

CABINET MEN'S WIVES.

MESDAMES BLAINE, WINDOM, WANAMAKER, AND OTHERS.

Sketches and Portraits of the Ladies of the New Administration — Their Physical and Mental Characteristics and Their Agreeable Manners.



MRS. BLAINE. agreeable talker.

Mrs. Blaine was born in Ipswich, Mass., Oct. 12, 1828, and is two years the senior of Mr. Blaine. Her father was Jacob Stanwood, a well-to-do merchant, who, by no means wealthy, was a thorough-going business man and brought up a large family of children. Her mother's maiden name was Caldwell, which is a well-known and honored name in Augusta. Mrs. Blaine's given name was Harriet Bailey, but she dropped the Bailey and adopted Stanwood in its stead, so that she is now known as Harriet Stanwood Blaine.

Mrs. Windom.

MRS. WINDOM. Mrs. Windom's maiden name was Ellen T. Hatch. Her father was for fifty years a prominent Congregational minister. He lived in New Hampshire when his daughter Ellen was born, but shortly afterward moved to Warwick, Mass. Ellen Hatch was called a beauty and a belle. She was bright, intelligent, clever, pretty and of most charming manners. Mrs. Windom was a graduate of Mt. Holyoke, and after leaving school she taught in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. It was there she met Mr. Windom, who was prosecuting attorney of the county. When a student she injured her eyesight by hard study, and has worn eyeglasses ever since. This gives a slight haughtiness to her manner, although she is really the most gentle of women. As a girl Mrs. Windom was very pretty, and she is still pleasing in face and form. Of medium height, she is quite slender. Her brown hair is turning gray, but to many this only makes her more beautiful. Mrs. Windom shows careful taste in dress, and while her home gowns are plain, in society she is always an elegantly dressed woman. She has two daughters and a son. The eldest child, Miss Nellie, is 22, and has been in ill-health for a year or more. She has a rare love for music, and has made it a special study, being well known as an amateur performer. The younger daughter, Florence, will complete her course in Miss Porter's school this year and be a debutante of next season. The only son, William D. Windom, is an architect, married, and living in Boston.

Mr. and Mrs. Windom have two grandchildren, the infant son and daughter of the son, Mr. William D. Windom of Boston.

Mrs. Tracy.

MRS. TRACY. Mrs. Tracy was born, educated, and married in New York State. Mrs. Tracy was Miss Delinda E. Catlin. She is the sister of Gen. Catlin, a prominent Brooklyn lawyer. She is cultured and very fond of books. Mrs. Tracy is of the fair type of women, rather plump, and of medium height, with blue eyes and light hair. Her face has the same motherly sweetness as Mrs. Windom's. She dresses with an elegance and simplicity becoming her years. Known as a society leader in Brooklyn in her early days, she is better known now for her charities. For years she has been identified with the Plymouth church, and she and Gen. Tracy were among Henry Ward Beecher's most kindly sympathizers.

The Tracy family, besides General and Mrs. Tracy, consists of three children and one grandchild. Mrs. Emma L. Wilmerding, the eldest, is a widow with one child, Frank B. Tracy, the only son, favors his father in appearance and in his business ability. He is a handsome young man of 30 and unmarried. He now lives at home and will only spend in Washington what time he can spare from his father's business. Miss Mary Tracy, the unmarried daughter, is like her mother in appearance and is in society. Alice Tracy Wilmerding, the 12-year-old grandchild, is a pretty, bright child, and resembles her grandfather. Miss Tracy, the second daughter, is an artist first, and after that a woman, with all the charm that years of travel and study and mingling with the artist cult gives to a receptive nature.

Mrs. Proctor.

Mr. and Mrs. Proctor were born in the same State, and passed their childhood days near together. They were friends at school, and when school-day lessons were over their friendship grew to love and they were married. They have four children living. Arabella, the oldest, is the wife of Fred G. Holden, and resides in San Francisco, Cal. Fletcher D. Proctor, the second child, is married and resides in Proctor, where he looks after his father's interests while the latter is absent from home. He has a daughter, who is the only grandchild of Governor and Mrs. Proctor. She is a half-old, and bears her grandmother's name—Emily. Emily D. Proctor, the only unmarried daughter and the third

child, is with her mother, Redfield Proctor, Jr., is the baby. He is 10 years old. Mrs. Proctor has never lived in Washington, so that everything pertaining to Washington social life and duties will be new to her. She is not especially fond of society nor is she at all averse to it. While her husband was Governor of Vermont she was very popular and never attempted to shirk any of her social duties. She is a clever woman and well educated. She is fond of literature and is always contented and at ease either in managing her household affairs in Proctor or in gracing some social gathering.

Mrs. Proctor is a Congregationalist and a hard worker in her church. No amount of society can make her forget what she believes she owes to her church, and some congregation in Washington will be the better off for her membership. Mrs. Proctor is mistress of the fine old Proctor homestead in Proctor, Vt. The town derives its name from its founder and her husband's goods are very popular in their State. The Proctor mansion is said to be a most comfortable and grand old place, and the adjoining farm, which Gov. Proctor owns, is a model. It is kept in the best of order, and is stocked with blooded cattle.

Mrs. Miller.

MRS. MILLER was a Gertrude Bunce. She was born in Ohio, but very early in her life her parents moved to Vernon, Oneida county, N. Y., where she lived until she was married. After her marriage to Mr. Miller they went to Peru, Ind., where Mr. Miller was appointed superintendent of public schools. Some two or three years later they moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., where Mr. Miller began to practice law. Mr. Miller and President Harrison met and became great friends.

Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. Miller for eighteen years have been friends and neighbors. Mrs. Miller's lovely home, No. 665 North Delaware avenue, is almost opposite to the Harrison home.

Mrs. Miller is tall, probably 5 feet 7, and is plump, but not fleshy. She has a most pleasant face and kind expression. Her eyes are blue and she has an abundance of reddish-brown hair, which she bangs quietly in front and coils the rest around the back of her head. She is not fond of dress, but likes to be quietly and respectfully clad.

Mrs. Miller has been married twenty-five years, and is the mother of three children — Florence Gertrude, Samuel Duncan, and Jessie. Florence Gertrude is a young lady and is in society, of which she is very fond. She possesses remarkable musical abilities, and has a lovely contralto voice and plays both the piano and banjo. Florence is tall and slender, and has genuinely blonde hair and large, expressive brown eyes, which make havoc among the young men. She is very agreeable in manner and artistic in dress.

Mrs. Wanamaker.

MRS. WANAMAKER was Miss Mary Brown of Philadelphia, the daughter of a well-to-do and prominent grocer. Mr. Nathan Brown, his brother, went into the clothing business in a modest way with John Wanamaker in Oak Hall. Mr. Wanamaker had no money whatever at that time. She is about 52 years old, but looks much younger. She is probably 5 feet 4 inches in height and quite plump, having

very pleasant figure. Her hair is brown and does not show any gray. She wears it twisted high on the head, and has a slight, fluffy bang. Her eyes are bluish gray in color, and very calm and quiet. Her mouth is beautiful and her teeth perfect. Her dresses are of the richest material but the most subdued colors. No one has ever seen her on the street, either in summer or winter, in any other color than a dark green, dark-blue or black. For the house and in the evenings she wears grays and drabs and such shades. She is very particular about her boots, which must have little or no heel. As for her daughters, they must wear a similar style, but without heel at all. Their garb is as modest as their mother's.

Outside of her absorbing church duties she cares for little except her home and a small circle of friends. These friends regard her as perfection, and her family worship her. She has four children, Thomas Rodman, Minnie and Lillie. Thomas is 27 years old, and married to Miss Minnie Walsh of Philadelphia. Rodman, 25 years old, married Miss Fanonda Henry, a young Philadelphia woman, and they have the only grandchild, little Fanonda, who is familiarly called "Nina." Minnie and Lillie, the daughters, are about 20 and 18 years of age respectively. Mrs. Wanamaker's manner is agreeable to every one she meets, but she has no liking for gay society nor the falsehood and frivolity of it. She is, of course, charitable.

Mrs. Rusk.

"JERRY" RUSK has been twice married. His present wife, Elizabeth M., massive, fair, motherly, and womanly, was born in Norway. By his first wife he had two children, who were given the sterling names of Charity and Lycurgus, both of whom have been married. The children of the second marriage are Mary and Blaine, a young lad of 12, who was named after his father's life-long friend, James G. Blaine. Miss Mary Rusk is a young woman about 22 years of

age, and has a reputation for brilliancy at repartee as well as for beauty. Mrs. Rusk spent six years in Washington when her husband was in Congress. She is of prepossessing personal appearance and medium height, and has light complexion, light-brown hair, frank blue eyes, and a kind and pleasant expression. She has an easy grace, and a natural, quiet dignity, but is unassuming and modest that she charms every one she meets. She is a devoted wife and mother.

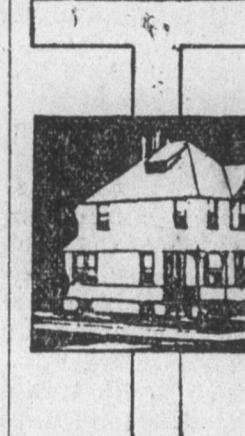
Mrs. Noble.

Mrs. Noble was Miss Halstead of Rochester, N. Y. She was married to General Noble in Northampton, Mass., in 1874. She is much younger than her husband and is probably the youngest of the Cabinet ladies. Her life has been saddened by the death of two children and she has never taken any part in the social gayeties of St. Louis. She is rather a prepossessing woman. She is short and somewhat plump. Her face is pleasant and she wears silver spectacles and carries gold glasses fastened to her bodice. She is not fond of society as society, but is very fond of literary society, always drawing around her a large circle of literary people whose tastes are congenial. Mrs. Noble's name is Elizabeth Halsted — Elizabeth without the E she says. She has two interesting sisters, Leonora B., the younger, who has written one book, "Bethesda," which, as Mrs. Noble says, the author acknowledges.

HINTS ABOUT BUILDING.

A NOVEL AND PICTURESQUE TYPE OF HOUSE.

The Plans of a Pretty Cottage that Was Designed for General Grant — Cost of Labor and Material — Party Walls and Other Information.



THE plan for the first house shown in this article is of historic interest. The house was designed by an Eastern architect for General Grant, and it was in course of erection at Mt. McGregor when he died. The design is worthy of careful examination, is of a somewhat novel and picturesque type, and is very characteristic, especially

in the feature of the octagonal tower. As a whole, it has a quaint and comfortable look, pleasing to almost every one. The estimate of the contractor for the erection of the house was \$2,600, and it can readily be erected, with such local changes as may be suggested, for \$3,000. The floor plans show a very pretty arrangement of rooms in both the first and second story.

COST OF MATERIAL AND LABOR.

Many people have sent letters of inquiry as to the basis of cost in figuring on build-

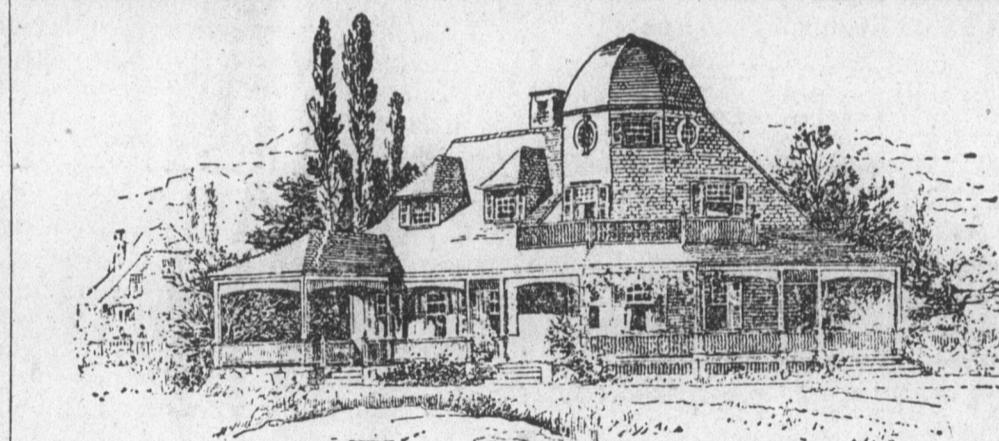
ing up by the poor soil when thrown out, and in such deposits as to be most convenient for top covering when ground is finally graded. This precaution will save moving dirt unnecessarily. The poor soil should be thrown out and deposited far enough away from the wall so as not to be in the way of the carpenters, or act as a dam to keep the water from running away from the building. As much of it as possible should be deposited where it is wanted to remain. Handling dirt twice over is expensive, and this generally falls upon the owner, if inexperienced. The specifications generally call for a trench to be dug under the wall a few inches wider than the wall itself and eight to twelve inches below the cellar bottom; this trench to be filled with concrete of which the wall is to be built. This is a very important matter, as upon a good foundation depends the stability of the house. It too often happens, however, that the contractor hurries over this part of the work, as he can easily escape detection by putting in but three or four inches of concrete only of the width of the wall. If this work be done in the late autumn, the inside of foundation wall should be well banked up with earth to keep out the frost.

THE LAW AS TO PARTY WALLS.

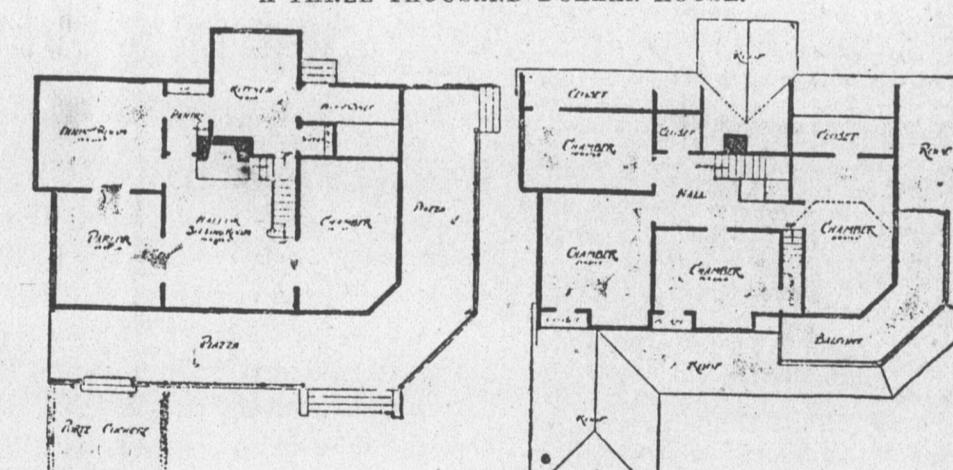
A party wall in law is the wall dividing lands of different proprietors, used in common for the support of structures on both sides. At common law, an owner who erects a wall for his own buildings which is capable of being used by an adjoining proprietor, can not compel such proprietor, when he shall build next to it, to pay for any portion of the cost of such wall. On the other hand, the adjoining proprietor has no right to make any use of such wall without consent of the owner and the consequence may be the erection of two walls, side by side, when one would answer all purposes. This convenience is often secured by an agreement to erect a wall for common use, one-half on each other's land, the parties to divide the expense; if only one is to build at a time, he gets a return from the other party of half what it costs him. Under such an agreement, each has an easement in the land of the other while the wall stands, and this accompanies the titles in sales and descent. But if the wall is destroyed by decay or accident, the easement is gone, unless by a deed the contingency is provided for. Repairs to party walls are to be borne equally; but if one has occasion to strengthen or improve them for a more extensive building than was at first contemplated, he cannot compel the other to divide the expense with him. In some States there are statutes regulating the rights in party walls, and one may undoubtedly acquire rights by prescription on a wall built by another, which he has long been allowed to use for the support of his own structure.

PROCESS OF EBONIZING.

To imitate black ebony, first wet the wood with a solution of logwood and copperas, boiled together and laid on hot. For this purpose two ounces of logwood chips with one and one-half ounces of copperas, to a quart of water, will be required. When the work has become dry



A THREE-THOUSAND-DOLLAR HOUSE.



FIRST FLOOR.

SECOND FLOOR.

ings. The following price-list will give one a pretty fair idea of the cost of labor and material in Chicago:

Masonry, laid in mortar, per cord	\$20.00
Common brick, per thousand	12.00
Cement, per barrel	2.00
Laths, per thousand	.95
Lead, per pound	.10
Plastering (two coats), per yard	.25
Excavation, per yard	.10
Common lumber, per thousand	14.00
Yellow pine flooring, per thousand	30.00
Pine shingles, per thousand	3.50
Finishing lumber, per thousand	40.00
Painting, finished work, per yard	.18
Chapboards, pine, per thousand	30.00
Mason's wages, per day	4.00
Bricklayer's wages, per day	4.00
Common laborer's wages, per day	2.50
Carpenter's wages, per day	3.50
Plumber's wages, per day	3.50
Painter's wages, per day	3.50

PRACTICAL HINTS ABOUT BUILDING.

Before the contract is signed, ascertain the exact location of the house, so that you may know just how much the excavation will be. It often happens, when this precaution is not taken, that there is more excavation than ordinary, and the contractor will refuse to do the work required, without extra pay; and rather than have an extra, the house is located either too low or too high from the street—an error that can never be corrected except at a considerable cost. To ascertain the exact excavation, it is necessary first to know the grade of the sidewalk, and from this measure back the distance desired from the street line, allowing a fall to the street for the water of not less than one inch to three feet. This will give you the grade-line at your foundation wall, and the excavation will thus be easily calculated, as the wall is usually 2 feet 6 inches above the grade, and as much below as the cellar is required deep, allowing three inches for concrete on cellar bottom. Having fixed the distance of the house above the street and its elevation above the same, see to it that the top soil is carefully removed at such a distance from the house as not to be

wet the surface again with a mixture of one-half pint vinegar and two ounces steel filings. When the work has again become dry, sand-paper down until quite smooth. Then oil and fill in with powdered drop-black mixed in the filler. The work may receive a light coat of quick-drying varnish, and then be rubbed with a finely pulverized pumice-stone and linseed oil until very smooth. Work to be ebonized should be smooth and free from holes, etc.

HOW TO STAIN WOOD.

Wood may be stained brown by a strong solution of permanganate of potash; red, boil one-fourth pound of logwood and common copperas in one pint of water, apply it hot, and then wash over with a strong solution of alum; rose, iodide of potash in twelve parts of water for a second; blue, indigo solution or a concentrated hot solution of sulphate of copper, followed by a dip in a solution of washing-soda; yellow, turmeric dissolved in wood naphtha or aqua regia in three parts of water; green, verdigris dissolved in four parts of water.

WHEN TO PAINT YOUR HOUSE.

Paint applied to the exterior of frame houses in autumn or winter will last twice as long as if applied during early summer or hot weather. In the former, it dries slowly, and becomes hard like a glazed surface, not afterward easily affected by the weather or worn off by the beating of storms. But in very hot weather, the oil in the paint soaks into the wood at once, leaving the lead nearly dry, and ready to crumble off. The crumbling can be avoided by first going over the surface with raw oil.

DETROIT, Mich., is about to undertake a flower show, and some citizens of Florida purpose sending there gratis a carload of choicest blossoms in token of gratitude for Northern help in their time of fever trouble.

FRANCE'S GREAT TOWER

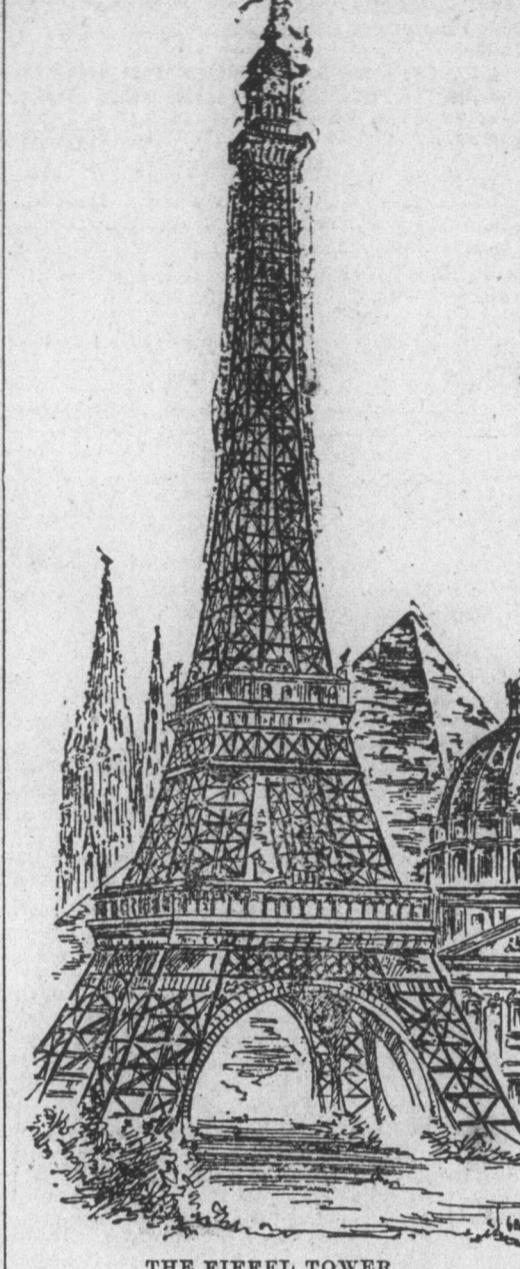
IT WILL BE A PRINCIPAL FEATURE OF THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

Penetrating the Clouds a Distance of One Thousand Feet — Built at an Expense of One Million Dollars — A Truthful Picture of the Obelisk.

(Paris special telegram.)

The great Eiffel Tower, which will be one of the principal features of the Paris exposition, has been officially opened at Paris. Premier Tirard delivered the oration.

The tower cost nearly, if not quite, \$1,000,000, of which \$300,000 was paid by the French Government. The tower stands immediately upon the bank of the south side of the river, on the Champ de Mars. Its base forms a gigantic archway over the main path leading from the bridge into



THE EIFFEL TOWER.

the central grounds of the exposition. As can be seen from the picture, the tower is built entirely of iron girders and pillars, in the simple construction of four great shafts, consisting of four columns each, starting from the four corners of the base and merging into the single great shaft which forms the main part of the tower. This shaft ends in the great cupola, or Alpine reception-room, which, in turn, is surmounted by a still higher lantern or lookout, whose observation platform will be upon the dizzy plane of 1,000 feet.

There are three galleries circling the tower. The first great gallery, just above the archway, stands 185 feet above the ground, and measures nearly 300 feet each way. Here are placed cafes, restaurants, reading-rooms, smoking and lounging compartments, and all the amusements and comforts of a French resort. Thousands of people at one time can be made at home in this great enclosure far up in the cool air without any necessity of crowding or treading on one another's toes. It is also proposed to give band concerts daily at this stage in the journey heavenward, so that the first gallery will probably become the great rendezvous and promenade, and the hauts gommeux will use it, as they do the boulevards, for their afternoon stroll, even though they are as high in the air as the towers of Notre Dame. The second gallery, still forming part of the base of the tower, rests lightly upon its iron supports at a height of 380 feet, or about fifteen feet higher than the highest part of Milan Cathedral. Here is a repetition of the life upon the first gallery below, for a more select few.

Finally, as the tower mounts up farther and farther, past the level, first of St.