

FORTUNATE WOMEN IN THE NEW YEAR PICTURE



Mrs. A. B. Cummins of Iowa, who will go to Washington as a senator's wife.

Mrs. M. J. Patterson, wife of Tennessee's Governor.

THOSE TO WHOM THE FUTURE IS RADIANT WITH PROMISE

TO A NUMBER of charming and gracious women throughout the land the coming of this new year means much more than the dawning of any other year of their lives. To them 1909 appears radiant with promise.

Soon one will take her place as first lady of the United States; another will be but a step below her in prominence.

Through the agency of the ballot-box or votes accorded their husbands by legislators, still others will assume official social leadership in their states or graduate into that favored group at Washington that enjoys national prestige and basks continually in the glory of the limelight.

Whether the wife of a president, a senator or a governor, the woman stepping to higher and broader social planes will remain for some time in the public eye, and find her new position as interesting to herself as she will be to those about her.

THOSE who know Mrs. William Howard Taft are firm in their belief that she will prove one of the most charming, tactful and popular mistresses of the White House that historic building has ever known.

Happily have nature and training united their efforts in fitting this gracious and accomplished woman for the delicate and responsible duties devolving upon the first lady of the land. Then, too, Mrs. Taft is no stranger to those duties; her long association with Washington's official set has familiarized her with all the niceties and distinctions of court life in a republic, if it may be called such.

In her girlhood days, Mrs. Taft, then Helen Herron, became acquainted with the White House and its ways. Her father was the law partner of President R. B. Hayes, and the young girl made several visits to the Hayes family in Washington.

She was so young that she was only permitted to catch bird's-eye glimpses, from hidden viewpoints, of the state functions, and impressively attired diplomats of those days, but such occasions were always times of keen delight to her.

Mrs. Taft was the virtual leader of the cabinet ladies during the time her husband was a member of President Roosevelt's official family, and was of great assistance to Mrs. Roosevelt. Consequently, she is well qualified by training for the duties of White House mistress and social leader.

ASSISTANCE FOR MRS. TAFT

Considerable assistance will probably be given Mrs. Taft in engineering White House functions by Mrs. Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati, wife of her husband's half brother. Gratification of Charles P. Taft's ambition to enter the United States Senate would give his wife an official connection with Washington social life that would doubtless be pleasing to all the family.

Mrs. Charles P. Taft's father, David Sinton, was one of the wealthiest men in Ohio when he died, a few years ago. The only daughter, she inherited an estate valued at \$30,000,000 or so. She has long been prominent and popular in Cincinnati society, and is accustomed to entertaining on a lavish scale.

A pet aversion of Mrs. James S. Sherman, who will become the second lady of the land when her husband is sworn in as vice president in March, is sitting for a photograph. There are few photographs of her in existence.

Mrs. Sherman's social affairs have been marked by elegance and exclusiveness. Seldom have reports of them been made public.

Among her associates in the congressional set Mrs. Sherman enjoys considerable popularity. She is small of stature and her hair is gray, although it wreathes a face that is still fairly youthful in appearance. Her delight, outside the successful public career of her husband and the steady business advances of her three sons, is in the companionship of a little grandchild, who rules the family with a stronger sway than a vice president exerts over the upper house of Congress.

The Shermans are fairly well provided with this world's goods, and will be able to entertain in a manner befitting their position, although it is not considered probable that their functions will be upon the same lavish scale as those of Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks. It is said that the entertainments of the Fairbanks have cost something like \$50,000 over the salary of the vice presidential office.

This winter is an important one in the life of Mrs. Truman H. Newberry, wife of the new

Mrs. W. H. Taft, next mistress of the White House.

Mrs. J. S. Sherman, wife of the Vice President-elect.

calf, December 1—her career as one of the cabinet matrons has been so short that the charm of novelty still remains.

Secretary and Mrs. Newberry are well able, financially, to make their Washington career notable, Mr. Newberry's wealth being estimated at \$20,000,000.

Mrs. Newberry was regarded as one of the most beautiful young women of the country when she entered society as Miss Barnes, daughter of Demas Barnes, of Brooklyn, N. Y. Since her marriage she has been one of the most charming and popular of the young society matrons of Detroit.

When Governor Albert B. Cummins resigned the highest office in Iowa to enter the United States Senate, a greatly loved and admired woman, in the person of his wife, transferred her talents and charm to the wider field. An admirer wrote of her recently:

"Of Mrs. Cummins, Des Moines women cannot say too much in praise. Still a little on the sunny side of 50, handsome in person, of the brunette type, with exquisite taste in dressing, knowing how to order her household in times of stringency as well as of plentifulness, with a low, sweet voice, a quiet cordiality of manner, choosing her friends by worth of soul rather than of dollars, she finds these friends tried and true. As president of the Des Moines Women's Club, a very potent institution, she has been a great success. She is also president of the board of the Children's Home, and is devoted to the work."

LOOKING TOWARD WHITE HOUSE

Mrs. Judson Harmon as the wife of Ohio's next Governor will be no stranger to state functions and the social leadership that goes with high position. For nearly two years her husband was attorney general of the United States, under President Cleveland's second administration. It is generally believed that the Harmon ambition looks toward the White House, so that Mrs. Harmon may regard this new year as opening to her a vista of great promise.

The re-election, in November, of Governor M. R. Patterson, of Tennessee, greatly delighted his ambitious bride, who, it is said, looks forward to a gratifying social career as the wife of the state's executive. The couple met during one of Mr. Patterson's campaigning tours, and thereby hangs a pretty romance.

When the seeker after gubernatorial honors reached Union City on a trip, the citizens had prepared an elaborate welcome. Miss Mary Russell Gardner was delegated to present Mr. Patterson with a bouquet of roses and to say a few words in behalf of the women of the town.

"They met on the stage of the town hall," says a newspaper report. "It was a case of love at first sight. Miss Gardner forgot her lines, and the nominee was overcome with confusion. The end was inevitable."



Mrs. Charles P. Taft of Cincinnati, who will be socially prominent during the next administration.



Mrs. Truman H. Newberry, wife of the new Secretary of the Navy.



Mrs. Judson Harmon whose husband will be Ohio's next Governor.

secretary of the navy. Although she has been a member of the Washington official set over two years—her husband having been assistant secretary before being promoted to the head of the navy upon the retirement of Secretary Met-