

THE VANDERBILT WEDDING

ALFRED GWYNNE AND MISS ELSIE FRENCH UNITED AT NEWPORT.

NEWPORT, R. I., Jan. 14.—Simplicity and the avoidance of vulgar ostentation constituted the keynote of the wedding which united to-day an heiress of millions to the heir of one of the largest fortunes of the United States. When it was first announced that the marriage of Miss Elsie French to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt would take place at Newport in the very depth of winter considerable astonishment was excited. But it was soon understood that the choice of this place as the scene of the celebration was due to the desire both on the part of the bride and of the bridegroom's widowed mother to avoid the turmoil, the entire absence of privacy and the inevitable glamour of what would have marred the affair had it taken place in New-York. Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, still in deep mourning for her universally regretted husband, and as such averse to anything in the shape of festivities on a large scale, while Miss Elsie French, a Newport girl in every sense of the word, preferred that the marriage should take place in her own place of worship and among the familiar surroundings of her youth, rather than in the more pretentious environments that would have characterized the ceremony had it taken place at New-York.

By celebrating the wedding at Newport at this time of the year, young Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt and his charming bride secured the blessing of the restoration of the attendance at the ceremony to their own particular friends, who alone would pay them the tribute of affection to travel all the way from New-York in order to be present on the occasion, and at the same time avert by the simplicity of the entire affair those charges of extravagance and of ostentation that people less liberally endowed with this world's goods always feel disposed to offer when two great fortunes are united by means of a wedding ceremony in New-York.

WEATHER LIKE A SPRING DAY.

No brighter weather could have been wished for by the bridal party, and what, with the glorious sun, the blue sky and the crisp air, it seemed more like a day in spring than in January, and was construed as an augury of happiness for the young couple.

The bridal party entered the Zabriske Memorial Church of St. John the Evangelist, far up in the old north part of the city, where young Mrs. Alfred Vanderbilt had worshipped since childhood, punctually at noon, the organ peeling forth the strains of the bridal hymn from "Lohengrin," the vested choir leading the procession and singing the words of the song "Tender and True." Following the choir rode the ushers, Robert Livingstone Gerry, Potter Palmer, Jr., Frederick Martin Davies, William Fitzhugh Whitehouse, Jr., William F. Burdell, Ernest Iselin and William Bayard Cutting, Jr. Then came the bridesmaids, Miss Pauline French, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Tuck French, and niece of the bride; Miss Elsie Bronson, daughter of Mrs. Frederick Bronson; Miss Isabel Stillman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Stillman, and Miss Edith Gray, daughter of Judge and Mrs. John C. Gray. Lastly came the bride, escorted by her brother, Amos Tuck French. As the ushers and bridesmaids approached the chancel rail they separated, forming on either side, the bride passing between them to meet before the altar her future husband, attended by his brother Reginald, who acted as groomsmen.

The chancel of the church was massed with palms and plants, forming a background for the floral decorations, which consisted chiefly of white orchids and lilies of the valley, interspersed with many strands of smilax and artemisia vines. The aisles were overhead with baskets set on stands or torches seven or eight high, placed at intervals from the door to the chancel. These baskets were filled with blossoming begonias and La Gloria de Lorraine, a rare variety of pink orchids and lilies of the valley. The bride's table in the dining room was set with white orchids and orange blossoms, and in striking contrast to this the other tables were decorated with red flowers.

The bride's flowers were of rare orchids and orange blossoms, arranged in what is known as the waving shower bouquet. The bridegroom's boutonniere was of massed lilies, a rare variety of orchid. The ushers wore boutonnières of gardenias.

AWAY ON A WEDDING JOURNEY.

At 2:25 Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt left Harbor View without any demonstration and proceeded to Long Wharf, where they boarded William K. Vanderbilt's special train and started on their wedding trip in the direction of Boston. A few of the guests accompanied them to the train.

Guests departed in the afternoon on a special train, which proceeded at once to New-York, having the right of way over the New-Haven road.

GOWNS OF THE GUESTS.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, mother of the bridegroom, wore dull black brocade cut en train and trimmed about the bodice with black velvet. About her throat she wore her famous black pearl necklace, and also one of white pearl—a many stranded affair, the deepest circlet of which fell below the waist line. Her bonnet was of black velvet with loose tam o' shanter crown and black ostrich plumes.

Mrs. F. O. French, mother of the bride, wore purple mauve velvet trimmed in black lace and jet, with a small toque of a lighter shade of the velvet.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney wore heliotrope silk, trimmed in bands of sable on bodice and skirt. Heliotrope picture hat, with pale lavender plumes.

Mrs. Herbert Eaton, sister of the bride, wore steel blue mauve velvet, trimmed in passementerie; gray and white picture hat.

Mrs. Eaton's two little boys wore royal purple velvet Russian blouse costumes, with deep collar of point lace.

Mrs. Amos Tuck French was in pale gray crepe, with silver passementerie, white ostrich boa and white hat.

Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, as maid of honor, wore a pale gray frock of the same color as the bridesmaids', but cut on simpler lines. Her hat was also less elaborate, as she has still several years to wait before making her first formal bow to society. Two gray ostrich plumes, with a knot of cloth of gold worked toward the front, completed a model of simplicity. The maid of honor also carried a floral staff, tied in crimson ribbon.

The best man and ushers wore the conventional frock coat, with lavender tie, the latter being fastened with pearl pins, the gift of the bridegroom. Miss French presented her bridesmaid friends with white cardcases, on each of which was a raised monogram in gold, while Alfred Vanderbilt's presents to his ushers consisted of gold cuff buttons set with diamonds and pearls.

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Both the grounds and the house were beautifully decorated. The driveway from the gates to the house was arched with boughs of green, in which bright red holly berries gave a brilliant touch of color, and between the arches were set small green fir trees, the whole making a very attractive inclosure, through which the guests were driven to the house. The piazzas, which had been inclosed with glass, were decorated with trees and palms. In the vestibule and entrance the feature of the decoration was English holly, in which the rare yellow berry only was used, and in addition there were stars of red poinsettia. The entire first floor was given up to the accommodation of the wedding guests, and each room was decorated to match in color the permanent hangings. The yellow farsytia, which is secured only in the South, and some of which came from Texas, was extensively used. The hall was decorated with pink begonias, and the billiard room in scarlet flowers. The canopy in the drawing room, under which Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt received congratulations, was of pink orchids and lilies of the valley. The bride's table in the dining room was set with white orchids and orange blossoms, and in striking contrast to this the other tables were decorated with red flowers.

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Together they stood before the steps of the chancel until Dr. Morgan had finished reading the betrothal portion of the service, when they ascended into the chancel, and at the altar Dr. Beattie completed the ceremony and pronounced them husband and wife. The Mendelssohn Wedding March was played as the wedding procession moved down the aisle and out of the church. The ceremony occupied about seven minutes.

After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt passed together down the aisle, followed by the maid of honor, the groomsmen, the bridesmaids and the ushers, the organist rendering the Mendelssohn Wedding March as they left the church. Then the bridal party and guests were driven to Harbor View, the home of the bride's mother, in Harrison-ave., where a reception was held and a wedding breakfast was served. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt received in the drawing room, and were assisted by Mrs. French, Mrs. Vander-

bilt, Mrs. Eaton and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney. The wedding breakfast was served by Delmonico, of New-York, to about one hundred and fifty guests. At the bride's table, which was placed in the center of the large dining hall, twenty-eight persons were seated, including the bride and groom. The decorations were white orchids and roses and lilies of the valley. At the head of the hall the family table was set, with Mrs. French presiding, and about the hall were small tables, at which ten persons each were seated.

Both the grounds and the house were beautifully decorated. The driveway from the gates to the house was arched with boughs of green, in which bright red holly berries gave a brilliant touch of color, and between the arches were set small green fir trees, the whole making a very attractive inclosure, through which the guests were driven to the house. The piazzas, which had been inclosed with glass, were decorated with trees and palms. In the vestibule and entrance the feature of the decoration was English holly, in which the rare yellow berry only was used, and in addition there were stars of red poinsettia. The entire first floor was given up to the accommodation of the wedding guests, and each room was decorated to match in color the permanent hangings. The yellow farsytia, which is secured only in the South, and some of which came from Texas, was extensively used. The hall was decorated with pink begonias, and the billiard room in scarlet flowers. The canopy in the drawing room, under which Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt received congratulations, was of pink orchids and lilies of the valley. The bride's table in the dining room was set with white orchids and orange blossoms, and in striking contrast to this the other tables were decorated with red flowers.

The bride's flowers were of rare orchids and orange blossoms, arranged in what is known as the waving shower bouquet. The bridegroom's boutonniere was of massed lilies, a rare variety of orchid. The ushers wore boutonnières of gardenias.

AWAY ON A WEDDING JOURNEY.

At 2:25 Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt left Harbor View without any demonstration and proceeded to Long Wharf, where they boarded William K. Vanderbilt's special train and started on their wedding trip in the direction of Boston. A few of the guests accompanied them to the train.

Guests departed in the afternoon on a special train, which proceeded at once to New-York, having the right of way over the New-Haven road.

GOWNS OF THE GUESTS.

Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, mother of the bridegroom, wore dull black brocade cut en train and trimmed about the bodice with black velvet. About her throat she wore her famous black pearl necklace, and also one of white pearl—a many stranded affair, the deepest circlet of which fell below the waist line. Her bonnet was of black velvet with loose tam o' shanter crown and black ostrich plumes.