



MRS. MARY HARRISON MCKEE

Trials of a President's Daughter

By Mary Harrison McKee

She Tells How Women in the Public Eye Are Subject to Criticism—Newspapers Publish Malicious Accounts—Many Ridiculous Demands Are Made Upon Residents of the White House—Even the Children Do Not Escape Criticism.

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(Mrs. Mary Harrison McKee, daughter of President Harrison, was very prominent in official society during her father's term as the nation's chief executive. She tells here with frankness and humor some of the peculiar experiences which she had while a resident of the White House.)

How good it is to laugh! How delightful either for man or woman to be blessed with a keen sense of the ridiculous!

Some are not thus favored and are continuously sad and careworn, which is a misfortune to be truly mourned over. A school for the cultivation of the humorous faculty might be helpful to future generations.

The assertion is made that women lack a sense of humor, but the actor Coquelin has publicly denied the accusation and says "it is a slander that has lived by repetition." With true French gallantry he remarks "that it is only another example of woman's selfishness that she has been willing to let us think that we men have a monopoly, as they say in America, on humor."

So much has been written on wit, humor and fun, and so many examples from every direction have come down to us that we cannot give the palm for so charming a characteristic to any one time or country or sex.

An actor or actress who rightly faces a large audience has an opportunity for judging of these qualities in the human race. So has the man or woman who is called upon to occupy any conspicuous position where he or she is brought in close contact with numbers of men and women, whose field for observation is a broad one and whose perceptions are keen. Well might such a one exclaim with the poet:

"Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!
'T wad frae monie a blunder free us
And foolish notion."

There certainly is no lack of free discussion and criticism in the newspapers of the day on parties, politics and persons, and the man who enters the political arena must take that life as he does his wife, "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, so long as they both do live."

It would be a good idea to get a bill through congress compelling public men to write down for future generations all the amusing incidents, letters, etc., that form part of their careers. Some of these, no doubt, would last longer than their public acts and what a world of entertainment would be contained therein!

Upon entering public life a man would better examine himself and see if he has these qualifications (we will take ability for granted): A calm and patient disposition, a sense of the humorous and the tact to follow St. Paul's injunction of being "all things to all men."

These qualities are good for any position in life, but almost indispensable for the wear and tear of an official career.

The wife of a man elected to fill a

high position comes in, of course, for her share of criticism or flattery, as to what she does or leaves undone, and all relatives, even unto the third and fourth generation, must smile sweetly and say nothing, no matter how much they are criticised or maligned.

When you are trying to make a nonentity of yourself what would be left to you if you had no sense of the ridiculous?

I am only a woman who had a part in one administration and who had to go through four years shining in reflected glory, but that school filled with the lessons that go to make up human existence—joys, sorrows, trials and amusing experiences—was, as a whole, most helpful.

In the pursuit of knowledge or a spirit of curiosity such questions as these come to one daily through the mail: Whether you approve of dancing, whether you drink wine, what you think of the latest novel, how much time you give to your toilet, what is your favorite color, whether you believe in women voting, whether you dress your children in white, etc. How would you like to see the individual who could send the following communication on a postal card:

"My Dear Madam—I want a present from Washington city, and I have located on you for the present. Please send a dress pattern (several other gifts were mentioned as being acceptable), and if you send it please prepay the express charges, for I have made a vow I will never pay any express charges, as I can't see what I am getting in the package."

Another woman desired "a piano and some sheet music," as her daughter had great "talents."

A pastor wished \$4,000 for his church for the reason "that you are a rich lady and will never miss it."

The request for money is, of course, a common one addressed to people of prominence or those blessed with great riches.

Many people are convinced that each member of a president's family is drawing a large salary from the government, or that all of them have a pneumatic tube running to the treasury department and upon punching a button large quantities of Uncle Sam's gold finds its way to the puncher.

The requests for autographs are almost unlimited and should a president undertake to make the supply equal to the demand but a small portion of each day could be devoted to public business.

Then the crazy-quilt artist—and her name is legion—wants at least one silk piece as a souvenir, and if the signature of the president or some member of his family is placed upon it, so much the better.

One frequently overhears remarks on the appearance or characteristics of some member of the family and it is well with you when you can smile.

Many a friend has enjoyed with me the following incident, the remarks having been addressed to the children's nurse:

"Which is Baby McKee?"

"This is Benjamin."

"Which is Mrs. Harrison's little girl?"

"This is Marthana."

"Humph, I can't see that they look any different from any other children."

On another occasion, when the same line of questioning was being pursued, and the nurse had made an elaborate apology to excuse the children's appearance, as they had been playing in the dirt and were not dressed for inspection: "Humph, it wouldn't make any difference what you put on them. They are very plain, homely looking children anyway."

When this speech was reported to me, I gave my dear homely babies a hug and laughed heartily, because I knew they were beauties and that it was a poor, misguided individual who was probably persuaded in his mind that only Democratic babies were pretty.

INDICTMENT

Against Banker Walsh
Contains 182 Counts.

BIG SUM INVOLVED

Former President of Chicago National
Bank Is Said to Have Applied
Its Funds to His Own Use.

Chicago, Ill.—John R. Walsh, former president of the Chicago national bank, which was closed by the government December 16, 1905, was on Friday formally indicted by the federal grand jury on the charge of misapplying the funds of the bank.

The indictment, which contains 182 counts, is based upon 22 transactions in "memorandum" notes which the government officials declare to be fraudulent and upon 13 sales of bonds to the bank, it being claimed that these bonds were unmarketable and of doubtful value. Fifty-seven payments of the money derived from these transactions, it is charged in the indictments, were placed by Walsh to the credit of his personal account in the bank and used by him in aiding outside enterprises with which he was connected.

The "memorandum" notes have a total face value of \$2,000,000. They were discounted between January 21, 1904, and February 15, 1905, and the total proceeds of \$2,038,176 were used, the indictment charges, by Mr. Walsh personally. It is also claimed that between January 21, 1904, and February, 1905, Mr. Walsh paid out an aggregate of \$2,514,377 to his outside interests.

It is claimed in the indictment that Walsh knowingly borrowed money from the bank on fictitious notes and that he sold to the bank bonds of doubtful value, and that he was therefore guilty of willful misuse of the funds of the institution.

Mr. Walsh was arrested March 2, 1906, for alleged violation of the federal banking laws and was put under bonds of \$50,000. As soon as the indictment was returned he appeared in the federal court and gave a new bond for a similar amount. He will plead or file demurrers to the indictment on or before February 6.

REVIEW OF TRADE.

Manufacturing Returns Could Not Be
More Favorable Than Those
Given Out Now.

New York.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s

Weekly Review of Trade says: Trade in winter fabrics improved as the weather became more seasonable, but reports for the week are irregular on account of varying temperature. Improvement in the traffic situation was checked by snow blockades and the best railway authorities state that expanding needs of the nation can only be met by a much greater expenditure for new track and rolling stock than has yet been contemplated.

Clearance sales have made good progress and new business for spring delivery is coming to jobbers and wholesale houses in large volume, while collections show some improvement, although still slow in many lines. Manufacturing returns could not well be more favorable, contracts in many cases covering deliveries into 1908.

IN AN AIRSHIP.

Army Officer Expects Wellman's Expedition Will Make the Voyage to the North Pole in 36 Hours.

San Francisco, Cal.—Maj. H. B. Hersey, United States weather bureau inspector, who is here, has outlined the plans of the Wellman Arctic expedition, which will take the aerial route to the North Pole, and of which he will be the second in command. In speaking of the preparations for the trip to the pole, Maj. Hersey said that headquarters for the expedition were established on Spitzbergen Island last year. Supplies were brought to the island from France and Norway, machine shops and balloon sheds have been built and a staunch arctic ice vessel purchased as a tender for the airship.

The airship is a dirigible balloon, with a bag 165 feet long and a car 100 feet long. The lifting power is 8,063 pounds. The airship will be equipped with power to drive her for 15 days, but under ordinary conditions it will take but 36 hours to make the trip.

Congress.

Washington.—On the 18th the senate passed a bill increasing the artillery corps of the army. The house passed a bill providing that after March 4, 1907, the salaries of senators and representatives in congress shall be \$7,500 a year and the salaries of the vice president, members of the cabinet and speaker of the house be \$12,000 a year.

Indictments for Land Frauds.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—The federal grand jury which has been investigating alleged coal and timber land frauds made its report Friday, returning a number of indictments. One indictment is against Don C. Robbins, one of the oldest coal prospectors in the state, and another is against Edwin W. Senior, a land attorney.

Attell Defeats Baker.

Los Angeles.—Abe Attell Friday night won from Henry Baker in the eighth round of the featherweight championship contest.

HE KILLED HIMSELF.

CONGRESSMAN ADAMS A DEFaulter FOR \$70,000.

FAMILY SKELETON DRAGGED INTO COURT AT PHILADELPHIA BY DEAD MAN'S BROTHER.

Philadelphia, Pa.—The late Congressman Robert Adams, Jr., of this city, who committed suicide in Washington last year by shooting, was on Wednesday declared in the orphans' court here to have been a defaulter to the amount of \$70,000. The startling assertion was made during an argument in proceedings brought against Carlton Adams, surviving executor and trustee of the estate of his father, Robert Adams, sr., by his stepmother, Mrs. Robert Adams, sr., and his stepsister, Mrs. Charles Moran, of New York.

Counsel for Carlton Adams told the court he would show that Congressman Adams had appropriated to his own use \$70,000 worth of bonds belonging to the estate of Robert Adams, sr., and to Carlton Adams. It was stated that the congressman and Carlton Adams had keys to a safe deposit box in which the alleged missing bonds had been kept and that as far back as five years, Carlton Adams had discovered that Pennsylvania canal bonds were missing. He notified his brother, Robert, and the matter was fixed up. Subsequently Carlton Adams' condition became such that he could not attend to business and matters were left in the hands of the congressman.

A broker testified that Congressman Adams had pledged Pennsylvania Canal Co. bonds valued at \$10,000 for a loan of \$2,900. Of the remaining bonds, valued at about \$60,000, no trace has been found.

It was also claimed that a part of the accumulated income of his father's estate, of which Congressman Adams had charge, was unaccounted for.

In proof of his assertion the attorney for Carlton Adams produced in court a letter from the suicide congressman, written in Washington the day he ended his life, in which he said he was sorry he had caused a "mess" and urged that Carlton Adams be not held responsible for any securities that might be missed.

MONEY AND MEDALS.

They Are Awarded to a Number of People by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Ten silver and eight bronze medals besides \$9,210 in cash were the awards made at the third annual meeting of the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission in this city Wednesday. Among the awards were: A bronze medal and \$500 to Jeremiah M. Donovan, of Oswego, N. Y., a sailor, who on October 20, 1905, was employed on the tug Thomas Wilson, on Lake Erie, and in a tremendous storm rescued six men from the schooner Yukon.

A bronze medal to Cline Horton, 17 years old, a school boy of Astoria, Ill., who on December 11, 1905, rescued a companion, Ralph Baxter, 12 years old, from drowning after breaking through the ice while skating.

A bronze medal to John H. Young, a coal miner, of Bryant, Ill., 15 years old, who on July 16, 1904, rescued Albert Brookham, a miner, 15 years old, from drowning while swimming.

A bronze medal to Leo H. Nokes, a student, 20 years old, of Sac City, Ia., who rescued Lillie Wingerson, 4 years old, from being run over by a train.

A bronze medal to Morris A. Nourse, 53 years old, a railway mail clerk of Des Moines, Ia., who on July 19, 1905, rescued from drowning in the Des Moines river Frank Leonard, 9 years old, a school boy.

THE KINGSTON DISASTER.

Later Reports State that 1,000 Persons Were Killed and 90,000 Are Homeless.

St. Thomas, D. W. I.—Later advice received here from Jamaica declare that all people have been warned to keep away from Kingston. The stench there is described as awful. There is no fodder for animals and famine is imminent. Money is useless. The banks have been burned, but the vaults are supposed to be safe. The misery on all sides is indescribable. Rich and poor alike are homeless. Provisions of all kinds are urgently needed.

The dead are being buried under smoldering ruins. The mercantile community suffered severely. Many professional men are dead or injured. The negroes are looting. Ghastly scenes are being witnessed. All the shops have been destroyed and all the buildings in and around Kingston are in ruins. Very few of them are safe to live in.

It is estimated that 1,000 persons have been killed by the earthquake and fire and that 90,000 persons are homeless. The damage to Kingston alone is placed at \$10,000,000.

Congress.

Washington.—In the senate on the 16th the Brownsville affair was debated by several members. The house passed the fortifications appropriation bill and took up the District of Columbia appropriation bill.

Alleged Embezzler Is Arrested.

Montreal, Quebec.—W. J. McGee was arrested Wednesday for the misappropriation of funds in his possession as secretary of the Mutual Loan & Building society. The amount involved, it is alleged, may reach \$50,000.

Snow Blockade Is Broken.

St. Paul, Minn.—The snow blockade of the main line of the Great Northern has been broken. Several stalled passenger trains in Montana and North Dakota started west Wednesday.

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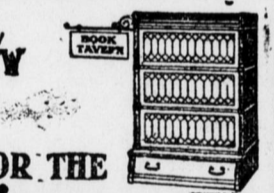
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