

SHE IS AN IDEAL WOMAN

And He a Devoted Husband. Beautiful Life Story of the President and His Wife.

STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Mrs. McKinley's Home Life May Serve as a Model for All American Women.

The story of Mrs. McKinley's sweet, simple life, with its joys and sorrows, so hallowed by the honest love of an honest man, has been told and retold until there is a consensus of opinion that the McKinley home over which she presides may well be taken as an American type. Notwithstanding the fact that every one can tell something of Mrs. McKinley, it is well at this time to recall the environment and circumstance of her life.

There are those who recall and tell of the courtship and marriage of Major William McKinley and Miss Ida Saxton when thousands of people more than filled the "new stone" Presbyterian church in Canton. They remember just how James A. Saxton came down the left aisle with his daughter, the bride, and how Miss Mary I. Saxton, a bridesmaid, and Abner McKinley, sister and brother of the bride and groom, followed, showing that the order of bridal procession was reversed in those days. Down the left aisle came Major McKinley, with Mrs. Saxton, attesting that a mother had some definite place on that occasion, not as she does now, coming in nervously before the bridal party arrives. After him came William Osborne, with Miss Amella Bockius, also one of the bridesmaids. At the altar the groups met and dispersed gracefully, and the ceremony was performed by Rev. E. Buckingham and Rev. Dr. Endsley, representing the Presbyterian church, to which the bride and groom respectively belonged. It is told as a joke that Rev. Mr. Buckingham had been provided with white gloves for the occasion, but that he wore a pair of black ones which had done service for former weddings and funerals.

On that memorable January 25, 1871, there was a reception after the ceremony, and Major and Mrs. McKinley left for an eastern trip which covered three or four weeks. Twenty-five years after in the Canton home, where Major and Mrs. McKinley commenced housekeeping, they gathered their friends for their silver wedding, and the white satin bridal dress was again worn. Nearly all the members of the bridal party were present, some journeying far to be there.

It was in the earlier years of this quarter of a century that the experiences came which saddened and sweetened, when they knew the touch of the little hands which have made the McKinleys akin to all child life. Little Katie McKinley, who was born on Christmas day, 1872, and the other girl baby came in April, 1873, and died August of the same year. With the birth of this last commenced the ill-health which has made an invalid of Mrs. McKinley. She has not been invalided in the sense that she has been confined to her bed or even to her room for any length of time, but one inasmuch as she has been unable to go about and mingle in society and enjoy the recreations other women have. In Washington during the years of Major McKinley's service in the house of representatives Mrs. McKinley was quite close at home, and met comparatively few of the women and men who go to make up the gay society of the capital. It is easy to appreciate her feelings when her husband was called to the highest position in the gift of the people, one in which his wife must be conspicuous. But Mrs. McKinley seems to have grown stronger and better with her responsibilities, and while she has not been able to attend personally to many of the things which would have been her pleasure to do, she has rarely been obliged to be absent from an official or private function.

There are some interesting things in the girlhood days of Mrs. McKinley which are not generally known. The world is so interested in Mrs. McKinley as the wife that there has been little said of her as Miss Saxton. She was the first child of James and Mary Saxton of Canton, who had a family of three—one boy and two girls. As a child she endeared herself to every one just as she does today. She obtained her education in the public school of Canton, at a school in Cleveland, and later in Brook Hall seminary in Media, Pa., where Ida Saxton remained three years. After graduation she went to Europe with a party of friends and remained six months.

When she returned to Canton she was a belle, vivacious and interesting and of charming manners. Her father, a man of staid character and pronounced opinions, concluded that he would give his daughter a training which would fit her to cope with the duties of women, new or old, and so he installed her as assistant in the bank over which he presided. "She must be trained," said her father, "to buy her own bread if necessary, and not sell

herself to matrimony." And this in the face of the fact that he was a man of large means.

Mrs. McKinley's love for children stands just ahead of that for flowers. Pink roses come first on the list, and she is seldom without them. She has no pets, probably because she had had so few years of real home life when she could enjoy them. Music delights her as well as art, and her greatest diversion is the

drama. She never misses an opportunity to see a good play when she is able.

During some of her resting hours Mrs. McKinley has knitted slippers for use in the hospitals until the number has reached several thousands.

Mrs. McKinley, who is about 5 feet 4 inches, carries her 50 years with grace, and while her face betrays the suffering through which she has passed, it retains much of the beauty which is of a

distinctive, refined type. She dresses with elegant simplicity, but is most particular about her bonnets. She has a penchant for rare laces, and her collection dates back to her schoolgirl days.

During her official social life in Washington Mrs. McKinley has been happy in the women, young and old which she has had about her. It has been her delight to have the young girls of the officials about her, and some of them have good

cause to be devotedly attached to the wife of the president. They have had unusual opportunities because she has pleasantly delegated much to them, always being at hand, however, to grace and dignify the occasions.

Mr. and Mrs. James Carmichael have gone to Buffalo to take in the exposition. From there they will go to New York City, remaining away for six weeks.



(Sitting)—Mrs. Long Mrs. Gage

(Standing)—Mrs. Smith Mrs. Hay Mrs. McKinley Mrs. Hitchcock

Miss Wilson Mrs. Root Mrs. Griggs

THE CABINET LADIES ADORE MRS. M'KINLEY.



HE IS A DEVOTED HUSBAND.



THEY ARE HAPPIEST IN THEIR CANTON HOME.



ALL ALONG THE ROUTE EASTWARD CROWDS GATHERED TO EXPRESS THEIR JOY AT MRS. M'KINLEY'S RECOVERY.