

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 1902.

YOUTH, BEAUTY, AND WIT WIN ANOTHER VANDERBILT



CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, Whose Wife Is Now the Leader of the "400."



MISS KATHLEEN NEILSON.



REGINALD VANDERBILT.



Vanderbilt Residence, New York City.

Kathleen Neilson, Courted by the Young Millionaire Since Childhood, Soon to Be His Bride--Boy and Girl Attachment Opposed on Account of Their Youth--His Sweetheart Sent Back to School in Tears. Parental Consent to Their Union Secured After Five Years of Constancy and Battle--He Now Twenty Years of Age, and His Lady Love a Year Younger.

THE marriage of Miss Kathleen Neilson to Mr. Reginald Vanderbilt will take place in a short time. The engagement has been announced, and, in accordance with modern custom, the wedding will soon follow. Thus, there will be removed from the scene the last of the present generation of great catches, and society will settle down and wait for the next generation to grow up.

boy's childhood, sighed a long deep sigh and said she supposed it could not be helped. Around Reginald Vanderbilt there centers a deal of interest. He is the youngest son of the house. Alfred is several years older, and Cornelius is older still. There is only one child younger than Reginald, and that is Gladys, a girl of sixteen, who is yet to marry. Reginald has been described as a nondescript youth. He is nondescript in that he has never been very bad. He has rarely, if ever, indulged in wild

has never been estimated. The bulk of the property was left to Alfred Gaynor, who was made head of the family. The others, Gertrude, Gladys, Reginald and Cornelius, received about seven millions. But in estimating a fortune of that amount, the utmost leeway must be

upon the matrimonial sea in this boat of gold have much besides money to make them happy. They have Mr. Vanderbilt's wonderful town residence. This lies upon the northwest corner of Fifty-seventh Street and Fifth Avenue. It is one of the famous "Millionaire Four Corners." The others are occupied by William C. Whitney, Herman Oelrichs and Mrs. C. P. Huntington.

"The Breakers." They have "The Breakers" at Newport, for it is the wish of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, senior, that her youngest son share this great palace by the sea with her and his bride. They own the magnificent farm site recently purchased by Mr. Vanderbilt. They own a kennel of St. Bernard dogs, second to none. They will have a beautiful yacht, newly built. Their private car will be the one that belonged to old Cornelius Vanderbilt, and this is being refitted to make it modern enough for the son and his young wife.

They will have a very nice collection of automobiles, for though a silent follower of the sport, Mr. Vanderbilt has been a devoted one. As for the young wife, she will have a great amount of plate, for from her mother's side she will receive trunk after trunk of it from the old Gebhard boxes. Miss Neilson, by the way, is of a very old New York family, and her grandfather, a good sturdy old Dutchman, was trading furs with the Indians early in the last century, while old Commodore Vanderbilt was ferrying people over from Staten Island.

The Value of a Dollar. Both old Mr. Gebhard and the old commodore knew the value of a dollar, and they were investing their silver pieces profitably long before the present generation ever saw the light. Miss Neilson has wonderful faces, for her mother has ever been a dainty little lady, and for years she has been collecting rose point, all of which she will give to her daughter. Miss Neilson has youth. She has beauty. She has wit and its background, a good education. She has taste and French chic. She has kindness of heart and its close companion, popularity. She has all the graces of the society girl, and all the arts of the up-to-date woman. And she has the greatest catch of the seas.



ALFRED G. VANDERBILT, Who Recently Was Married to Elsie French.

What will become of this young couple after they return from their honeymoon, society can only conjecture. Will they go to Newport, as is now the style summer and winter, and there hold court, or will they cruise abroad for a year and come back with all the paraphernalia which young people gather after a year of married bliss? Miss Neilson's sister, Mrs. Arthur Kemp, lives at Lenox and her uncle, Mr. Gebhard, lives in New York. She herself lives, or has lived, where her brother lived, and how the two will be separated is a question.

A Matrimonial Sea. Cupid, sly Cupid, isn't saying a word. The little fellow is resting. Great has been the havoc this summer, and Newport, which he found a city of beaux and belles, has been turned into one big matrimonial sea. Cornelius Vanderbilt, the inventor of the family, lives here with his wife and house full of little ones. Alfred has his bride of a year and a half ago there, Elsie French, and baby. And now Reginald joins the ranks of benedicts and goes to Newport with the fairest girl of the lot. Society decided that it would be a match some months ago, but the young people emphatically denied it. They said they were just good friends. But

what would Mr. Vanderbilt want with the farm he purchased recently if he were not going to be married? And whom would he marry if not Miss Neilson? Truth to tell, at the very time gossip was liveliest and every member of the two families was laughing at the story, the mammas of the respective young people were mailing announcement cards to their friends and relations abroad that they might be advised of the engagement as soon as those on this side.

Flowers and Jewels. No sooner had the announcements been delivered than orders were rushed to florists and jewelers for engagement gifts. It would be putting it mild to say that Miss Neilson received at the Margaret, the private hotel in Newport where she was with her mother, a cartload of flowers. There were blossoms of every description, orchids, gardenias, lilies of the valley and roses of every hue, made up in elaborate fashion. There were numerous souvenirs of silver, too, especially articles for the writing table, and Miss Neilson was kept very busy acknowledging tokens of regard. Miss Neilson is a capital whip and is seen almost daily driving with her mother.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE CAMPANILE AT VENICE

Mr. C. H. Walker, of Boston, who was in Venice when the Campanile collapsed, has written an account of what he and his family saw: "From a distance I saw the angel slowly descend, swaying, but upright, and my daughter and her governess were on the piazza not two hundred feet away. They both say that spurts of lime dust puffed from the tower about twenty feet up from the ground, and that then cracks appeared at the base in the curtain walls between the buttresses, which opened upward with great rapidity, and the base of the tower spread like the roots of a tree. There was little or no shock. The angel descended in an upright position until the cloud of dust rose and covered it, and must have come down fully one hundred feet before toppling. When found it was directly under and within the main portal of St. Mark's. "The Italians say the tower so seduced, that is, sat down upon itself. If there had been settlement it would have leaned. My own impression is this: The top of the tower has been continuously repaired with new material; the bottom less so. The Loggetta concealed the condition of the bottom wall behind it, and it was neglected. The series of windows just inside the corner in order to light the stairs was always a structural weakness in this type of tower. There has been work going on in flashing the roof of the Loggetta, which, while it seemed very slight and harmless under usual conditions, under these special conditions began to show great weakness at this point. This was acknowledged two months ago. The continuous repairs, etc., had produced in the brick work, certainly of the outside wall, a state to which I can give no better definition than that it was a state of unstable equilibrium. "Energetic, organized action was imperative, and was not taken, from a lack of appreciation of the facts. I very much doubt if any action could have averted the disaster, after the crack, which started at the lowest window toward St. Mark's a week ago, had begun to snap from window to window, all the way up, because shoring up would merely have transferred the weak point farther and farther up the shaft, and to the right and left on the outer wall. But the miraculous thing is that St. Mark's is absolutely untouched--not a piece of masonry fallen. The library has at its end, in its second story, two columns with arches and entablature torn out. The gates of the Loggetta, the figure of the Mercury, and two of the carved blocks with putie are practically uninjured. The rest are buried still."



MRS. CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, JR.

According to present standards Miss Neilson is not a girl of wealth. The rumor is that her mother has an income of about fifty thousand dollars a year from the Gebhard estate, and that the girl will have a portion of this settled upon her. Be that as it may, there is no fear that she will lack for spending money or that she will be accused of marrying for it, for she has been reared in all modern luxury and in surroundings of great wealth.

Miss Neilson's First Prominence. Miss Neilson first became conspicuous ten years ago, when, as a child of nine or so, she was the companion of her uncle, Frederick Gebhard. Mr. Gebhard was then connected in the eye of the public with a conspicuous actress, and, as if to refute the charges against him, he appeared in public many times with this child, his little fair-haired niece, and he walked and drove, coached and rode with her all one summer.

Between Mrs. Neilson, the mother of the girl, and Frederick Gebhard there has always existed the deepest sympathy, and the devotion of "Freddy" Gebhard to his sister has been one of the most beautiful marks of his career. The girl Kathleen grew up in a Paris boarding school, as American girls do, and in summer she was brought home to bathe in the waters of Newport and climb the autumn mountains of Lenox. There she met the little boy Reggie Vanderbilt and the inevitable happened. An attachment was formed and, by the time they were old enough to realize it, they had fallen in love.

Then came an awful storm of opposition. Mrs. Neilson could not see her baby taken away from her, and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt had other hopes for Reginald. For five years the little couple battled against opposition, and finally, at the mature age of nineteen for the girl and twenty for the boy, they obtained the stern parental consent of their respective mothers.

Corrected and Sent to School. Mrs. Neilson is said to have spent a great many tears upon the matter, and a close friend declared that she wept upon her shoulder all one night, and said that she wished she had soundly spanked Kathleen and sent her back to school, while Mrs. Vanderbilt, putting away the last mementos of her

escapades, and whatever he does, whether it be drinking, card playing, automobiling, or yachting, he does it in moderation. Reginald Vanderbilt has always seemed burdened by his wealth. He has always felt that it made him a conspicuous object, and at one time he was seriously worried lest it make him unpopular. The extent of the fortune of this boy

given. It may be a million less; it may be five millions more. Stocks are shift and valuations change from day to day. The late Cornelius Vanderbilt used to say that he could never tell within twelve millions how much he was worth, and the boy probably has still less an idea. The young couple who will embark