

A War Time Wedding

By MRS. G. GRIFFING WILCOX

The bride's cake was indeed a thing of beauty, and was as delicious as it was beautiful. This cake was a "Mont Blanc" among the others, being a stack two feet and a half high, frosted to dazzling whiteness, and capped with a wreath of pure white japonicas.

The groom's cake was also a chef-d'œuvre of culinary skill, corresponding in size to its companion, and composed of alternate layers of the richest pound cake and the most delicate strawberry jelly. This cake was also heavily iced, and was ornamented with great clusters of holly.

Besides our cakes we baked an endless variety of custards and pies. The custard stands were filled to overflowing with delicious syllabub and frothy boiled custard.

We had quantities of the richest milk, eggs and sugar for our purposes, our dainties only lacked the nutmeg, and lemon and vanilla extract to give them perfection. These articles we could not manufacture, and our stock on hand were long since exhausted.

One of the most ornamental dishes we prepared for the table was a butter. We pressed this thru a sieve, the golden threads making great yellow cones, as they fell.

These golden pyramids were capped with bunches of scarlet holly berries and glossy green leaves.

A younger sister and myself presided over this department.

Mamma Ross and her daughter Caroline, those autocrats of the kitchen, massacred the turkey and chickens to an unprecedented extent. Such stuffing and roasting as they carried on for days! The stove and the dutch ovens did not all suffice for their work; the wash kettles and pots were brought into requisition!

Caroline's immense dishes of chicken salad, all garnished with celery and slices of hard-boiled eggs, had but to be tasted to be appreciated. The great coffee-urns steamed with okra and hominy coffee-real coffee, was a luxury of ante-bellum days.

Uncle Isaac, the husband of Mammy Rose, and his son William "slew the fatted calf," and plump pigs and fat mutton met with a like fate. The flesh of these animals they barbecued, which is the most palatable of all methods of preparing fresh meat.

We exempted the bride elect from taking any part in these necessary preliminaries. She was left to her own sweet will, and the enjoyment of the society of her betrothed husband. It was well, as the sequel proved, that they had the opportunity of enjoying each others company before marriage, for they had but little chance afterwards, at least for a time.

It is a lovely custom, in some old

southern families, for the eldest daughter to be married in the wedding dress of her mother. After the dress has performed this second service, it is preserved as an heirloom by the family. Mother was anxious that the old custom should be adhered to in Mary's case. Accordingly, her magnificent wedding dress, of white brocade silk combined with white satin of an almost fabulous price, elaborately trimmed with the richest and rarest lace of its day, was taken from the cedar chest where it had lain done up in tissue paper, white wax, lavender, and linen sheets for twenty years. Fortunately it fitted Mary to perfection; not a single alteration was necessary.

The evening of the twenty-eighth arrived at last, and the finishing touch had been given to the dining room, which we had tastefully decorated and gayly festooned with the bright berries and green leaves of holly, interspersed with mistletoe, which grew in such wild profusion around and about the plantation. The table fairly groaned under its load of delicacies and substantial.

Mother and father were stiff and dignified in their best attire. We girls had donned our best "bibs and tuckers," and wore our brightest smiles. The children were all becalmed and becoaled.

When the last touch had been given to Mary's toilet, one could not imagine a more lovely bride. Her dress corresponded perfectly with her rich southern beauty. Her long raven black hair hung in abundant natural curls over her exquisitely molded shoulders; her large dark eyes and her clear magnolia complexion harmonized well with the antique style of her dress.

Orange blossoms were an impossibility at that time, so we substituted pure white camellias, and made for her a wreath of those waxy beauties.

Chauncey Baldwin was tall, erect, brownbearded and bronzed, with flashing steel-gray eyes. It was as the mating of the eagle and the dove.

The bridal pair had no attendants, dresses suitable for the occasion could not be procured at any price at that period.

Our corps of faithful and efficient servants, Uncle Isaac, Mammy Rose, William and Caroline and their score of sable children, all "spick and span," shining and smiling, were ready to come or go at a beck or a call.

The parlors, brilliantly illuminated with home-made wax candles, were rapidly filled with our friends from the neighborhood.

The groom in his Colonel's uniform of Confederate gray, had arrived, attended by his staff officers and the minister, Rev. Leonard

Buck, was punctual to the hour.

When all was in readiness, the large folding-doors dividing the parlors were thrown open, and the bridal couple advanced and stood under the huge bell composed of the soft-toned mistletoe and its silvery berries.

It is said, "All men are handsome in military uniform, and all women are beautiful in bridal robes;" this axiom is not true in all cases, but it proved its truth in the case of Chauncey Baldwin and Mary Wharton.

The marriage ceremony was the most impressive I ever witnessed. This being over, congratulations were offered and received with becoming grace.

There was no dancing on this occasion; so after an hour or two spent in pleasant, but subdued conversation and listening to some inspiring war-time music on the piano supper was announced, and father and mother led the way to the spacious dining-room.

The table, laid in the form of a huge cross, was soon surrounded by the company, who displayed their appreciation of the delicious viands by the hearty manner in which they partook of them.

Uncle Isaac and William, in immaculate aprons attended to the wants of all. This felicitous state of affairs had lasted an hour perhaps, and everything was going as "merry as marriage bell," when Uncle Isaac came rushing into the dining-room with distended eyes and wide-open mouth, exclaiming "Marse Chauncey you and men better be gitten' away from here in a hurry, I hear cavalry comin' 'cross dat bridge, and no mistake!" Uncle Isaac's veracity was too well established to be questioned.

With one hasty embrace of his trembling wife, Colonel Baldwin and his officers, who did not relish the idea of being captured by the Federals, bolted for the back gate, where their horses stood in readiness for an emergency. Vaulting into their saddles, they were soon beyond the reach of their would-be captors.

In a few moments the tramp of horses and the clank of swords and bayonets were heard on the avenue leading to the house, in the twinkling of an eye the house was surrounded by Union cavalry belonging to General Ellett's Brigade.

The officer in command was very gentlemanly in his bearing, and made honorable amends for his unceremonious interruption of our festivities, by stating that he was only "obeying orders."

After a futile search for Colonel Baldwin and his men, and when the members of the household had in a measure regained our equanimity, father, with true southern hospitality invited the Federal officers to partake of our bounteous store. This they did with great gusto, and after returning many thanks for our kindness, departed as they came, without injury to person or property.

We all sympathized heartily with Mary. It is true, she had expected to part with her liege lord in a few days; but she little dreamed that the dreaded hour of separation was so near. She was, however spared the pain of anticipation. The blow was given, and over, before she had time (as the children said) "to know what hurt her."

Colonel Baldwin's leave of absence was to expire in a few days, and realizing that it would be exceedingly imprudent to remain longer in the vicinity, he reluctantly wended his way back to Virginia, where he remained with his gallant command until he came home a paroled soldier, to claim his faithful and devoted wife.

Tax Payers Notice.

The Per Capita tax is now due and payable. This tax is for the improvement of the streets of the city and those who desire to see good streets can assist materially by paying their taxes now. After June 1 your tax becomes delinquent.

J. H. Willoughby,

City Tax Collector.

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OUR SCHOOLS

By PROF. J. F. PETERS

This age is moving fast in the direction of a scientific reorganization of education for dealing with the physical, structural and social phases of the subject. On the physical side the movement leads to a demand for fire proof buildings, forced ventilation, perfect sanitation and correct lighting. It advocates movable desks, sanitary floors and walls and adjustable blackboards. More than this the school demands scientific attention to the human body. This means medical inspection, the organization of clinics and the giving of proper exercises. Physical development becomes a very important part of the work of the school, for we are learning the relation of food and sleep and care to growth and improvement. Our energies are to be turned in the direction of preventing waste. Laziness is always a menace to civilization; so is the man who does not come up to the possibilities of his powers, who is remiss in his duty to himself and to others.

We have studied the phases of physical growth and are endeavoring to reduce mental growth to rule. What is the loss of retardation? Of arrested development? Of anaemic bodies? Of over-stimulated or under-stimulated minds? Of vacillating moral purpose? Statistical answers to these and a thousand other similar questions all given by the school. Again, we are to measure education in the man through society. While the individual is to be trained, community life is also vitally important. Boys and girls are to be prepared for definite vocations, to be assumed by them in the future. This means that they must be trained to a certain extent by their fathers and their mothers; co-operative efforts

of the three interested parties—teacher, child, parent—must be strengthened and extended.

In times past we have believed that the school must concern itself only with the child indeed that the progress of our civilization, would be secured, if our children were trained. We now believe that to educate adequately for citizenship, we must in some way reach the parent as well as the child. This, they, would suggest the absolute need of bringing the school closer to the home. This need is being met in a measure through a more determined and systematic effort on the part of the teachers and parents, as well, to become each year more intelligently acquainted with each other.

Important as all these features are, they are as nothing compared with the vitalizing touch of the real teacher. The soul, the spirit, the uplift, come from within, and the community wastes its substance, if it does not demand that a good teacher be put and kept in every school room of the city. The whole community should take an intelligent interest in this question, for it is vitally important to the progress and prosperity of our schools. The education of the youth of today is the foundation of the good citizenship of to-morrow. It is the present's insurance for the future's efficient life.

President Charles W. Dabney, of the University of Cincinnati, made some investigations as to the connection between education and earning capacity. He found out that the average earning capacity of the people of a State is in direct proportion to the number of days of schooling and the quality (the cost) of

the schooling these people had while they were growing up. That is the State that provides good schools for its children insures for these children when they become men and women, a high earning capacity and a high standard of living. In other words, the least way to insure the future prosperity of any country is to educate the boys and girls of that country. The easiest and most certain way to provide poverty and squalor and crime in future years is to let the children of today grow up untrained. This is no more theory. One could say without any great risk to the people of a parish or a city. Tell me how much a time and money you are putting into the education of your children and I will tell you just about what position the most of your children will hold in after life and what their earnings and manner of living will be.

This, of course, is not necessary true of individual children are of selected families, because the factor of personality enters into such cases; but when any great number of children are considered together and averages struck, it will be found almost invariably true.

Seniors Entertained

Prof. and Mrs. J. F. Peters, and the "Graduating Class" of the Bogalusa High School, were most delightfully entertained on the evening of March 19th, by Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Talley at their home in North Bogalusa. The hours were pleasantly spent by the young people enjoying several contests. First prizes were received by the following, Misses Thelma Voss, Evelyn Deloney, and Rubye Moak, Missers Robert Magee, Ilious Keeton, and Roger Frion. After the awarding of prizes dainty refreshments were served.

Hurry! Hurry!

—If You Want A—

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Only a few days left to get any hat in the house with a suit,

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