

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1903.

AMERICAN WIVES OF EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON



THE HONORABLE LADY HERBERT, WIFE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR, FORMERLY MISS BELLE WILSON OF NEW YORK.

BARONESS SPECK VON STERNBURG, WIFE OF BARON SPECK VON STERNBURG MINISTER AND ENVOY ON EXTRAORDINARY MISSION, FORMERLY MISS LILLIAN MAY LANGHAM, OF KENTUCKY AND CALIFORNIA.

MADAME YUNG KWAI, WIFE OF THE CHINESE SECRETARY, FORMERLY MISS MARY BURNHAM OF SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

MADAME JUSSERAND WIFE OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, FORMERLY MISS ELISE RICHARDS OF BOSTON.



BARONESS MONCHEUR, WIFE OF THE BELGIAN MINISTER, FORMERLY MISS CLAYTON OF ARKANSAS.

Influence of the Fair Daughters of Uncle Sam in the International Councils at the Capital—Six Representatives of Foreign Nations Have as Cherished Helpmeets American-Born Girls—Wit and Beauty of the Talented Women Who Live Under Foreign Flags in the Capital of Their Own Country.

It was formerly a matter of just criticism and complaint that so few foreign envoys brought their wives to this country. In past years there were frequently only two or three women in the Diplomatic Corps at a time, and bachelor establishments were the rule rather than the exception. This was due to the fact that in the old days it was much further from Europe to America than from America to Europe, and while a trip across the water meant nothing to American women, who have always sought rather than avoided unique experiences, to foreign women, bred on more conservative lines, the journey to America was looked upon as beset with dangers, and life here was believed to be filled with discomforts. Within the last decade even the wife of a well known diplomatist confessed that she expected to meet Indians in war paint at the President's receptions.

Distance Now No Barrier.
But these conditions have changed. The improved steamship service has made the distance between the hemispheres seem much less, and a more intimate knowledge of America and Americans has brought the United States nearer to Europe. Hardly an embassy or legation at the capital lacks a mistress, and the brightest and cleverest women in society are to be found in the Diplomatic Corps.

There are at present six women born of American parentage in the foreign colony. The British Ambassador, Sir Michael Herbert, when he was attached to the British Embassy as secretary, married the daughter of

Richard T. Wilson, a distinguished citizen of New York; Madame Jusserand, the wife of the French Ambassador, is the child of American parents; Baroness Moncheur, wife of the Belgian Minister, is the daughter of Powell Clayton, the United States Ambassador to Mexico.

The Baroness Von Sternburg.
Madame Lopez, the wife of the Minister from San Salvador, was a Miss Eisen, of San Francisco, the daughter of a wealthy western family; Baroness von Sternburg, the wife of the new Ambassador of the German Empire, was born in the Blue Grass State; one of the secretaries of the Russian Embassy recently married the daughter of Paymaster Hoy, U. S. N.; Yung Kwai, of the Chinese Legation, is wedded to an American, and the fiancée of his chief, Sir Chen-Tung Laing Cheng, who is expected here shortly, is said to have a strain of American blood in her veins, although she is the daughter of the Chinese Ambassador to Paris.

The wife of the British Ambassador, both by her position, wealth and peculiar fitness for the post, takes a leading part in the social world and is truly a notable woman. Tall and slender, with much distinction of style and beauty of face, her manners are tactful and she has real interest in the role she is called upon to play.

At the British Embassy.
Under her regime the British Embassy has assumed a new atmosphere. It was for many years the most characteristic of all the foreign residences in Washington, and once within the

dreary drawing rooms, with their heavy hangings and sombre coloring, one felt as if he might be in some official residence on "the tight little isle" itself.

Since the present Ambassador was accredited here, the interior of the Embassy has been re-furnished and decorated, and the dreary air that formerly pervaded it is exchanged for one of brightness and gaiety. Lady Herbert has entertained assiduously the past few weeks. She gives a dinner every week and no table in town is better appointed than the one over which the wife of the Ambassador presides with such grace and knowledge. The dances given at the Embassy are very popular with the younger set.

First Visit to America.
On arriving here two weeks ago Madame Jusserand saw for the first time the land in which both her parents were born and which she has longed to visit for many years.

The wife of the French Ambassador, to whom he was married about ten years ago, was Miss Elise Richards, daughter of George T. Richards, of the banking firm of John Monroe & Co., of Boston, New York and Paris. Her father, who was born in Boston, lived abroad nearly all his life, and this is probably the reason why Madame Jusserand, although born of American parents, never visited this country until recently.

Most of their time since her marriage has been spent outside of France. M. Jusserand having served a number of years in London as secretary and counselor of the French Embassy at St. James's and as minister

to Copenhagen, where their house was a popular one.

In appearance Madame Jusserand is more French than American. She dresses in excellent taste, and has the charm and affability one associates with the women of France.

The Embassy is at present situated in the house built by Miss Pendleton, daughter of the former United States Minister to Germany, in Rhode Island avenue, almost opposite the home of Mrs. Philip Sheridan; but the French Government has purchased a large tract of land here, and the ground is already broken for the building of an embassy which will be one of the handsomest diplomatic residences in town.

M. Jusserand brought with him a number of Gobelin tapestries, sent by his government for the decoration of the new embassy. The pieces are reproductions of old tapestries and include the Summer and Winter of the Seasons, by Audran.

Baroness Moncheur is the bride of a year, and one of the youngest and prettiest women of the Diplomatic Corps. The Belgian Minister and his wife have been in mourning for their Queen this Winter, and have therefore taken no part in official functions, though they have been frequent guests at informal dinners and have themselves entertained.

Baron Moncheur was a widower when he married Miss Clayton. His first wife was a Miss Padelford, of Baltimore, who left him a large for-

ture. The Minister's three little girls live with their grandmother in Baltimore, making frequent visits to Washington and passing all the holidays with their father and their new mamma, who exerts herself in every way to add to their pleasure.

The Baroness Moncheur is girlish in appearance, with a slender, graceful figure, a radiant complexion and smiling eyes. Her good nature and amiability seem to be inexhaustible, and it is not to be doubted that she will make a social success at any post to which her husband may be transferred.

The little republic of Salvador has recently sent a new Minister to the American Capital, whose wife, born a Miss Eisen, is the daughter of a

wealthy and distinguished family of San Francisco. Madame Lopez is loyally devoted to her adopted country, but in common with the other American women of the Diplomatic Corps, whose husbands have been accredited to the United States, she is much pleased that the fortune of politics has sent her to this post.

Madame Lopez is a blonde, pretty and graceful, with the manner and aplomb necessary to the social success of a diplomat's wife. Her sister, Miss Eisen, is passing the Winter with her at the legation, and their home is one of the most attractive of the foreign colony.

For the first time in many years Continued on Page Two, this section.



MADAME LOPEZ, WIFE OF THE MINISTER FROM SALVADOR, FORMERLY MISS EISEN OF SAN FRANCISCO