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MISS HELEN SEUFFERLE.

The above is a fairly good portrait of Miss Helen Seufferle, the young girl who had the good fortune to receive the highest number of votes as the most popular young person in Washington in THE SUNDAY HERALD's contest. As will be noted from the picture, the winner of the first prize is still quite young—a child, in fact. She is the daughter of Mr. Will Seufferle, a popular young business man.

## CHAPTER OF LOVE AFFAIRS.

### SOME OF THE REMARKABLE ROMANCES OF SOCIETY BELLES.

**How the Rich Lena Caldwell Was Courted By Baron Zedwitz and How the Prince of Wales Caused the Breaking of Miss Grant's Engagement—A Senator's Daughter and Why She Failed to Marry the Duke de Rouchefoucauld—Some of Florence Audenried's Love Affairs—How She Was Saved from a Nunery and How the Prince of Wales Gave Her a Ride in a Wheelbarrow—The Story of a Washington Heiress and the History of the First Engagement of Historian Bancroft's Grand-daughter.**

Every season Washington furnishes the materials for half a dozen three-volume novels. The romances of society here are stranger than fiction, and the best of them seldom get into the newspapers. The marriage last June of Miss Lena Caldwell and Baron Zedwitz, Minister from Germany to Mexico, was the happy culmination of a romance begun some years before in Washington. During the winter the Misses Caldwell occupied the old Knapp house, corner of Seventeenth and I streets, Baron Zedwitz figured prominently in society as Secretary of the German Legation. His infatuation for the younger of the two sisters at once became apparent to all who knew them. Fired with that spirit of repeated endeavor which rendered the name of Robert Bruce, of Scotland, famous in all ages, Baron Zedwitz persistently followed the beautiful young object of his affections from one place to another. Whenever the two girls appeared at a summer resort the musical Secretary was certain to loom up on the horizon and renew his protestations of unalterable love. Finally he was promoted by the home office and sent as Minister to Mexico, while Miss Caldwell and her sister went abroad for a long stay. Distance, however, seemed in nowise to have affected the lover's ardor, for several times a year he regularly went abroad, until at last his devotion was rewarded, and, Miss Caldwell, returning to this country, was married to him in the chapel of the new Roman Catholic University which her sister Gwendolin endowed with \$300,000. It was a fitting distinction that the first bride to enter the walls should have been the most regally beautiful of all those upon whom Washington society has looked for several decades past.

**A STORY OF THE DUKE OF CAIRNS.**  
The romance which first brought Miss Adele Grant into public notice as a beauty was enacted abroad, yet it is in many ways allied to her life in Washington, as the sensation which her appearance in any assemblage invariably created during her residence here several winters since is undeniably due to the fame which now envelops her as the American girl who had the good sense to sever her engagement with the Duke of Cairns, a real live duke, albeit a thoroughly unprincipled man. According to report Miss Grant, upon whose beauty the Prince of Wales had set the royal seal of his approbation, consulted no less a personage than His Highness on the momentous subject of her engagement, and upon his august advice it was formally annulled. The titled lover, like many another before and since, reckoned without his host, or, more properly speaking, appears to have gone ahead without much attempt at any sort of reckoning, for no sooner was it noised abroad that the engagement was declared off than bills began to pour in from every direc-

tion upon the astonished young lady. Not only was she expected to pay for the jewels lavished upon her in prodigal profusion, but the caterer's and florist's accounts for innumerable entertainments were also presented to her for liquidation. The first thing which appears to have caused any apprehensions as to the disinterested devotion of the Duke was his action in seeking to borrow a large sum of money from Miss Grant's mother on the eve of an entertainment at Nice. Miss Grant then returned to this country, and it was scarcely more than a year thereafter that the Duke, falling heir to a large fortune, immediately married an English girl.

**HOW ANOTHER NOBLEMAN LOST A WIFE.**  
Another young lady, the daughter of a Western Senator, has for the last half dozen years enjoyed the international distinction of a beauty, the verdict of her countrymen in this respect having been confirmed by the Prince of Wales upon the occasions of her many visits to England. In addition to this fact there is a decided romance in the life of the young Westerner, who since early childhood has made her home in Washington. Having made a successful debut in London, Miss Blank during her first season met the Duke de Rouchefoucauld, to whom she became engaged after a brief courtship. All went merry as the proverbial marriage bell, the tresson was ordered, and the marriage as an event of the near future lacked only the parental blessing in the form of papers necessary for the settlement of the dot. This demand, however, the Senator did not care to meet, and notwithstanding every effort to the contrary on the part of the parents, the engagement was broken. Miss Blank then returned home and the Duke sought diversion in Algerian travel. Within the past two years the Duke de Rouchefoucauld has married.

**MISS AUDENRIED AND THE NUNERY.**  
Miss Florence Audenried, daughter of the late General Audenried, of the Army, who within the past few months has married a count, though one of the youngest of Washington beauties has already had an unusually eventful life replete with romance and adventure. In the height of a successful season, surrounded by admirers, Miss Audenried suddenly became satiated with the gay world of fashion, and, deciding upon a venture of religious enthusiasm, without warning abjured the Episcopal faith, to become an ardent devotee of the Church of Rome. Hardly had society recovered from this sudden announcement before it was startled by the intelligence of a still more unaccountable move on the part of the young debutante. Renouncing the world, the flesh, and the devil, Miss Audenried under cover of night fled her to a convent, leaving behind as the sole clue to her action the time-honored note on the pin-cushion. In vain Mrs. Audenried wrote and implored her daughter to come home. In vain she applied for help to the Mother Superior of the convent, from both alike came the same answer, namely, that the young girl having entered of her own accord, and professing a desire to remain, she was not to be coerced into leaving those walls within which she had sought shelter. Then it was that her mother decided upon an equally bold plan of action, and, accompanied by the family lawyer, proceeded direct to Cardinal McCloskey in New York, formally demanding that her daughter as a minor should be at once delivered to her guardianship. At first it began to look as though the Church and State would enter into open conflict over the matter, which was, however, after a few days, successfully compromised, there being considerable money at stake, and the mother departed happy once more in the possession of her daughter. A romantic attachment next engaged the young beauty's attention, and upon its termination a season of European travel was decided upon. Miss Audenried appears to have found more than the usual amount of favor in the eyes of His Royal Highness, for cablegrams received by the leading American journals shortly thereafter chronicled accounts of a fête given at one of the fashionable suburbs of London, at which the Prince of Wales trundled

her several times about the grounds in a wheelbarrow.

**THE WRONG BOX.**  
Miss Mary Leiter, daughter of Mr. L. Z. Leiter, the Chicago millionaire, has figured prominently in London society during the past season. A beauty of the statuesque type, she has a face best seen to advantage under a Gainsborough hat with wide, picturesque brim and nodding plumes. The names of those accredited by report as her devoted admirers are legion. One of the prettiest stories told is in regard to the attachment of an English secretary of legation. Learning that Miss Leiter and her father two summers since were about to sail for Europe, the young fellow at once engaged passage on the steamer which he had heard they were to take. At the last moment discovering his mistake, he instructed his valet to proceed to England in charge of his luggage, and dashing into a cab with only a hand satchel containing toilet articles he offered the driver a princely sum if he would insure his reaching in time the dock from which sailed the steamer in reality selected by the object of his admiration. This was successfully accomplished, and, hurrying on board, just as the gang-plank was withdrawn, the Englishman had the felicity of sailing to his native country in the companionship of Miss Leiter and her father. The story was waited back to Washington and raised quite a little stir, which scarcely was given time to comfortably settle down before a rival one was started concerning the proposal and rejection of another aspirant to Miss Leiter's heart, hand, and bank account. This also was a member of the British Legation, who, while high in her favor, sought and obtained permission to give a theatre party in her honor. The morning of the evening on which it was to have been given the attaché, full of blissful dreams, drove to the florist's, secured a box of choice long-stemmed roses, and then, on more useful matters intent, extended his shopping to include the purchase of some desirable silk underwear. With the two boxes in the carriage he drove rapidly home, and after destroying a quire more or less of note paper, ended by inditing only the briefest note, and, giving it to his servant, bade him at once convey it with the flowers to his lady love. The servant took the box, but he got the wrong one, and when the young lady read the note asking her to "wear the contents to-night" she was very much surprised and decidedly bored. The young man was even more bored than she was, and his capital stock in the bank of love shrunk to nothingness.

**THE CARROLL-BANCROFT MARRIAGE.**  
Four or five years since, when it was announced after the death of Mrs. Bancroft, wife of the venerable historian, that a grand-daughter, of whose existence no one had previously even heard an intimation, was to come and reside over his house on H street, society was on tiptoe with excitement. It did not have long to wait, however, for the young grand-daughter arrived, and from that time until her sensational marriage, two years since, with Mr. Charles Carroll, of Howard County, Md—one of the Carrolls of Carrollton—the young lady managed to keep society in a continuous whirl of surprises concerning her actions and intentions. Not a month before the marriage with young Carroll took place the rumor gained currency that a dinner given by the historian to a coterie of intimate friends had been for the purpose of announcing the engagement of his grand-daughter to the Viscount de Chamauc, who owned and resided in the magnificent Chateau de Cbeumont par Doyné, (Dordogne,) in France. It was further whispered that the two costly diamond rings worn by her were the gift of her titled fiancé, who, desiring her to exercise her own fancy in the matter, had inclosed a check for a large amount to be spent in this manner. It was a most interesting story altogether, and society looked on with pitying solicitude when it was told that the young girl was soon to be sacrificed to a mercenary marriage, and that her engagement with the Viscount was an *affaire de convenance* arranged by an ambitious sister living abroad. The formal announcement of this engagement was subsequently made at Newport, and it was November 16, shortly after her return from this place, that Miss Bancroft electrified us by walking quietly out of her grandfather's house one morning and being married to Mr. Carroll in the parlor of St. Matthew's rectory. The service was performed by Rev. Father Chappelle, the necessary consent of Cardinal Gibbons having been secured by the young people going in person to Baltimore.

**MARRIED ON HIS DEATH-BED.**  
Mrs. Nina Wright de Podestad, who spent several seasons in Washington, has already had crowded into her life experiences so romantic and thrilling that were they made the theme of a romance the public would at once condemn it as altogether improbable and overdrawn. Coming to Washington as the divorced wife of a fugitive from justice, a forger whose whereabouts are to this day enshrouded in deepest mystery, she at once attracted marked attention. The prestige of her worth, beauty, and standing as the heiress of a prominent New Orleans family soon won for her a host of friends. Among the most ardent of her admirers was Mr. de Podestad, an attaché of the Spanish Legation, who, though unable to obtain the consent of his Minister or family to his projected marriage on account of the divorce, finally decided to brave everything and marry the woman he so madly loved. On the morning of what was to have been the wedding day the husband-elect was violently ill, and growing rapidly worse, sent for a physician, who even at that early stage professed himself dubious of the result. Mrs. Wright was at once notified, and during the few days which her lover lingered never left his bedside. The young fellow was urgent in his desire that the ceremony should be performed, and after a delay of some hours spent in endeavoring to gain the consent of his priest to officiate the services of a Methodist minister were finally secured. Shortly after the solemn service was concluded the newly-made wife was left a widow with the harrowing duty of arranging for the burial of the man whom the Minister and members of his own legation refused to acknowledge as her legal husband.

The reason for this opposition on the part of the Spanish Minister, who has recently been recalled, appears to have been two-fold, for when he went to the house to view the body shortly after the attack's death there ensued a scene which beggars description. Across the corpse of the young Spaniard the Minister hurled



MISS EDITH W. HOUGH.

The above is a picture of Miss Edith W. Hough, the young lady who received next to the highest number of votes in THE HERALD's contest for the most popular boy or girl in Washington. Miss Hough is the daughter of Mr. P. M. Hough, the well-known paying teller of the Columbia National Bank. She was born on May 12, 1877, and is therefore in her fourteenth year. She is a young lady of much brightness, and her many amiable qualities have won for her a very large circle of friends.

defiance at his widow, protesting vehemently that this calamity had come upon her because in the insolence of her beauty she had dared to spurn his oft-repeated avowals of love. Mrs. de Podestad, with the little son by her first unhappy marriage, is living in seclusion with her mother on the coast of France.

**A SIX MONTHS' TRIAL COURTSHIP.**  
Perhaps the most novel romance on record for any Washington girl is the provisional engagement said to have been entered into several years since by Miss Patten, eldest daughter of the late Mrs. Patten, of California, and Señor Rafael Gana, whose brother at that time was Minister from Chili to this country. The foreigner, though the senior by many years of Miss Patten, yet hoped to somewhat equalize all such difficulties by the wealth of which he expected to be master upon the sale to an American syndicate of his silver mines in Chili. Señor Gana did not speak one word of English, while his lady-love was as gloriously ignorant of Spanish, but they met upon the common ground of French, and each sought in this way to finally overcome the obstacles to a perfect understanding in their respective native languages. The plan decided upon in the matter of the engagement was that it should be held by both in the most liberal sense as provisional; that is, for a period of six months they would be outwardly all devotion to each other, and, though all public announcement was to be avoided, they were virtually to consider themselves engaged for the space of time agreed upon. Señor Gana was to be the attendant of Miss Patten on all occasions, should provide her with flowers and bonbons *ad libitum*, should carry choice seats at theatre and opera, should secure her bouquet and fan at parties, and quietly obliterate himself during the round of dances, to appear again as surely at supper-time. In return the young lady was to hold herself in readiness upon all occasions to forego such social pleasures as conflicted seriously with the sedate disposition of her elderly lover. She was moreover to meet and walk with him every fine day, and when inclement weather precluded the enjoyment of pedestrian exercise was to entertain him after the most approved fashion in her own home. Here the hours were to be whiled away with music, the reading of some interesting book, or, when fancy so dictated, time was to be forgotten in desultory conversation. At the end of six months each was to be strictly honest with the other and state what progress this intimate degree of friendship had made on the royal road to love, and whether, all things considered, a continuance was to be desired. Strange as it may seem, the two held to their vows of absolute candor, but the end was that they mutually preferred friendship to marriage.

**A WORTHLESS RECORD.**  
Clergymen Continue to Neglect to Attest Marriages.  
"I had occasion," said a well-known lawyer, "to hunt up the proof of the marriage of a young couple who ran away from Richmond and were spliced here a few years ago. I searched the marriage license books, and the record of the license was there all right, but there was no attestation of the marriage ceremony by the minister who performed it. The couple failed to get a marriage certificate, and as both are dead I had great difficulty in finding out where and by whom the marriage had been celebrated. I had the curiosity to examine the license record since the beginning of the year, and I found that up to date 423 licenses had been granted, and that returns had been made by the ministers in only 111 cases. The marriage-license book as a legal record is consequently not worth a pinch of snuff. The Pastors' Union some months ago passed resolutions and formulated a bill to inflict a penalty for failure to make due return on the part of those performing marriages, but the measure was not pressed before Congress. Perhaps we shall have to resort to the French method of compelling civil marriages apart from or in addition to the religious feature. It's a shame that we have no reliable marriage record in our clerk's office."

Free from dust and heat is Derwood Park. William F. Thomas, Twelfth and G.

## SUPERSTITIOUS TRAPEZISTS.

They Don't Like to See Cross-Eyed People Nor Cripples.

Trapeze performers have many superstitions. Stirk, of Stirk and Zeno, the famous aerial artists, believes if he sees a cross-eyed man just before he ascends to the trapeze that he will fall and break his neck. Zeno has a perfect dread of hunchbacks, and if he sees one on entering the stage will ascend to his trapeze backwards. There are some people who believe that if they watch an aerial act the artist or artists will fall. How often is the expression made: "If I look at 'em one of 'em will fall and break his neck, sure." You can not pay some people to sit through an aerial act. Stirk confesses that he feels a peculiar nervousness whenever he sees a strange face watching his act for the third time.

Some people find a peculiar fascination in an aerial act, and it sometimes happens that a man or woman will witness each and every performance. When the Irwin Bros. show was in Montreal recently for one week there was a mysterious stranger who occupied a private box every night, and seemed to heed nothing that was going on until Stirk and Zeno appeared. Then he was all attention. The third night Stirk hesitated as he started to ascend to his trapeze. He knew this stranger's eyes were on him, and he felt that he was going to fall, but he climbed up and tried to shake off his fear. He was nervous throughout the act, and, sure enough, when he turned the double somersault, he fell wide of his partner's arms and went headlong down. Had the Montreal authorities not insisted on the net beneath Stirk would have seen that mysterious face for the last time.

## A BANQUET TO MR. ROCKWELL

A Handsome Compliment to a Retiring Massachusetts Member.

The private banquet hall of the Riggs House on Wednesday evening was the scene of a very pleasant affair—the banquet in honor of the Hon. Francis W. Rockwell, lately a member of Congress, given by a number of his Washington friends. Promptly at 8 o'clock the party took their seats at the beautifully laid table. Col. William G. Moore acting as master of ceremonies. Anecdotes, reminiscences, and reparative supplemented the menu, at the conclusion of which Col. C. W. Hayes made an eloquent speech in praise of the many noble qualities of the guest of the evening, and voicing the heartfelt regret of all at his near departure. Mr. Rockwell responded in a feeling manner. Representative Cogswell then arose and restored the former merriment in a lively and forthright speech.

Among those present were Representatives Randall, Cogswell, and Milliken, Col. W. G. Moore, Majors L. Lovell Blake, S. N. Holliday, George A. Bartlett, Harrison Dingman, Thomas Steep, and W. R. Spence, Capt. Matthew Goddard and Burton Ross, Mr. W. B. Shaw, Mr. Charles B. Reade, Dr. Walter Wyman, Dr. J. O. Stanton, and Messrs. C. W. Hayes, Peter Gray, David Cooledge, George O. Jones, and R. D. Jackson. A feature of the entertainment was the handsome souvenir menu card of a unique and beautiful design, the covers of which were ornamented with delicate floral paintings.

## American Snobbery.

Birmingham Age-Herald.  
Our so-called republican simplicity, fierce democracy, etc., is a great humbug; we adore the rich, and we like them still better if they have been born rich or come of a family that has been rich for several generations, because that gives them a tinge of aristocracy. No member of either the Astor or Willing family ever did anything for this country, nor did any of them by any personal effort or accomplishment ever acquire distinction, except John Jacob Astor, an unlettered German peasant, who came to this country less than a century ago and built the fortune on which the family greatness is founded. We are very fond of our plutocrats in this country, and fond of observing and commenting upon their fine doings.