

Oh How Sedate Mrs. Leeds is Now!

Beautiful Leader of American Colony in London, After Years Devoted to the Gay Side of Life, Turns Home and Energies to the Relief of War Victims.



Mrs. W. B. LEEDS.

THE "Golden Widow" has become the "Iron Lady." Nonnie Stewart Leeds, one of the gayest of American society butterflies, whose life has been one round of merriment and pleasant experiences, has now settled down in London town and is giving the English themselves lessons in being sedate and serious.

The woman who was left a fortune of \$30,000,000 by William B. Leeds, the "Tin Plate King," when he died, who has been received in the most exclusive society in America and in Europe, and who has been the friend of a king, has given over her entire social life and is throwing herself heart and soul into the movement for helping English soldiers and their families.

Her palatial home in Grosvenor Square, London, has been thrown open as an office to the American Women's War Relief Committee. Largely through her efforts there has been collected a sum of more than \$100,000 which has been used to maintain a hospital with 300 beds for wounded English sailors and soldiers in Devonshire.

To the cause she has rallied the Duchess of Marlborough, Chauncey M. Depew, Mrs. Owen, who is Secretary Bryan's daughter, Lady Harcourt, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mrs. J. P. Morgan, Mrs. White-law Reid, Mrs. John Astor, Miss Marguerite Wheeler, Lady Maxwell, Mrs. A. G. Glasgow, and many others.

Thus it is that this wealthy society favorite who was chiefly known before for her happy-go-lucky existence has become one of the most helpful and distinguished American women in London. So hard and earnestly has she worked in this case that where before she was popularly known as the "Golden Widow" she is now known as the "Iron Lady," in tribute to her strong will which has kept things going so well.

Mrs. Leeds began her career in Cleveland. She married George E. Worthington, a Cleveland millionaire, and their home for a short time was famous for the brilliancy of the entertainments that Mrs. Worthington gave and for the lively disposition of the hostess. But not for long. The Worthingtons' married life was a short one. They separated. Mrs. Leeds shortly met the dashing and wealthy financier, William B. Leeds, and after a short acquaintance married him.

Her union with Mr. Leeds came only after two families had been broken up in the divorce courts. Leeds, a railroad magnate and skyrocket financier of New York, is said to have aided Mrs. Worthington in getting her divorce. Then he divorced his wife. He gave her \$1,000,000 alimony to get rid of her. He heaped other gifts upon her and then married the ex-Mrs. Worthington.

His gifts to his bride shocked even reckless New York and Newport. First he gave her a \$50,000 necklace of pearls and she was the envy of the women of the country. Then he gave her paintings for her room valued at \$75,000. He lavished another \$50,000 upon her for personal adornments of various sorts and then capped the climax with a mansion on Fifth avenue, worth \$1,000,000 if it was worth a cent.



Mrs. A. G. GLASGOW



MISS MARGUERITE WHEELER

Leeds was a plunger and played the game of finance with astounding recklessness. He worked day and night and suffered two physical breakdowns before his death at the age of forty-six. Through both his illnesses his wife nursed him with the greatest sacrifices and Leeds' physicians said at the time that it was she and not their medicine who had saved his life.

But in his third breakdown Leeds died. He left his wife a fortune of \$30,000,000. She gave up her Fifth avenue palace and moved for a time to her Montclair, New Jersey, home. Here occurred one of those numerous instances which have kept Mrs. Leeds' name well before the public. Mrs. William O. Stewart, stepmother of Mrs. Leeds, lived with her stepdaughter for several months. Then suddenly one bright morning Mrs. Stewart was carried from the Leeds' home screaming and struggling. She was wrapped in a sheet at the time because she was not fully dressed. Mrs. Stewart and William O. Stewart, father of Mrs. Leeds, lived a stormy married life and it is said that Mrs. Leeds brought them to her Montclair home to bring about peace between them.

But Mrs. Stewart says that it was her stepdaughter who caused her all her troubles. "I have cared for Mr. Stewart as if he were a child," she said at the time. "He was an epileptic and needed a great deal of care. I lay all my troubles to the door of Mrs. Leeds. It was I who arranged the marriage of Mrs. Leeds to her wealthy husband. She has me to thank for that."

"I believe that my eviction was the result of a deep laid conspiracy to get some papers that I have in my possession. They let me go ahead in the belief that I was secure in my own house and then they swooped down expecting to catch me unawares."

"But before these men broke into my room I had lined my inner clothing with

my most interesting and valuable documents and these are in a place today where Mrs. Leeds' representatives will never get them.

"Have you ever heard of Dr. Jim Holden of Zanesville, Ohio? Well, he is Mrs. Leeds' uncle, and when his wife died and was buried in Zanesville was that Mrs. Leeds, Mr. Stewart, Mrs. Leeds' sister and myself, attended the funeral with revolvers in each hand."

"The revolvers were to repel the authorities who had threatened to insist upon an autopsy at the last moment to determine the cause of the woman's death. Oh, yes, there are some things in the life of Mrs. Leeds that would make interesting reading."

There were a great many ugly things of this sort tossed back and forth at the time. Mrs. Leeds claimed she had paid \$30,000 in bills for her stepmother and that she could not put up with her extravagance. Perhaps through the notoriety that this case brought her Mrs. Leeds went to Europe and there she has remained to this day, returning to America for visits only at long intervals.

She has educated her son, William Boleman Leeds, Jr., in England because she felt that the fact that he would inherit a great deal of money would turn his head if he had been allowed to grow up in an American atmosphere.

"I love my own country," she said recently. "But life in New York is a terrible trial. Things jar so and one can never find peace and quiet. That is why I sold my house. I think it must be something in the atmosphere that makes people here so eternally restless and annoyed. The best friends in New York occasionally get on each other's nerves and then, snap! a lost friendship."

"One thing about America is that conversation seems to be about one scandal



LADY MAXWELL.



LADY LOWTHER

MISS GERTRUDE NELSON.

after another. Abroad they talk of things worth while—art, music, literature. Oh, if my countrymen and countrywomen only took as great an interest in the welfare of the state as they do in unimportant things! I hate to come to these conclusions, for they are humiliating to me, as they must be to all Americans who know.

"I don't think wealthy young American men are precisely a credit to society. Their idleness makes them dissipated. Young Englishmen are different. They have a lot of healthy amusements and grow up clean and fresh and strong. Then, too, when my son was in an English school so one toadied to him because he was wealthy. They respected him for what he is and not for what his father earned for him."

"That is why I had Junior brought up in England. He has learned to love outdoor sports. He has got the point of view on life of the young Englishman, a better one, I think, than ours, and he will learn that overdrinking is not tolerated in good society, as I fear it sometimes is here."

During her residence in London Mrs. Leeds became one of the most prominent of the social leaders. King Edward took a great fancy to her and it has been said that it was one of his dearest wishes to unite her hand and her fortune to an English title.

Offers galore of marriage have been received by Mrs. Leeds, but she has closed her eyes and her ears to all. She has been variously reported engaged to

would inevitably bring. In all her life they say she has never been so seriously taken with anything as she is with her present work of relief. She is at it night and day and has enlisted the active support of many of her closest friends, many of whom are American women, unmarried or the wives of British husbands.

One of these is the young American beauty, Marguerite Wheeler, who has enslaved many of the young and old bachelors of Mayfair with her charms. She is the daughter of Mrs. Eugene Maunsell, of New York. Witty and talented as well as good to look upon, she has made a great stir in the smart world and has been an energetic and valuable war helper. At Mrs. Leeds' home and at several other fashionable entertainments she has been on the programs which have been given in aid of the National Relief Fund and Princess Mary's Soldiers and Sailors' Christmas Fund.

While her husband is away, Lady Maxwell, the American wife of Sir John Grenfell Maxwell, in command of the British forces in Egypt, is giving all her time in helping Mrs. Leeds and others in giving relief to the soldiers. She was with her husband all during the South African war and nursed many a wounded soldier to health. Music is her passion and she sings very well. Riding is her favorite exercise.

Lady Lowther, the pretty and talented wife of Sir Gerard Lowther, who was until a few months ago British ambassador at Constantinople, was Alice Blight, of Philadelphia. Her humanitarian work during the last Balkan war won her the respect of all Europe. She is handsome and graceful and a brilliant conversationalist, and wrote an admittedly clever book on Morocco. All her talents now are bent to giving relief to wounded soldiers and to their needy families.

Mrs. A. G. Glasgow is the American wife of an American husband. Both of them have lived in London for some time. She is one of the most popular of American women in that city. She has given brilliant entertainments in her house in Berkeley Square for war benefits and has often co-operated with Mrs. Leeds in these matters. She has given generously to the Prince of Wales fund. Miss Gertrude Nelson is not quite so well known as a society woman as she is as an artist. She has many fine pieces of statuary to her credit and as a close personal friend of Mrs. Leeds she has rendered her countrywomen many services.

Proverbial Slang Used by Soldiers

THE fondness of British soldiers for nicknames and slang is proverbial. Their talk in barrack-room and camp would at times puzzle the most versatile of linguists, for "Tommy" prides himself on the originality of his expressions. He has already developed a slang of his own in connection with the German war, and the official dispatches mention that he has dubbed German shells "coal-boxes," "Black Marias," "Jack Johnsons," and "suit-cases." Trenches exposed to artillery fire are "stalls for the pictures," while when an artilleryman makes a good shot he chuckles over the fact that he has "handed the Germans a good plum."

Wire entanglements are known as the "Zoo," while German spies are playing "offside." "Flagwaggers" and "bell-wabblers" for signallers are fairly obvious nicknames, and the latter's grin when they hear them is only equalled by that of the members of the medical corps, who are known by the somewhat undignified names of "poultice wallpapers" or "linned lancers."

The ordnance store corps has been nicknamed the "sugar-stick brigade," on account of the trimmings on its uniform. Tall men in the army are generally referred to as "lofties," and more often than not a cavalryman calls his horse his "long-faced cham," buglers being "siders" or "windjammers."

In ordinary conversation "Tommy" speaks of his clothes as his "lobber," and the canteen as the "tank," a man who talks too much being known as a "chin-wagger." To be in hospital is to be "in dock," while money is referred to as "oot," "rhino," "the ready," "peter" or "shiners." A sovereign is a "canary," and if a man wants to borrow money he is "trying to raise a station" or "to get his feet under" (meaning the canteen-table).

The man who drinks a lot is known as a "mopper," and "bun-strangers" are temperance soldiers. A reservist is a "dug-out," a recruit a "rookie," and a veteran an "old sweat." A wheelwright in the artillery is a "spoky," while the long-service medal is called the "rootie" medal—"rootie" being the slang for bread, because the owner has eaten most. Puttees are known as "war socks," and jam as "possie."