

CORTELYOU IN HIS YOUTH.

A Former Teacher Tells of His Normal School Life.

In 1879, George Bruce Cortelyou, who was recently appointed and sworn in as the first secretary of the newly-created department of commerce and labor, appeared in the upper hall of the old school building of the Westfield state normal school. He came with others wishing to prepare themselves for teaching in the public schools of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. At that time he was 15 years old, and not long from his present stature, growing over the applicants for admission over the proverbially critical eye of the teacher, I observed that the dark, straight-haired young man at a distance in front of me bore the stamp of cultured and refined ancestry and refinement, and also of good individual character. At that early age his personal appearance was marked by a certain dignity and modest self-possession. When his papers were handed in, being an unfamiliar one in New England, its right pronunciation was falling to his teachers, and led to a discussion, and an inquiry of him as to his name.

All the details of his tasks were carefully worked out, and he never was in arrears with his work. Nothing was put over into the next day, and when Cortelyou was called upon he responded with a recitation. "You may sit," was an expression used by a certain teacher in the school when failure was imminent, but it was never addressed to him. He was an independent thinker, seldom needing to ask for personal elucidation of particular points, the class teaching being sufficient for him.

PROOF AGAINST FEMALE FASCINATION.

A large boarding-hall built at great expense by the state was the home of the pupils during their school course of study; the young men occupying the north wing of the lower floor. The dining-room, where they all took their daily meals, had six long extension tables. At the foot of one of these Mr. Cortelyou sat, carved the meats, and served to their meals a dozen bright-eyed, jolly Massachusetts maidens from 18 to 20 years of age. Meeting them as he did three times daily at the table and hourly in school time, he naturally became well acquainted with them, and just as naturally they greatly admired and petted him. The normal young ladies usually succeeded in turning the heads of their male co-students in this home life; but their girlish attractions were wasted on Mr. Cortelyou, who, indeed, enjoyed their friendship, but never lost his heart to them; in that respect differing from and contrasting greatly to his advantage with the young man, who, later, became his brother-in-law, the latter being frequently enticed to various and sundry charmers of his own classmates, and of other classes.

ter. The brother was for a time a member of the Normal corps of teachers. AN EXCELLENT MUSICIAN. Though an amateur, Mr. Cortelyou

was, in his school days, an excellent musician. When the Literary society of the school occasionally held a public meeting in the "upper hall" at the last hour of the session, it always gave

pleasure to his teachers and school-mates alike when the young pupil president of the society somewhat stiffly announced: "Mr. Cortelyou will now play a solo." In his manner he illus-

trated Goethe's famous saying: "Ohne Hast, ohne Raet." After the announcement Cortelyou unobtrusively, pausing a moment, then took his piece of music from his desk, rose deliberately, walked to the piano, and sat down at the long room, and adjusted the stool to his liking, placed the music on the rack, looked at the notes, paused; about this time there was an uneasy feeling in the audience and a mental query, "Why doesn't Cortelyou begin?" Finally, he invariably adjusted with both hands his eye glasses, commenced immediately after to play, and continued to the end without break or mistake. The final motion before playing became so well known that it was recognized as an essential preliminary of all his work.

thoughtful and was not given to much talking, though he was in no way taciturn. His opinion had weight with the school authorities. Often when measures already discussed, the opinions of the pupils were considered and weighed according to the character and judgment of the individual. The views of the light, thoughtful pupil were passed over. But when it was said, "Mr. Cortelyou thinks so," though his "Hast" might be directly opposed to the course held or adopted, they carried an influence that would doubtless have surprised him, had he been aware of the value that his teachers attached to his opinions.

BUFFALO'S BIG MURDER MYSTERY.



Buffalo's big murder case is being excitedly discussed all over the country. The high social standing of the victim, E. F. Burdick, and the suspicion that the crime has brought upon Buffalo's most exclusive circles, gives unusual interest in the case. A scandalous state of affairs among Buffalo's 400 has been revealed by the investigations of the police in search of the murderer. It is expected that the trial, when it takes place, will be one of the most thrilling cause celebres ever held. s now preparing her trousseau.

Every Friday evening there was a recreation hour in the south parlors when pantomimes, charades and tableaux were enacted by pupils and teachers.

On such occasions the personal peculiarities of pupils were sometimes goodly naturedly travestied. "Cortelyou setting his glasses" was an earmark by which he was recognized and it was always applauded and received with a ripple of merriment. Referring to the brief stay of motion between his separate movements the principal of the school often said, "I like the way Cortelyou does. He never doubts his track. If I had to solve a problem in five minutes or die, I would spend three minutes of the five in thinking how I would solve it. That is Cortelyou's method."

HIS RECORD IN ENGLISH.

I still have in my possession a long, narrow, black book in which we recorded the rank of every normal pupil that studied English literature under me during the many years of my teaching. As I turn its leaves, I find the names of men now well known in educational circles, grave principals of normal and high schools, professors of language and science, rectors of Episcopal churches, pastors of Methodist and Congregational churches, book publishers, and men eminent in other positions opposite the record of their work. The record opposite the name Cortelyou shows an average in History of English Language, Shakespeare, Ivanhoe, Macaulay's Essay on Johnson, Milton, Addison, Swift and Scott, of 96.

In classes other than mine he maintained also a high standing, but I have not the data of his work. "Though attaching to this high average he was not a bookworm, nor a grind, but was an excellent assimilator of knowledge.

HIS OPINIONS RESPECTED.

While Mr. Cortelyou was a serious boy he was not melancholy nor even sober; on the contrary he was always cheerful. He seemed usually to be

This esteem was based somewhat on the fact that he was never obtrusive or meddlesome in the discipline and management of the school, but chiefly it was due to the confidence that he inspired by his impartial, unprejudiced breadth of character, and to respect for his judgment. Sometimes he exhibited boyish antics, but so seldom did he break out into undue trickiness that it caused strong surprise when it occurred. A certain domestic regulation having stirred up the boys to unusual liveliness, one of the teachers wearily remarked, "Even Mr. Cortelyou is cutting up," and the opinion of the faculty was that the new ruling was unadvisable and would have to be abandoned if Cortelyou rebelled.

A GRACEFUL USHER.

Several times a year the Westfield normal engaged a lecturer and invited its friends in the community to hear the lecture with them. On such occasions the young men of the school were pressed into service as ushers, since the girls were sometimes made ill by going repeatedly up and down the long, steep, narrow stairs that led up to the assembly hall on the third floor. Mr. Cortelyou was never called upon for this work until his senior year, mostly, I think, because of an instinctive shyness from asking anything of him that resembled service. However, at this particular time nearly all the young men were in classrooms, and Principal Scott requested Cortelyou to usher the guests to the study hall. The school building, while not very large, was bewildering to people unfamiliar with it, and they lost their way in their wanderings through the rooms, disturbed recitations by opening doors of classrooms, and hurrying distractedly through them. Therefore, it was necessary to meet guests at the entrance and guide them to the right place. When I came into the lecture room 10 minutes before the hour for beginning, I saw Cortelyou toiling up the

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VEILINGS! Every fine selection of Face and Scarf Veilings, have just arrived. All the late designs and new meshes are here in chiffons, Neis and Laces, in all the prevailing shades. They are seen at the Notion section.

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