TAFT SILVER WEDDING

UNITED STATES PRESIDENT MARRIED JUNE 19th, 1886.

The Event Celebrated at the White House—The President Knew His Wife From Childhood.

The present occupants of the White House have been fortunate in the number and variety of the pleasures which they have been able to enjoy during the first half of their four-year lease of the historical mansion. Mere residence in the presidential mansion, with the official and social prestige which it secures, is in itself sufficient to guarantee privileges and prerogatives that might be expected to "turn the head" of any person not accustomed

to such flattering attentions. But the Tafts have not had to content themselves with such perquisities, lavish though they be. In addition to these pleasant emoluments of their official position they have been enabled to carry out a number of private or personal social projects under particularly favorable circumstances.

For one thing, there was the social debut of Miss Helen Taft, the only daughter of the family, and this entailed a series of festivities such as would in themselves render any administration notable socially. But on top of that the president has extended hospitalities to his old classmates of Yale and to his travelling companions of the memorable journey to the Philippines, while Mrs. Taft indulging her well-known penchant for music, has given a number of musicales which rank as the most pretentious entertainments of the kind in the history of the White House. All these have been, of course, quite apart from the entertaining which the Tafts, in accordance with time-honored custom, are obliged to do to discharge to officialdom the obligations of their position.

And now, as though the record of the past two and a quarter years were not enough, the Tafts again focus public attention by the most interesting and most unusual of all the functions in which the great American public takes keen interest because of its interest in the Chief Magistrate and his wife. In anticipation of the occasion the date, June 19th, has long had a red ring around it on the White House calendar. It marks the silver wedding anniversary of the President and Mrs. Taft and, be it known, silver wedding anniversaries are rare in White House annals. Indeed a silver wedding anniversary, marked by a formal, and one might say a public observance in "the first residence of America" will stand unique.

The preparations for this silver wedding anniversary have been in the making for a long time past. It looked for a time as though the plan might have to be abandonded when Mrs. Taft recently had a recurrence of her serious nervous trouble of two years ago, but though it all she clung tenaciously to her cherished project and even when Washington was suffering that foretaste of summer which in May brought a temperature of 105, she held firm in her determination to commemorate the momentous event. Friends had urged that she should depart early in June for the Taft's new summer home on the North Shore of Massachusetts, but all suasion was in vain.

Silver wedding anniversaries are usually, of course, a family festival pure and simple, but in this instance it must be otherwise, because of the prominence of the chief participants. There will be a dinner party at the White House that will not be limited to kith and kin, and a great reception and there will be some complimentary functions arranged by outsiders, notably the luncheon to be tendered in honor of the Tafts by the Cincinnati Commercial Club, which comes to the capital fifty strong especially for this purpose.

It is whispered by those "in the know" that the "eatings," as Uncle Joe Cannon terms them, will be by no means the least of the features of this White House jollification. Of course, the president does not expect a prize turkey such as gladdens his heart at Thanksgiving and Christmas and he has cause for one lone regret in that it is not the season for those marvellous Chesapeake Bay oysters, but it is expected that "Aunt Delia" Torrey, whose apple pies "Will" has praised in public, and private, will outdo herself in honor of the occasion and there have been hints that some of the "fellow-citizens" of the Tafts in Georgia have concluded that nothing could be more acceptable when one has a housefull of relatives than a crate of prize vegetables, mayhap with a watermelon thrown in in deference to Charlie's especial weakness. And finally there has been an air of mystery of late around the White House kitchen that arouses suspicions of an anniversary cake with all the candles and frills worthy of such a jubilee.

It seems particularly appropriate that the most notable social event of the year at the White House should be in the nature of a joint compliment to the president and Mrs. Taft, for it would be difficult to find a couple in or out of public life who have been more devoted all through their married life. Indeed that they have been able to continue this mutual devotion since they entered official life is all the more remarkable, because in most instances a husband and wife in such environment discover that with the best of intentions they have so many and such divergent duties that they, of necessity, have less time for each other. Mrs. Taft, however, except when actually incapacitated by ill-health, has accompanied her husband on all his trips, even on the voyages to Panama, and on his famous trip around the world.

That the president and Mrs. Taft have been enabled to remain in the relation of close comrades all through their quarter century of married life is not, perhaps, to be attributed so much to similar tastes or opposite characteristics of temperament as to the circumstance that they virtually grew up together. Theirs was no sudden romance after a brief acquaintance. Mrs. Taft has said that she cannot remember the time when she did not know her present husband because the Taft and Herron families were close friends in Cincinnati and there was visiting between the young people as far back as she can remember. And there are doubtless not a few readers who will declare that the marriage of long-time chums gives promise of greater happiness in a new home than a union under more romantic circumstances.

From her early teens Helen Herron was engaged to Will Taft, but their parents, making due allowance for the traditional fickleness of youth in general, did not allow them to publicly announce the engagement until young Taft had graduated from Yale. In the meantime Miss Herron, with something of that same energy which has characterized her ever since, taught school for about three years, acting as instructor in the primary department of a private school on Walnut Hills. The work was not arduous for school was in session only from nine o'clock in the morning until two in the afternoon each week day, but many of her acquaintances of that day were just a little surprised that she should take up the work because there was no need for financial considerations, her father being a prosperous attorney and none of her sisters essaying to earn a livelihood.

While she was in the role of "school marm," Miss Herron's courtship by the young lawyer was progressing under the friendly auspices of the weekly meetings of the "coterie" or Salon," an organization of young men and women, who gathered at such intervals to discuss current topics and literary subjects and assembled yet more frequently for boat rides and other outings or entertainments. Another couple in this little club was Howard Hollister and Miss Alice Keys. "Hol," as the president affectionately terms Judge Hollister, has ever been one of his very closest friends. They went to Yale together and it was an open secret from the time that Taft entered the White House that he would like to appoint him to the U. S. supreme bench. The former Miss Keys became Mrs. Hollister and only a few weeks ago she paid an extended visit to Mrs. Taft at the White House and the two women had a fine time attending all the concerts within reach just as they did in the old days in Cincinnati when Mrs. Taft inaugurated her career as a patron of music and served seven years as president and fourteen years as member of the organization that supported the Queen City's famous symphony orchestra.

The wedding, in recollection of which the Yankee court will make merry this week and telegrams wishing many happy returns will be received from all the world and his wife, was a home affair though not exactly what would be termed a "quiet home wedding," there were too many relatives and the families were too well known in Cincinnati for that. And the young people were the envied of a wide circle of acquaintances, because they were able to go to Europe for a wedding tour. In the cause of historical accuracy, however, it should be explained, that

MRS. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT.

the father of the groom and the father of the bride were both well-to-do and the young lawyer might have had to wait until his shingle was more weather-beaten were it necessary for him to have accumulated all of that European "expense fund" from his own fees as a barrister. The Tafts have been to Europe several times since.

Ooe would be prone to suppose that it could never have occurred to that bride of twenty-five when she joined fortunes with a young lawyer of twenty-nine with an income of $100 a month that she would, when she had doubled her age, be celebrating her silver wedding anniversary in the White House. But you cannot tell. Mrs. Taft has always been a boundlessly ambitious woman and she had had her attention called to the attractions of the White House as a place of residence in a most alluring manner. It had come about in this wise a few years previously. John W. Herron, the father of Mrs. William H. Taft, was the law partner of Rutherford B. Hayes, and when Hayes was president each of the Herron girls was invited to pay a visit to the family at the White House. Mrs. Taft has admitted that nothing in her whole life so represented the climax of human bliss as that glimpse of White House life when she was sweet sixteen and it is not to be wondered at if even at that early day she made it her life goal.

Pauperism in Scotland.

The annual report of the local government board of Scotland states that during the past year the publication of the reports of the poor-law commission has had two notable results. In the one case it has engendered a general feeling of insecurity among parish councils in regard to existing institutions, which had led to the suspension of constructive schemes on a large scale. On the other hand, many councils have shown a desire to do more in the way of preventing destitution, and have taken a broader and more humane view of their functions. This is indicated by a general tendency to increase the aliment allowed.

Curious Astronomical Clock.

A curious astronomical clock is to be seen in Exeter Cathedral. Below the works is a cabinet which when opened displays a miniature belfry with ringers, and the background is painted to represent a number of old buildings in Exeter. This was built by Lovelace, took thirty years to construct and rivals the famous clocks of Wimborne Minster and Wells Cathedral.

WITH JUNE COMES THE BATHING SUIT QUESTION.

(Continued from Page 8.)

ing head-dress—and wet hair when it comes to arranging the bathing cap; but some women have the knack—or acquire it by practice—of tying on the bathing cap without the aid of a mirror and this may be done the very last thing before going into the water, the pretty coiffure being worn, capless on the beach.

The girl in the sweater picture wears a "made" bathing cap. That is, a cap already lined with rubber and fashioned into a graceful shape with a bow in front. Such caps are charming—on shore—but they afford little real protection in the water. The most practical bathing cap is the ordinary rubber diving cap which has a tight band at the edge and a full crown which fits over the hair. Around this may be tied a broad ribbon; or over it may be knotted a gay silk kerchief.

A practical and pretty bathing costume is shown in the model of blue and white checked taffeta which is made en princesse, giving long lines from neck to knee. The sleeves of this dress are slashed to the shoulder and around the shallow V of the neck is a trimming of plain blue silk. The woman of fastidious taste does not wear a decollete bathing dress—and the fear of tan and freckles should deter others. One of the prettiest neck finishes on a dark silk or mohair suit is a little turnover collar of white embroidery or lace, of sufficiently heavy character to retain its shape when wet.

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40 dozen Bunches of Braid, regular 98c to $1.75 for 25c

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