

# Womankind

## SURVIVING WIDOWS OF FOUR PRESIDENTS

### Mrs. Grant's Reign Surpassed in Brilliance Any Within Memory—Mrs. Harrison Never Presided in White House Except for Her Aunt.

Correspondence of The Journal.

Washington, Oct. 3.—There are four widows of presidents now living, namely: Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Garfield, Mrs. Harrison and Mrs. McKinley. All except the last-named enjoy a pension of \$5,000 a year voted by congress. There is only one ex-president now alive—Grover Cleveland.

Mrs. Julia Dent Grant, who reigned over the White House for eight years, resides in Washington, and generally her married daughter, Mrs. Algonson Sartoris, shares her beautiful home on Connecticut avenue. Mrs. Grant's career has been one of great contrasts. She has endured great poverty and enjoyed the most magnificent

With peace came his sudden political rise and his election as president. Mrs. Grant became the first lady of the land. The children for whom she had struggled became the leading figures in social affairs of the national capital, the son entering West Point, and in 1874 Nellie, then 19 years old, married the young Englishman whom she had met a year before while crossing the Atlantic on the steamship Russia. During the second administration of President Grant, Captain Fred Grant introduced into society his wife, who was Miss Honore, sister of Mrs. Potter Palmer, and she became one of the lights of the Washington social world.



For semi-dress occasions the waist pictured above will be found the correct thing. The tucked body may be of lavender silk or crepe de chene, the yoke and sleeve puffs of white chiffon, the decorations of lace or silk embroidery, with the all-pervading touch of black velvet, caught with steel buckles.



There promises to be a rage for the French flannel waist after the above design, in any of the fashionable plain shades with the omnipresent embroidery in white or black.



Strips of ceru lace and blue taffeta make the foundation of this pretty garment. Rows of baby velvet ribbon on the blue make the dressy yoke and sleeve puffs.



MRS. IDA SAXTON MCKINLEY.

prosperity. Her early struggles were more difficult than those of any other woman who has risen to the position of mistress of the White House, and her administration during the eight years when her husband was president outshone any in the history of the country in magnificence of the entertainments and the brilliancy of its social features. Mrs. Grant was the daughter of Judge Dent, and was born at Whitehaven, Mo., near St. Louis. Her brother was a cadet at West Point, and it was through him she met her future husband. The family objected strongly to Grant, and it was five years before

During Mrs. Grant's occupancy of the White House some of the notable social events were entertainments to the Duke of Edinburgh, to the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, to King Kalakaua, and to the first Chinese minister.

After the close of President Grant's official career came his memorable tour around the world. Mrs. Grant and their youngest son accompanied him and the distinguished party were everywhere entertained most sumptuously. In China Mrs. Grant received an honor never before bestowed on an American woman. She was entertained at a dinner given by the wife of the viceroy of the Chinese empire. Her accounts of the affair are most entertaining.

During the last thirty years Mrs. Grant has divided her time between England and Washington, living here quietly but elegantly. She is now nearly 80 years of age, but her mind is still bright and she enjoys good health and may be seen riding in her carriage almost every pleasant day.

### Mrs. Garfield's Quiet Life.

Mrs. Lucretia Rudolph Garfield spent but a few months in the White House. After the assassination of her husband, she went to Cleveland, in one of the suburbs of which city she now resides. Before becoming the first lady of the land she had lived in Washington in a house on Thirtieth at the corner of I street. Her husband was then serving as a member of the house of representatives. Mrs. Garfield has always been known as a domestic woman. She is the mother of four sons and it has been her life work to send them through college and fit them for creditable careers. Like Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Garfield had to encounter poverty. She was the daughter of Zeb Rudioh, a prosperous farmer of Garrettsville, O. Her mother was a descendant of General Nathaniel Greene, of revolutionary fame. It was while attending school at Geggua seminary at Chester, near her father's home, that she met young Garfield. The latter went later to Hiram college, a co-educational institution, and Miss Rudolph followed him and became a member of the classes taught by him in that institution, where he had risen to the dignity of a professorship. Meeting thus, they fell in love and were married. They were too poor to keep house and for several years boarded in the college town. Garfield left teaching to become a preacher, which profession he abandoned for the study of law and politics. When the war broke out he entered the army and served with distinction.

Mrs. Garfield is a small, spare woman, with thin features and snapping black



MRS. LUCRETIA RUDOLF GARFIELD.

and an ambition to master a profession and earn a living. While struggling with Blackstone and Kent, and walking to and from his office, he had occasion to pass near the Sexton home, and it was his custom to slip notes and love letters to a small boy who was her neighbor, and who undertook to see that they were delivered safely but quietly. This boy is now a prosperous hotelkeeper in Cleveland. The McKinley's had two children whom they lost, and this was an affliction which always bore heavily upon Mrs. McKinley. The widow of the late president resembles Mrs. Garfield in her domestic tastes and always grudges the claims which a public life made upon her husband's time. It is stated upon absolutely reliable authority that Mrs. McKinley heard of her husband's second election to the presidency with positive regret, and that she offered her congratulations, replied that he belonged to her and that he country had already had more than his share of him.

### ITALY'S LITTLE PRINCESS

People Are Weary of the Name of Yolanda.

Yolanda, which when first given to the King of Italy's little daughter, was considered so pretty a name, has already become wearisome in the ears of the Romans. Besides all the babies born on the same day as the princess—which are legion—the name is given to every novelty that comes out. Advertisements for Yolanda hats, Yolanda neckties, different kinds of sweets, perfumes, etc., meet one at every turn, until one loathes the very word. And yet she is the sweetest of babies, seldom crying, with big dark eyes, and the smallest and slenderest of feet. She has now been present at two public functions, the registry of her birth and the christening, and has smiled through both, although it cannot be pleasant to have oil and water applied to the head as is done in the Roman ritual. However, she has not undisputed supremacy upon the souvenir postcard, where the Balla (wet nurse) runs her very close. That most fortunate woman, the Balla, who came out of a little hut in the Sampagna, has just been the recipient of a new present from Queen Margherita in the shape of several thousands of francs' worth of corals, which she wore at the christening the other day. As she took them she cried: "These shall be heirlooms in my family forever. They shall never be parted with."



MRS. MARY LARD HARRISON.

## PEWTER HUNTING IN EUROPE

### Miss Jeter's Collection of Tankards and Platters Whose Hunting Brought Her Many Interesting Experiences and Quaint Stories.

When Miss Jane Jeter returned from a vacation trip to Europe a few weeks ago she brought with her collection of pewter tankards that will cause curio lovers to break the tenth commandment in small pieces. There are fifty of the tankards and they vary in size from one which is nearly two feet tall to half a dozen which only measure six inches from the table. No two are alike and a study of the marks and workmanship is most interesting.

Miss Jeter was interested in old pewter before she went to Europe in June. On a previous visit she had secured an old platter in a curio shop in Stratford and she had picked up two smaller dishes in Minneapolis. She had studied the subject to some extent and knew what to look for.

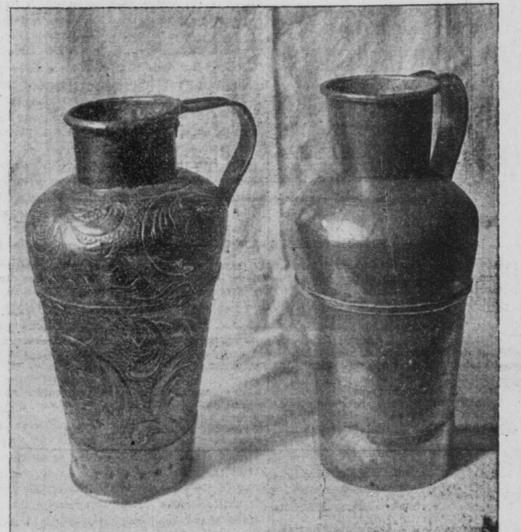
While in York she found her first tankard. It is a short, round mug, perfectly plain but with a glass bottom. An interesting story is attached to the glass and gives the tankard a historic value. In the reign of the first George, when there were many wars, and even Englishmen had more fighting than they wanted, it was not an easy matter to secure recruits for the king's army. A recruiting officer devised a plan. He visited the tap room of an old inn in York and dropped a shilling into the pewter drinking cup. When a countryman swaggered in and asked for a measure of ale mine host unwittingly filled up the tankard, covering the piece of money. Not until the ale was drunk was the silver discovered and then the finder ordered another measure of

she could find old pewter, he looked at her in amazement and then shook his head. "Don't speak of it to any of the people," he cautioned. "They'd think it was an insult."

She expected to find any number of drinking cups at Heidelberg and was rather disappointed at the meager collection she discovered. They were inexpensive and the prices ranged from \$1.50 to \$15, for the tall one, which must date back to the days of giants for no one but a Blunderbore could have lifted the enormous thing. But tankards bought in Europe cost more than the purchase price, for duty and freight have to be added. Uncle Sam exacts 45 per cent on each one, but even with this duty the tankards were obtained for a mere pittance in comparison with what they sell for in this country.

One quaint old affair, tall and slender with curving top, bears the date 1708 almost lost in a flourish of vines surrounding a shield engraved with the name of the original owner. It stands on three pewter balls and, as one woman said when she saw it, "What a darling chocolate pot it will make."

Another of much the same style has a stamp of St. Anthony in the cover and just below the spout is engraved the name "George" in old English letters. One a little smaller tells whoever is interested that it was a wedding present to someone whose name is lost in the vines. It is not so old as the others and can count less



TWO OLD COPPER JUGS FROM NUREMBERG. —Photo by A. S. Williams.

picked up easily in Europe, for the owners who do not know their value and do not care for the historical associations, melt them down and use them for solder. Curio lovers are forming themselves into rescue leagues and some of them travel many a mile to see a tankard they have

with the coat-of-arms of the original owner almost worn away.

### Some Rare Old Chairs.

Miss Jeter also found some odd old copper jugs and chairs in Nuremberg. The chairs once belonged to a set of eight, but five of them were bought by an eastern woman and the other three were pushed aside until Miss Jeter hunted them out. They are very old, and near the top of the back are the arms of the Spinarossa family. Miss Jeter tried to find out something in regard to the Spinarossa's, but it is many years since the family lost its riches and power and drifted away and the old shopkeeper could only mumble a few legends. The sturdy old framework has a seat and back of brown leather in an excellent state of preservation. The leather is fastened to the frame with great brass headed nails.

Before she sailed Miss Jeter hunted among the old shops in Boston and picked up several pewter platters. She chaperoned a party of young women in Europe and her duties as courier left her less time for curio hunting than she would have liked, and she is already making plans for another trip, when she will spend days in the less frequented towns and villages in quest of treasure.

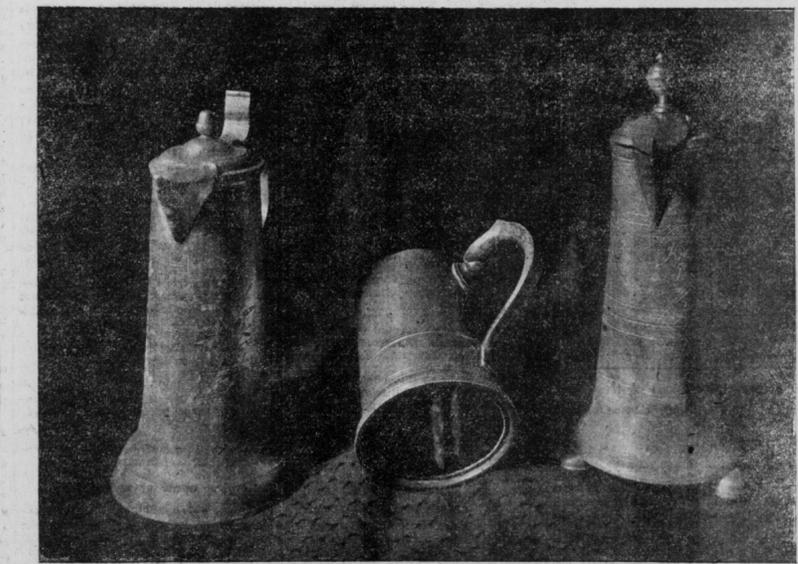
### CANADIAN GIRLS

Majority of Nurses Come From Over the Border.

Canadian girls will constitute one-half of the graduating classes of the leading training schools for nurses this year in New York and all the big cities, from the Atlantic ocean to the Rocky mountains.

While the British matron means as each successive British youth is led captive to the altar by American girls, her Canadian niece is avenging the English cousin. She has swept across the boundary line and descended on the professional young women of the United States. While the Canadian girl is no prominent in all the professions in the states, her greatest distinction has been won in trained nursing. In the most noted training schools and the finest hospitals the Canadian trained nurse is in places of responsibility.

Not content with all this, Canadians estimate that for every English title won by American heiresses, Canadian nurses have bound as many as ten American doctors in matrimonial chains.



THE GLASS BOTTOM IN THE CENTER MUG HAS AN INTERESTING STORY. —Photo by A. S. Williams.

liquor and paid for it with his new coin. As soon as the silver passed from his hand to that of the landlord the officer clapped him on the shoulder and claimed him as a coward. All expletions were in vain. The countryman had accepted the "king's shilling" and spent it, and by so doing had bound himself to serve in the king's army. This plan was tried in so many tap rooms that the wily landlords had glass put in the bottom of the pewter drinking cups that the drinker might be sure that no ominous shilling was hidden in its depths.

This chubby glass-bottomed tankard is the only representative from England; the other drinking cups came from Heidelberg, Amsterdam, Nuremberg and Switzerland. There is a great difference in the pewter, and the cups are of different weights. Each of them bears the stamp of the period when it was made, and by means of the stamp the age is readily told.

As a general thing, Miss Jeter did not find her treasures in the better-known curio shops. Her experience in hunting antiques in Minneapolis and New York had made her wise, and she visited the unknown little shops, where a tankard might be hidden behind half-worn garments or pushed aside from the more modern dishes. As her time was limited, she usually asked the landlord at the hotel where such shops would be found. When she inquired of an old captain on the Zuyder Zee if he knew of any place where

heard of only to find that it was used the day before to stop the leak in a peasant's pan.

The tankards and drinking cups seem to be more popular than the platters and dishes, although some of the latter are of the quaintest style. Miss Jeter unearthed a few large plates in England



PEWTER TANKARDS AND PLATES BROUGHT FROM EUROPE BY MISS JETER. —Photo by A. S. Williams.