

PRETTY PEGGY O'NEIL

Triumph and Tragedy of the Beautiful Woman Whose Championship by General Jackson Made an Epoch in History

The power of "Pretty Peggy" O'Neill was wielded for weal and not for woe; for she was a good woman. In the development of Greater Washington it is now apparently necessary that one of the historic blocks of ground shall become the site of an apartment house, and the houses of yoreful fragrance shall be torn down and carted away.

With this improvement the demolition of "O'Neill's tavern" is inevitable, and thus will pass away the childhood home and scene of triumphs of Margaret O'Neill, the marvelously bright and beautiful daughter of the proprietor of the erstwhile famous tavern.

Anyone strolling along Pennsylvania avenue may notice the row of red brick dwellings at the corner of I and Twenty-first streets. But very few persons now living know that within that corner house some of the men most famous in our history have winned and dined, and that there dwelt one woman who had a great part in making the history of her time.

The spot and its environments have vastly changed since the days of long ago when "Billy" O'Neill was the owner and manager of the place. The estate extended down to what has since become a public market and comprised numerous outhouses and stables clustering about the main building. The house was then an inn, and was widely known as "The Tavern," the most conspicuous hotel in a town which was then but an embryonic city of cottages. There were a few mansions, and all of the streets were of dust or mud, according to the condition of the weather.

When the congress convened it was to the tavern of "Billy" O'Neill that the famous statesmen of that day repaired with their families and large retinues of children and servants. William O'Neill was descended from ancestors of that name whose ancient homes had been in Ulster county, Ireland. His wife was a woman of great beauty, and of beautiful piety. Her daughter, who was to become an historical character, was even more beautiful than her mother—and more brilliant because of the better opportunities for intellectual development. The child, Margaret, was born in Washington June 20, 1799, while Napoleon was first consul of France. As she developed into maturing childhood she became famous for her beauty and for her vivacity. She had large gray eyes, long lashes, heavy eyebrows and a wonderful mass of wavy chestnut brown hair. That she was the embodiment of grace is attested by the fact that at a school commencement she was crowned by "Dolly," the regal wife of President Madison, for her graceful dancing.

Marriage to Timberlake.
That such a child woman should be sought, admired and besought was to have been anticipated. She had scarce budded into womanhood when she became conspicuous by reason of her conquests. An elopement with her first accepted lover had already been arranged, when the child disclosed her flight to her father by accidentally upsetting a

flower pot. "Billy O'Neill" was a man of action. He stopped the runaway, sent the young lover off to his parents with his eyes somewhat discolored, and then took his daughter in coach to New York, where she was walled in by a private school, safe from observation and admiration of all mankind.

Within a year "Pretty Peggy" was back in Washington, and this time she did not get nervous nor make any mistake. She fell in love with a handsome purser in the navy named Timberlake; told her story to her mother, secured her consent and co-operation, and within two weeks the wedding was solemnized with the consent, although without the approval, of her father.

During the last two years of her life, her 30th and 31st years, the narrator had the acquaintance and friendship of this wonderful woman, and she said that the happiest years of her life were the five years spent in that house on the corner of Twenty-first and I streets, where her two children, Virginia and Margaret, were born. Then at the end of those five years, young Timberlake was ordered off to sea. When he started on that cruise he told his young wife that the condition of his heart was such that he might never return; but he went, in obedience to orders, and without a murmur. While on board the old Constitution, at Port Mahone, young Timberlake suddenly died of heart failure. The news of the death of her husband ended the happiness of her lifetime, and she was not yet 25 years of age. Previous to that event, her life had been without a single care. Subsequently her 25 years were years of constantly increasing care and suffering.

When this wonderful woman was in her 31st year, she said to her narrator: "General Jackson was a sturdy friend of mine. He was kind and fatherly to my two little girls, and I adore his memory. General Eaton of Tennessee was also kind to me, and I married him. He was a good and faithful husband. My beauty was a fatal gift to me, for it increased my cares and worries, and therefore added to my unhappiness. It was not my fault that I was beautiful. It was, indeed, my misfortune. I am an old woman now, and I have no worldly thoughts; and I assure you my beauty was my bane. Women suspected me of captivating or trying to captivate men whom I merely entertained because of my social disposition; and I smiled upon many of them while I loathed them at heart. But it was the duty of my husband's wife to entertain; and I went ahead entertaining, doing my level best, for his sake, to out-entertain and outshine all other women; and I guess I succeeded, too, else they would not have hated me so."

Sustained by Jackson.
At that time, when she was the object of envy, jealousy, malice and other malignant purposes of women, her husband, General John H. Eaton was made secretary of war by President Jackson. The wives of the other members of the cabinet refused

to socially recognize the wife of the new secretary of war, affecting to believe the calumnies current concerning her. The sturdy president stood by his secretary of war and by his wife. He dismissed every member of his cabinet and appointed in their places other men, whose wives were not character assassins.

"After the re-organization of the cabinet," said Mrs. Eaton, to the narrator, "I told President Jackson that he had saved my life, because I could not have lived if he had turned my husband out of his cabinet, and his reply has ever been ringing in my ears; for, putting his life, bony hand on my shoulder, he looked down at me and said: 'I know that, my child. I understand. I saw it in your eyes and your demeanor. But suicide would have been confession, and I feel that I have doubly saved you; and that you are worth it.'"

General Eaton was afterwards governor of Florida, and minister to Spain. While in Madrid Margaret Eaton won the warm friendship of Queen Christina, and the queen also became a devoted friend of the little Timberlake girls, both of them being highly accomplished. Virginia was a splendid harpist and Margaret was possessed of a wonderful contralto. Mrs. Eaton and her daughters were admired and respected and toasted throughout Europe. The elder daughter, Virginia, became the wife of the Duke de Sampaio of France. The younger daughter, Margaret, became the wife of Lieutenant Commander John B. Randolph of the navy, a Virginian, who died in the service of his country.

The last days of this wonderful woman were spent in a Washington boarding house on Ninth street, where the Inter Ocean building now stands; and from that locality she was buried, all of the eminent statesmen of the day attending the funeral and paying tribute to her memory.

Triumph in Old Age.
In the hallway of that boarding house one evening, when in her 80th year, Mrs. Eaton said to the landlady, a Mrs. Smith, and to the narrator: "I believe that I can take those five young fellows in the parlor away from those five young ladies. I'm going to try it anyway, just for fun."

Very quietly the old lady entered the parlor, gently saluted each one individually, listened until opportunity occurred, and then began talking to all of the young people at once saying: "I was reminded this afternoon of the first bull fight that I ever saw in Madrid. Did you ever see a bull fight? Well, on this occasion, I was accompanied by Queen Christina, and half of the time I couldn't keep my eyes and mind on the bull fight, although it was a novelty, because I was dazzled by the jewels of the queen. She wore that afternoon—"

Here the old lady went into rhapsodies over the manner in which the queen was gowned and bedecked. The young men and the young ladies formed a circle around her, and inside of two or three minutes she was the center of attraction, and everybody in the boarding house that could get into the parlor went in, and others craned their necks in the door.

When she had concluded her brilliant description, everybody asked questions about Spain, and so forth, but the old lady arose and left the room, saying:

"You people have gotten me into talking and have made me garrulous, and these young ladies will be angry with me."

And, after winning her way in that marvelous manner, when she left the room, the young ladies were foremost in urging her to continue her conversation and descriptions of foreign peoples and costumes.

Entertaining beyond description in her 80th year, she must have been phenomenally brilliant when in her prime and when stimulated by ambition for social supremacy.

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Makes life now as safe in that city as on the higher uplands. E. W. Goodloe, who resides on Dutton St., in Waco, Tex., needs no sea wall for safety. He writes: "I have used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption the past five years, and it keeps me well and safe. Before that time I had a cough which for years had been growing worse. Now it's gone." Cures Chronic Coughs and prevents Pneumonia. Pleasant to take. Every bottle guaranteed at J. C. Perry's drug store. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

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MUTINIES AT SEA STILL FREQUENT

Shocking Tragedies Enacted on the High Seas in Recent Years.

The recent uprising of the crew of the Danish bark Ludwig, who tried to murder the captain and mates at Bonne bay, Newfoundland, is evidence that this tragic feature of marine existence, the root fact in so many novelists' plot, has by no means been dissipated by the march of progress.

Only four years ago one of these tragedies occurred which shocked the whole civilized world, when the master of the British bark Veronica and six of his men were murdered by three Dutch seamen, who were subsequently hanged for their crime.

Bad food and bad treatment are the chief causes of mutinies from time immemorial, but in this instance the only plea advanced by the ruffians for their carnival of crime was a hint passed among the crew by the ringleader that it was the intention of the captain and officers to do away with the seamen. Five days after leaving port the murders opened the series of butcheries by killing the lookout with a belaying pin and throwing his body overboard. It was before day break, and when the mate went forward to find the man, having hailed him from the quarter-deck without reply, he met the same fate. Boatwain Abramson, fearing something wrong, went to call the captain, and as the latter emerged from the cuddy hatch he was shot, thought not fatally, and crawled back into his cabin, where he and Abramson barricaded themselves.

Two days later the cabin door was forced, the captain and boatwain were shot, and then the ruffians proposed to murder the cook, but his services were needed, and he was spared, though with many threats. The ringleader was a powerfully framed and savage tempered fellow named Gustav Ran, his principal assistants being Otto Monson and William Schmidt. A few days were spent by the crew in making ready to desert the ship, and the ringleaders, recognizing that when they reached the land they must be united in the tale they were to tell

of the loss of the vessel and their comrades, concocted a story, which daily they had to repeat three or four times.

The story ran that one died from sickness and the mate was washed overboard. The ship then took fire, and the captain and some men put off in one boat and these in the other. But two mutineers could not remember the story aright, and were shot down in cold blood by the dreadful chief of the band. Then the vessel was set on fire, the five remaining men took to a boat and were five days later picked up by the Brunswick. Thomas' evidence, corroborated by that of Flohr, the least guilty of the other, who was allowed to become an informer as the price of his liberty sufficed to convict the three principals, and they were all hanged.

Rheumatism.

When pains or irritation exist on any part of the body, the application of Ballard's Snow Liniment gives prompt relief. E. W. Sullivan, Prop. Sullivan House, El Reno, O. T., writes, June 6, 1902: "I take pleasure in recommending Ballard's Snow Liniment to all who are afflicted with rheumatism. It is the only remedy I have found that gives immediate relief." 25c, 50c, and \$1.00. For sale by D. J. Fry, Salem, Or.

Sudden Activity in Timber Market.

Talk of railway construction through many sections of the state recently has had the effect of smoking out a number of capitalists, who have waited long to see where lightning would strike the timber first. It is a matter of common knowledge that timber land has not advanced

in the ratio of the products, but recent events have so aroused capital to action that there is great activity in a number of localities.

The Mollalla country shows up the expectation of railroad development by a number of transfers. The Nehalem and Wilson river country swarms with cruisers, while the mountains with the packs are keeping tabs on Hammond's engineers south of Seaside. But the greatest activity seems to be in eastern Oregon. The yellow pine districts are being zealously investigated from near Bend south to a number of buyers, who have their men in the field estimating every quarter that has timber on it. A large sale was recently closed on land on the north fork of the John Day river, at about \$1600 per acre.

Cures Sciatica.

Rev. W. L. Riley, L.L.D., Chas. New York, writes: "After fifteen days of excruciating pain from sciatic rheumatism, under various treatments, I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment; the first application giving my first relief and the second entire relief. I can give it unqualified recommendation." 25c, 50c, and \$1.00. For sale by D. J. Fry, Salem, Or.

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