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PRESIDENTS' WIVES.

ABIGAIL ADAMS, "DOLLY" MADISON, RACHEL JACKSON AND OTHERS.

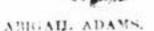
Two of Them Were Never Mistresses of the White House-Mrs. Adams' Education-"Dolly" Madison's Tact-Slanders About Mrs. Jackson.

"The social position of the wife of a presiident of the United States is probably as high as is held by any woman in the world. Even the queen of England, although she is the nominal ruler of realms on which the sun never sets, and has weaved about her the mantle of royalty, cannot be said to be greater socially than the first lady of the United States, for the reason that insuperable traditions and customs that are the growth of centuries prevent her coming into nearly as close contact with the great body of her people as is the case with the wife of the president of the United States.

The wives of the majority of the presidents of the United States have been remarkable women. It is a matter of history that many of the presidents owed a very large measure of their success to the skillful diplomacy and incessant encouragement of their consorts This was notably so in the case of John Adams, the second president of the United States Adams is not considered to have been a man of extraordinary endowments, but his wife, Abigail Adams, was a woman of remarkable intellectual force, and there is no doubt that Adams reflected a good deal of her brilliance when his star was most lumin-

married him he was the sen of a small farmer, and had no particularly bright prospects. The friends and relatives of Miss Smith (Mrs. Adams' maiden name) looked with disfavor upon what they considered a very undesirable match. Miss Smith's family was an old an conservative one, and, although her cicli-

ous. When she



cate health precluded the possibinty of sending her to school away from home, sedulous care was taken in her education. She was a voracious reader, and her conversation had all the strict precision and metaphorical sonorousness of one of the preternaturally cultured young women to be found in the pages of novels of the last century. She was, in truth, a second edition of Johnson's "Clarissa," and her letters and journals, notably these during the period of the Revolutionary war, are perfect models of diction and pure English. She was married to Adams in 1764, when but 20 years old, and she was an able and devoted assistant of her husband during his struggles as a briefless young lawyer. His rise was not slow, however, and from the time of his service as a member of the Continental congress until he succeeded Washington as presideat his wife was an amiable dictator and a gentle companion. Owing to her delicate health, which was not capable of enduring the then malarious climate of Washington, and her desire to frugally manage, she spent at the White House only four months of the time during which her husband was president. Washington was not an altogether pleasant village in those days, and in her letters to friends at home Mrs. Adams made many disparaging comparisons between the radiant freshness of the hamlets and the bracing qualities of the air of Massachusetts with the muddy streets, unhealthy morasses and enervating atmosphere of the national capital. During the time she was at the White House she made herself quite popular with the society of Georgetown and Washington, although she was essentially a domestic woman, and shone more around her own fireside than in the whirl of a miscellaneous society. She was thoroughly wrapped up in her son, John Quin y Adams, and although she did not live to see him become president of the United States ber life was spared long enough to see him achieva greatness in state affairs. She died at the advanced age of 74.

Dorothy Madison, more frequently referred to as "Dolly" Madison, had all the archness of manner and sweetness of temperament that Dickens gave to Dolly Varden. She was one of the most popular women in the United States. She was possessed of consummate tact, and a grace and womanly sympathy that made her the adored of all who were permitted to become intimately acquainted with her. She was beautiful. Her features were lively and mobile, and her figure was exquisite. Her hands and feet were marvelously small. She had great masses of dark hair, which she usually covered by a bright turban, and her eyes were lustrous and large. She was never a simperer, but her smiles, the outward showing of a rarely bright spirit, were extremely sweet and bountifully bestowed. Aithough a woman of cuest excellent education, she was the antithesis of a blue stocking, and her



rather sparkling and occasionally tinged with good humored satire than profoundly intellectual. She was a brave woman, as was demonstrated by her cool demeanor when the British entered Washington during

DOROTHY MADISON.

the war of 1812 and sacked the city. Although everybody was flying, she did not leave the White House until she heard the drums of the English soldiers approaching on Pennsylvania avenue, when she entered her carriage and was driven to Virginia. She took the precaution of securing valuable state papers before she left the building, and took with her a splendid portrait of Washington which was hanging in the White House, and which would have otherwise perished in the burning of the mansion a short time after. From the hills of Virginia she could see the lurid glare of the fire that consumed the Capi-

Before her marriage with Madison, Miss Payne (Mrs. Madison's maiden nan:e) had been the wife of John Todd, a rising young lawyer of Philadelphia, who died not long after the union. By Todd she had one son, Payne Todd, a handsome youth, whose diss: pated, spendthrift habits were a source of deep grief to her as long as she lived. There is in Washington now an aged colored man in the employ of the government, who was one of Dolly Madison's pages when a very small pickaninny, and he remembers many affecting scenes between the reckless young fellow and his heartsore mother. This old negro cherishes a deep reverence for everything that appertains to Dolly Madison, and he never tires of talking of her beauty, her gentleness, and her charity. She died in 1849, at the great age of 82 years.

Mrs. Rachel Jackson, the wife of Gen.

Andrew Jackson, was never the mistress of the White House, having died before her husband took possession of the home of the presidents; although her death was caused by a disease of the heart, the slanders in regard to her character published in newspapers, whose political opinions were at variance with those of her husband, undoubtedly hastened her end. Before her marriage with Andrew Jackson, Rachel Donelson, the daughter of a brave and

hardy old surveyor of Virginia, who afterwards-emigrated to Tennessee, had been married to Lewis Robards, whom she had met in Kentucky. At heart Robards was doubtless an honest man, but he was possessed of an unfortunate temperament. He was fiercely jealous, RACHEL JACKSON.



sensitive, and had absolutely no control whatever over his fiery temper. He had not long been a husband before his weakness became strikingly apparent. He kept his wife in constant uneasiness and distress. He became jealous and suspicious of Andrew Jackson, with whom his wife accidentally became acquainted, and separated from his wife. A reunion was afterwards brought about. But it was of no use. Robards' disposition was insufferable. He, again left his wife, and it was not long before Mrs. Robards was given to understand that she was a divorced woman. She then became the wife of Andrew Jackson. They had not long been married when they heard that Robards had not yet secured the divorce. Soon after this, however, Robards really secured his divorce, and, to prevent all future caviling on the subject, Jackson and his wife were again married.

When Jackson was elected president all sorts of malicious tales were circulated about his wife. A woman of noble, sensitive character, this calumniation well nigh broke her heart. The stories threw Jackson into a towering rage, and the suffering of his wife embittered him as long as he lived. He once rushed to his stable, saddled his horse and was on the point of starting for Nashville with the avowed intention of killing an editor whose slanders had been of a particularly vicious nature. It was all that Mrs. Jackson could do to quench the burning passion of the old soldier, and to persuade him to desist from his purpose. She grasped the bridle of his horse, and, notwithstanding his flerce injunction, "Out of my way!" she still clung to and pleaded with him, and he was finally subdued by her eloquence. Much of Jackson's after moodiness is attributed to this bitter passage in his life.

Although a woman of a very sweet, domestic nature. Mrs. Jackson had few accomplishments. She had no children of her own, and adopted a twy, Andrew Jackson, Jr. She died at the age of \$1.

Anna Symes Harrison, the wife of Gen. William Henry Harrison, was born a year before the date of American independence. In her girlhood she was surrounded by strong religious influences, which left their marks on her character through life. She was a beautiful woman, and her features were not altogether unlike those of the present Mrs. Gen. Harrison. She became the wife of Gen.



1795. She was very proud of her husband's military prowess, and of his many triumphs in sanguinary battles. During her thirty vears' life at North Bend she buried one child in infancy, and subsequently followed to the grave four sons and three daughters, all of whom

were settled in life, and ten grandchildren. Mrs. Harrison was never mistress of the White House, as Gen. Har-

rison died a month after his inauguration. Mrs. Harrson did not spend this month in Washington. Her health was frail and her physitains from Ohio at that senson of the year. Mrs. Harrison died at the remarkable age of 80, in 1864, at the resolence of her son, J. Scott Harrison, five miles below North Bend on the Ohio river.

The Philadelphia Mint.

The Philadelphia mint is to be enlarged. A cut of how the building will look when the additions are on is here given. The enlargement will consist of a third story and a tower, the latter 40 feet high. The architecture is to be altered from a simple Ionic to a florid



THE MINT.

style. The fronts on Chestnut street will be advanced until they are nearly in a line with the front of the main building. The tower will be raised above the center of this Chestnut street front, in the top of which a break will be made that the front of the tower may

The change from one style of architecture to another is explained from the fact that no further acquisition of ground at a moderate cost could be expected, and no additions which would leave the building in its present form nor any new building adjoining the mint can be erected.

Ice as a Heater.

One of St. Patrick's most famous miracles is thus commemorated in the old Irish ballad of "Polly Roe:" St. Patrick, as in legends told,

The morning being very cold, In order to assuage the weather, Collected bits of ice together; Then gently breathed upon the pyre, When every fragment blazed on fire. Oh! if the saint had been so kind, As to have left the gift behind To such a love lorn wretch as me, Who daily struggled to be free; I'd be content—content with part; I'd only ask to thaw the heart, The frozen heart of Polly Roe.

It's a Pretty Sight, Too.

In some of the country districts of Ireland it is customary for the young girls between 14 and 18 years of age to engage in a "smock race" on St. Patrick's day-that is, a foot race in which the prize is a smock or chemise of the finest Irish linen, ornamented with

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