

# Activities of Women Prominent in the Social Life of the Nation's Capital

## Society IN WASHINGTON

By MAUD McDUGALL.

How a little mystery does stimulate the imagination!

When on Wednesday night it was whispered that the President and Mrs. Wilson had unexpectedly "gone North"—all of a sudden and just like that, all sorts of mad conjectures as to where they had gone, and what for, were in order. I heard it within half an hour of their leaving the White House, at just about the time that their train was starting—and I was puzzled.

It was all so unusual. The President's comings and goings are usually proclaimed from the housetops. One knows weeks beforehand that he intends to go, where he is going and why, and how long he will stay. So when at 8 o'clock one of the White House attendants had laughingly said, "All's quiet along the Potomac tonight"—meaning that there was nothing doing at the Executive Mansion—things were very dull; and then an hour later the

same man told me that the President and Mrs. Wilson had left Washington—some North—of course I was one large interrogation point. And the only answer was "search me!"

The information was apparently official, but that was all there was to it.

Half a dozen others who had heard it were equally puzzled. They were full of surmises and conjectures. One really intelligent man clung to the belief that it was the first lap of a journey overseas. There had been any number of rumors, most of them originating on the other side, that the President was going to France. The fact that he could not leave the country during his term of office was met with the reminder that Taft had gone to Panama during his term of office. But in that Taft theoretically did not leave the country, as he went down on an American warship—technically American territory—and landed in the Canal Zone—also American territory.

My suggestion was "probably gone up to Gloucester, to see Col. House. House hasn't been in Washington for a couple of months, and President Wilson doesn't often get along without him for long.

But there seemed no particular reason why there should be any mystery about such a trip. And besides the natural way to make it would have been by the "Federal Express"—which everyone headed for New England takes—and that had left Union Station long before the President left the White House.

Various other guesses were thrashed out. Then I ran into a newspaper man and asked him what he knew about it. It developed that the correspondents and the press associations had been told all about the President's contemplated trip early in the day—and asked to suppress it—not to mention it until he had reached his destination. Of course there was not a line about it in any paper in the country. The best way on earth to suppress any bit of information is to tell those whose business it is to spread news, "in confidence."

The President was actually off on his first vacation this summer—only a few days, but actually he had been so far from the Capital in fully a twelvemonth—not since he made the same trip last summer on the Mayflower, and for a day or two the vessel was "lost" up on the New England coast. Of course the President is not taking of Mayflower outside the capes now.

As for the rumors that he is going to France—they bob up every few days. But they must originate from some one who does not know that one of the few things that the President may not do is to leave his country during his presidency. It would take special legislation to make that possible—and it is more than doubtful whether Congress would grant permission even if the President asked it. There really doesn't seem anything to be gained by his going at all commensurate with the risk, not merely to the man, but to the country should it lose its head at so critical a period. The immunity with which our big men have come and gone is an enduring marvel. Washington has reached the stage where it looks

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along without him." She admitted, however, that there seemed to be a spiritual necessity for a young man of spirit, to get into this great war game in his physical person, even though he might really be serving the cause very much better at a desk than he possibly could in the field.

As for her brother, he has gone up to Fort Jay, on Governors Island, N. Y., to the band school which Dalmrosch is conducting there. "You know he doesn't know anything else but music," was his sister's comment. And I remembered her telling me during the winter that this brother had been in Germany studying when the war broke out, and he had been obliged to come home. He had stayed for awhile with them in Cleveland, and then gone down to Texas to take charge of a conservatory down there. He has played occasionally with the Philadelphia Orchestra on special occasions. I remember he was here during that extreme weather last winter when the orchestra was snowed up somewhere in Michigan about the time it was due to play here. And I remember that he had come all the way from Texas to practice with it here for an appearance with it in Philadelphia it was waiting around to see whether it would get here at all.

All the family seem to be musical. They come from Pottstown, Pa., where I believe at one time Mrs. Baker, as Miss Elizabeth Leopold, taught music. And, by the way, Secretary and Mrs. Baker are week-ending at Pottstown right now. They were to have left yesterday morning by motor, and expected to be back this evening. A long trip for a very short time, but the only time that Mr. Baker could afford to take from his desk.

The Burlesons are occupying Mt. Victory, the beautiful country place of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crain, of Baltimore, on the Potomac near Morgantown, and is said to be one of the loveliest places on the river. At least, Mrs. Burleson is occupying it, and buying herself with some of the things which usually occupies her summers and has been rather neglected this season in favor of various war activities. Mr. Burleson goes down when he can take time and the girls, both of whom are naval yeowomen, occasionally get there for a week-end.

Mrs. Redfield has joined her daughter, Mrs. Charles Drury, at Westfield, N. J., for three weeks, after which she will go with Secretary Redfield to

a meeting of the American-Canadian Fisheries conference, on Lake Champlain.

Mrs. Daniels, who has been in town pretty much all summer, has been spending the past week with Mrs. George Dewey at Atlantic City, at the St. Charles. Mrs. Daniel and Mrs. Dewey are naturally the patron saints of the navy, and of all the naval reliefs. The inevitable association has been the foundation of a very pleasant intimacy between them. It has brought them both into close association with Mrs. E. T. Stotesbury, of Philadelphia, who is also at Atlantic City just now, since perhaps because her youngest son, "Jamie" Cromwell, is an ensign, she has rather specialized on naval reliefs. Perhaps that isn't quite fair, for Mrs. Stotesbury has given freely to any relief that appealed to her. Just recently she has furnished funds for a swimming pool for the men at Camp Dix, at Wrightston, N. J. I believe by way of the Knights of Columbus organization there, although Mrs.

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wise when it is announced that some important executive is about to go over and is ready to bet dollars to doughnuts—and find no takers—that he is already well on his way. Usually within twenty-four hours of the newspapers being allowed to print that So-and-So was going has come the announcement that So-and-So has landed on the other side.

People are coming and going at such a rate that it is almost impossible to keep up with them. Take the cabinet set, for instance. With the return of the Lensings last Sunday—and of course the John W. Davies who were with them (the Secretary of State and his wife) whether she had preceded him by several days, the first assistant secretary, Mr. William Phillips, accompanied Mrs. Phillips, who had been down here with him for a few days, back to Highover, their summer home at North Beverly. He spent the week-end with her and the children, returning to Washington on Tuesday, to share the burden and heat of the day—and certainly it had been some heat of late—with his chief, the Breckenridge Longs being also away on their vacation.

One wonders what Second Assistant Alvey Adee is doing these days, by way of vacation. Mr. Adee is likely to be Second Assistant Secretary of State for the term of his natural life. He was appointed third

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assistant in 1882, and a few years later moved up to second assistant. Before that he had been in the diplomatic service—a legation attaché at Madrid, as I remember it—and since, though administrations, and parties, have come and gone, there has been no talk of displacing Mr. Adee. He knows so much better than anyone else could how to run his own job, that it would be a calamity to the department to lose him.

For years his idea of a vacation was a bicycle trip through some by-way of Europe. He succumbed early to the bicycle craze—and never recovered. But for the last four years bicycling in Europe has not been in the nature of a gentle indoor sport. Things were too likely to happen that would be disturbing to an elderly gentleman's nerves. And I haven't heard what substitute Mr. Adee has found since his established routine became impracticable.

In the McAdoo family, while Mr. McAdoo has returned and buckled down to work in his own well-buckled fashion, Mrs. McAdoo has not been seen in Washington. She is staying at White Sulphur Springs, with little Miss Ellen, and Mr. McAdoo is going down for the week-end.

Mme. de Mohrenschildt (Nona McAdoo) and her young husband, who for a while occupied the McAdoo town house, have lately been making a series of visits. They were up at Narragansett Pier with Capt. and Mrs. Isaac Emerson, and Mrs. Emerson's daughter, Mrs. Francis Huger McAdoo; but now they are down on Long Island. It is understood that they will not be in Washington next winter, but are to establish themselves in New York. Presumably M. de Mohrenschildt, who was a secretary of the Russian Embassy under the old regime, and "stuck" during the early days of the revolution, has despaired of the Russian mess getting straightened out, and decided to form other connections. Which, of course, with Secretary McAdoo for a father-in-law, he could very readily do.

Mrs. Baker seems to be about the luckiest of the Cabinet women just now. She and the children have been in town practically all summer. She always manages to look as cool as the proverbial cucumber, and to any complaint of the blinding heat she has answered that her family was managing to keep fairly comfortable. She is identified with all and sundry of the war reliefs, which take up a good deal of her daytime, and more evenings than not her family, and the soldiers at one or another of the nearby camps or cantonments.

This last week she has only "given two performances," but during the two weeks before that she sang for thirteen consecutive nights—during that period of extreme heat which ushered in August—winding up with appearing Thursday night as "star" of a big open-air "sing" at Camp Humphreys, where her audience—frequently her chorus—was 18,000 men grouped on the hillside; Friday night at the Bliss Electrical School, at Takoma Park, where a lot of soldier boys are getting special electrical training here and there; and Saturday at the opening of a big Y. M. C. A. "Eagle Hut," right on Pennsylvania avenue in the heart of Washington. And just about that time deal of us were seeking a roof garden, or the victrola, an electric fan and something cold and wet. In fact, as someone said, the weather just about then was calculated to make roof gardening much more popular than it is now.

Many of Mrs. Baker's singing engagements have been for out-of-door "sings," and in the camps, like that one at Humphreys, very effective and inspiring—but as Mrs. Baker mildly puts it, "one can't pianissimo in out-of-door work." On many of these occasions she has been assisted by two of her brothers—the elder, Mr. Rudolf Leopold, who has been in the service and stationed here in Washington for sometime; the other, her youngest brother, Ralph Leopold, who has been spending the summer with her, and who just recently enlisted and left Washington last Tuesday.

About the same time Secretary Baker's private secretary, Ralph Hayes, also enlisted, and Mrs. Baker didn't really know whether she was sorrier for herself, losing her brother, or for her husband losing his secretary thus. Commenting on Mr. Baker's loss, she said, "Why when Mr. Baker told me, I really felt as if he were losing his right hand. I can't help feeling that it is a waste—poor economy—for a man who is so very useful, so invaluable, to leave his post simply to take a place that any one else could fill as well. Mr. Baker has felt that he could depend entirely on Mr. Hayes—he was so entirely reliable, and had such wonderfully good judgment and discretion. I don't know how he's going to get

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