIAL LIFE.

She Considers Men Capable of Controlling Affairs of State Without Woman's Interference.

Everybody who knows Mrs. Cleveland likes her. Those who saw her years ago, when she was a bride, still speak of her "lovely smile" which seemed ever on her face, yet never grew stereotyped, as is so often the case.



MRS. GROVER CLEVELAND.
(From her latest photograph.)

Mrs. Cleveland has changed a great deal in the last three years, having grown much more matronly and stouter by half a hundred pounds, but her sweet smile is just as charming as it was then.

At an informal reception the other day I asked Mrs. Cleveland to let me see the babies, Ruth, Esther and Marion. I could get glimpses of them up on the second landing, and hear their merry prattle in the East Room.

"Oh, you reporters!" exclaimed Mrs. Cleveland, her eyes dancing with merriment. "Why is it that you will not let me have even my children to myself? You have the father and the mother to write up and write down, as you like; surely our babies might be left to us. The world can't care very much about them."

I assured her that there were women in the crowd who would give more to see her children than to see her, ten times over, and the idea pleased her immensely. "You will have to leave them to me for a few years longer," she said, with a parting squeeze of my hands and a gentle pat.

Mrs. Cleveland's idea of a woman's part in public life is purely womanly. She is devoted to her home and her children, and spends many anxious moments, just as any other mother does, pondering over what shall be done for them to make them wiser and better. She believes that is part of the duty entailed by motherhood, no matter what the condition or station in life. Her children are her first care always, though she does not, as has been absurdly stated, make their clothes herself.

While it is very probable that Mrs. Cleveland would, like Mrs. Stevenson, shield Mr. Cleveland from all the disagreeable duties of the domestic menage, if necessary, there has never been any call for her to exercise her talents in that direction.

"My duty as the wife of a public official is to perform the part he assigns me, that of greeting and entertaining his friends, courteously and cordially, regardless of political or other differences," she says, and any one who has ever been greeted by Mrs. Cleveland must know that she does greet all alike, with a cordial handshake, and that wonderful smile which seems to say to each newcomer, "Why, I have been looking for you; why were you so late?" It takes the multitude by storm, and when she leans over a child to pat it on the head and to say some particular word, as she often does, she captures everybody in sight. While her heart is big enough to take in the whole world, she has cultivated the habit of expressing herself by such little acts of tenderness, for she knows that they popularize a woman wonderfully.

Mrs. Cleveland does not believe in ostentation, and never lends herself to anything of the kind. Indeed, it has been charged against her that she was not sufficiently particular in her dress at all times for one in her position, but it must be admitted that it was erasing on the right side. She has but one idea after her children, and that is devotion to her husband. Indeed, Mrs. Cleveland's domestic side ought to be a revelation to those mothers who, with far less wealth and fewer children, leave their homes and husbands, as well as their helpless little ones, to the mercy of hired attendants, to give themselves wholly over to the giddy round of society. Mrs. Cleveland is exacting in her demands on the servants to whom she intrusts her children, and she looks after their welfare personally, as well as that of the children, for she knows that eternal vigilance is the price she must pay for the proper influence and instruction of her little ones.

Mrs. Cleveland does not deem it necessary for a woman in official life to take any hand in shaping the political policy of the country. She believes that the men are quite competent to do that, and further than seconding her husband in what he does, and in entertaining his personal and political friends, she always declines to "mix" in politics. She asserts that a mother who rears her children properly, and makes good citizens of them, is accomplishing a great deal for the country, and she does not think that any social or official function should interfere with her duty to her children. She knows that the public would not censure her if she decided that the "mother" came before the wife. Being the wife of a high official does not make it imperative that she be always at his side at official functions; though she should at all times take an interest in things that pertain to him and to his office.

JACKET IN OLIVE AND GRAY.

There are three things essential to the success of the Spring wrap; first it shall be modish; second, it must have sufficient warmth to ward off the chilling winds that blow even on the sunniest days, and last,



the ends are hidden beneath a double box plait of the velvet, ornamented by large steel buttons so exquisite in finish that each glitter like a gem.

A distinctive effect is given this chic little coat by the short, flaring skirt of irregular outline, which is cut so full that the silver gray satin lining is plainly revealed, in dainty contrast to the rich green of the velvet. A modified Medici collar of velvet, almost entirely covered with steel, encircles the neck. A large hat, becomingly ornamented with feathery aigrettes, curling plumes and steel lace work, is assigned to be worn with it.

CONQUERED DIPLOMATS.

The fascinating qualifications of the American girl has become proverbial in diplomatic circles at home as well as among aristocracy abroad. A few of the many marriages that have resulted are easily quoted to prove the fact. Baron Bodisco was wedded to Miss Williams, of Georgetown, as soon as she left the school room. Thomas Theard is the husband of Miss Hoffman, of New York. M. de Sallies carried off Miss Thornadyke of Boston. Mr. Patenstre, the French Ambassador, married Miss Elverson, of Philadelphia. Miss Beale, of Washington, made a victim of a well-known diplomat. Mr. Romero, the Mexican Minister, won Miss Allen, of Philadelphia, for his bride. Mr. Covarrubias, of the Mexican Legation, also robbed us of Miss Chopin, of New Orleans, and Mr. Dominguez, of the Argentine Legation, made Miss Murphy of New York, his wife.

What maintains one vice would bring up two children.

OF INTEREST TO WOMEN

The Mistress of the White House Defines the Duties of a Statesman's Wife—A Painter of Miniatures Who Has Won Fame. Information for Cyclers.

GROVER CLEVELAND'S ROMANCE.

There lives at present in a small Southern city a woman, gentle, gracious and womanly, whose fate demonstrates the un wisdom of worldly wisdom. In this particular case the party against whom it operated now doubtless accepts it as a very special interposition of Providence in his behalf.

Some years back—say twenty—there was a love affair between the woman in question and a lawyer of her native New York town. He was something older than herself and had been for long a sort of family friend. As such he met her mother's fullest approval, but when it came to be a question of son-in-law she demurred energetically. Though not rich, she was comfortably well off. Moreover, she was very ambitious. Her sons were flat failures. All her hope was centred in this daughter. The young woman was no beauty, but had been highly educated, and in music came within a half's breadth of having genius. So the wooer was sent about his business, the mother saying to her intimates that she had not taken such pains with her daughter to see her throw herself away upon a poor lawyer, a man who had no sort of future, though a good enough fellow in his way.

Then the daughter began to droop and pine. By way of diversion the mother took her to the little Southern city where she still resides. They had friends there—other of their townfolk had preceded them—so they came quickly in social touch with the natives—and before long the young lady's amiability and accomplishments had made the gallant Southern youngsters almost overlook her want of beauty. She had, in fact, so many gallants that after a year her mother thought it safe to leave her there while she herself returned to the old environment for a winding up of loose ends of business. She was gone three months and went back to find her daughter married and happy with a young civil engineer.

Whether or not that suited her ambitious plans, she wisely made the best of it and found a reflected happiness in her daughter's devotion to husband and children. But those who know both women most intimately marked that the name of the old lover was seldom spoken between the two, and that when it was the younger of them looked away or fell instantly silent. But other people began to speak of it with uncommon frequency. The poor lawyer was climbing as man has seldom climbed. His name was Grover Cleveland. He was not even Sheriff of Erie County at the time when all this was happening. After his first nomination his old sweetheart wrote him a warm and graceful letter of congratulation. He replied to it in the friendliest vein, and nobody worked for his election more enthusiastically than the man who had supplanted him in the heart of his first love. A favorite argument with that young man was: "Vote for him? Of course you will! He'll do it to. Any fellow must who had sense enough and taste enough to want to marry my wife."

WISE WOMEN, THEY.

The Republican women of Illinois are polite. In spite of their political aspirations, they are still sufficiently feminine to realize that man to be placated must be flattered. At a meeting held recently it was unanimously agreed that, women being new to the ways of politicians, it would be well to ask masculine advice as to organization and the best methods of procedure.

Chicago is happy in the discovery of a new author. Miss Winifred Agnes Haldane, although just seventeen, has produced a musical novel, which critics say is suggestive of "The First Violin," by Jessie Fothergill, "A Chord from a Violin" is the title, and it is accredited with sufficient evidence of ability to give future promise.

NEWS OF WOMEN.

The stage has one more recruit from the ranks of the social world, Miss Gwen-dolin Sandham, daughter of the Boston artist, has won her way to the footlights through opposition of the sternest kind. Her father designed her for a painter, and in her mother was embodied all the old-time prejudice against the profession. Nevertheless the determined young woman has overcome all objections and will make a professional debut at an early date. She has already achieved success among amateurs, and a bright future for her is predicted.

A new field for feminine energies is always a theme of interest. Miss Hattie Louise Burns, of Chicago, deserves the congratulations of the business world and the thanks of womankind. Gentle, womanly and devoted to pretty gowns, she is still actively engaged in the hotel business, and is making of it a success.

Miss Emily Pauline Johnson is an Indian princess of purest blood and a poetess who has published two volumes of verse. She was born on the "Six Nations Reserve," Ontario, and received her education in Canada. Her father is well known as "Owanoussahon, or Lord of the Great House," from the fact of his lavish hospitality.

St. Louis has organized war against the new woman. For most exclusive feminine club is responsible for the crusade. A tendency to revolt against the restrictions of conventionality has been observed, and although nothing definitely monstrous has been done, it is deemed wise to meet the emergency at the start.

READ BY QUEEN STELLA.

Miss Lolie Fuller's palm, which appeared in the Journal Saturday morning, was read by Queen Stella, whose signature was inadvertently omitted.

FACTS FOR WHEELWOMEN.

Notes on the Care of the Bicycle and Proper Clothing for Riders.

Many women are deterred from commencing to ride bicycles by fear of accidents. Undoubtedly wheeling is attended with danger. A great many riders sustain injuries, some avoidable, and some, roughly speaking, unavoidable. The trivial accidents, however, generally involve enough pain to more than atone for the injuries, while the number of serious accidents is very small indeed in proportion to the number who risk incurring them. But even the casualties tend to show that the exercise is alluring, for very few desist from riding on their account. Indeed, it is the consensus of opinion among wheel folk that the element of danger gives "spice" to the sport.

Hundreds of lessons are being given in the academies daily in anticipation of the fine weather that is almost certain to follow the present inclement spell. A large proportion of the learners will venture on the road at the first opportunity, and some will essay to take extended runs. To these, the exhortation to eat only food that is easily assimilated, either before or during an excursion, may be very useful. Unless care be taken many a run home will be spoiled by an undigested dinner eaten by a fatigued wheelwoman. On long journeys food should be taken only for sustenance. Gastronomic indulgence should be deferred until the ride has been completed.

The proper length for the skirt is now conceded to be about to the top of the boot," says one of the organs of fashion. But some bicycle boots come to the calf and some to the knee!

The latest style of bicycle carrier proposed for the use of nurses and children is for such a vehicle to be made so that a girl while propelling it can have her charge in view it will be useful. By its means the baby will be very likely to get more air and the maid more exercise than when a carriage has to be drudgingly pushed.

Instructions galore as to the care which should be taken of a wheel appear in print, but mention is rarely made of a point of primary importance that ought to receive frequent attention. The rider should be very

mindful that the handle stem should be tight in the steering post. Bad—because totally unexpected—falls are almost certain to result from negligence of this precaution. Sometimes, in consequence of the skill wheelwomen acquire in steering by inclination of the body and foot pressure, looseness of the handle is not detected until an obstacle, such as a stone or car rail, is struck, whereupon the front wheel turns and the rider is thrown violently from her saddle. Whatever other detail the cyclist may instruct to the caretaker in her absence, she should herself see this matter tested.

Not only is it desirable, on account of regard for the bronchial tubes, to breathe through the nose, but for the sake of better appearance it is desirable that the mouth should be closed while riding. The difficulty of "getting breath" common to beginners needs to be overcome by deep, abdominal respiration, not by gasping. Then there is the further advantage of breathing correctly so that thirst, the bane of warm weather riding to all save seasoned riders, is not experienced nearly so soon. This is an important consideration, for thirst acquired by wheeling is hard to quench.

No one can blame the academy proprietors for dividing locker space economically. Nevertheless it is true that few women renters can squeeze their habiliments into the crevices provided. Of course, more lockers than one can be taken, and usually the size of the pocketbook corresponds to the robe room required. But a point can easily be reached at which such facilities as a home furnishes seem preferable, all things considered, to the accommodation supplied by the academy.

An English noblewoman has publicly expressed the opinion that no woman over thirty-three years of age ought to ride a wheel—just why she fixes upon thirty-three not being clear, for the mysticism sometimes associated with that number has no obvious connection with a woman's age. Nor is it quite clear whether the proposed edict is intended to apply equally to the tyro and to the adept—a question from which all doubt should be eliminated. For while it might be reasonably argued that a beginner of the specified age would almost surely be ungrainly, it would be unduly arbitrary to request an expert to desist from further enjoyment because

MINIATURES BY AMALIA KUSSNER AND HER TRIUMPHS IN LONDON.



Amalia Kussner, the young American miniature painter, is delighting London's fashionable set by her clever work. Mrs. Arthur Paget is greatly interested in Miss Kussner's success, and through her the artist has obtained orders for miniatures from prominent social leaders abroad. Already Miss Kussner has completed a miniature of Mrs. Paget, and has begun painting Lady Dudley and Lady Sutherland, the reigning beauty. The Countess of Warwick and the Duchess of Devonshire have had sittings, and twenty other women of rank are waiting to be painted as soon as the artist can give them attention. Lady Colebrooke is also among her patrons, and Sir Edward Colebrooke, who is regarded as something of an authority in art matters, is especially enthusiastic over Miss Kussner's work. A paragraph in a London society paper last week said that "everybody seemed to have gone crazy over the American miniature painter."

The story of Miss Kussner's life is a romantic one, in which genius conquered every obstacle. Four years ago she came to New York from an obscure town in the middle West and began her career. She had never had a lesson in painting in her life prior to her advent in this city. She had no technical knowledge of her art then, nor does she claim any now. In her country home she had by accident secured possession of a miniature by an unknown painter. This she carefully studied for months, and with the meagre education derived from this source, came to New York determined to succeed.

Miniature painting had been a lost art for half a century and had no place in modern portraiture, it remained for this unsophisticated country girl to revive interest in it. Her miniatures at the Portraiture Show created a genuine furore. Among the most pleasing examples of her work are those of Mrs. Lorillard Spencer and Mrs. Theodore Havemeyer, through whom her success began. The miniature of Mrs. Van Rensselaer Cruger has perhaps created the most favorable comment of any she has done.

HOPE ONLY DEFERRED.

"On and after May 1 Mrs. St. John will give the best 25-cent meal in town." As Mrs. St. John is engaged in providing meals, and as the first of May is still some weeks off, her patient patrons hope to be rewarded.



-AMALIA KUSSNER-

she had, figuratively speaking, involuntarily "toed the mark." It almost jars the imagination to think of a woman, after an exhilarating jaunt on a typical July day, returning her wheel to the storage man with the woful remark "Nevermore." Of course, this would never happen. The direct effect of a nervous rule is its own evasion. Had the talked-about age limitation arisen in this country the suggestion would inevitably be made that it had been inspired by those wicked people, the manufacturers. For it would easily be seen that with nearly all women under thirty-three riding voluntarily, and all above that age riding compulsorily, there would be no further need to burn good wheels by the thousands.

FROM A NEW POINT OF VIEW.

The world has laughed this long time over suits for breach of promise of marriage. In a volume of English law reports there is recorded a case well-nigh as amusing, whose occasion was not the breach, but the keeping of a promise not to marry. The parties to it were a rich elderly woman and the nephew whom she meant to make her heir. He, it appears, fell violently in love with a fascinating young widow and might have married her but that his aunt intervened. She did not try threat, diplomacy or detective investigation—she was another sort, and knew a trick worth all of them. She said plumply to the youngster that so long as he remained free of the widow he might count upon receiving from herself £500 a year. Having more of prudence than sentiment, he closed with the offer, and for several years duly got and spent the promised sum.

Then the aunt either grew tired of paying or became less fearful of the widow. She would not pay another penny, so her nephew went to law. He won his case, too; for, although the opposing counsel, while admitting the agreement, declared it could not be enforced as contrary to public morality, the learned judge thought otherwise. A promise to abstain wholly from marriage, he said, neither could nor should be enforced, but this was to refrain only from marriage with a particular person, hence, the plaintiff was entitled to recover his whole claim with costs "in consideration of having resigned his natural freedom of marriage."

It is not to be wise, to be wiser than is necessary.