

LOVE OVER ALL

BY MARY AINGE DE VERE

RICHES are naught. A jewel crown  
May be undone, and gold will melt,  
But an ended pain is long, long felt.

Kisses are sweet, but prayers are best;  
Only the lips to a kiss are given,  
While the soul goes, with its prayer, to Heaven.

Dreams are shadows, yet sometimes come  
Like blessed curtains that drop upon  
The scorching light of a noonday sun.

Hopes betray us, but Faith is sure,  
Nor asks for an answer. She smiles and waits,  
A patient child at the heavenly gate.

Love over all! A jewel crown,  
A pain that stays, and a prayer, a kiss,  
Dreams, hope, faith, patience, are met in this.

UNKNOWN WIVES  
OF  
WELL-KNOWN MEN

\* XX—MRS. WILLIAM M. EVARTS

BY LILIAN WRIGHT



T would be impossible to be long in the presence of Mrs. William Maxwell Evarts without feeling that the many excellent qualities and charming characteristics which her friends ascribe to her are deserved.

Helen Minerva Wardner, which was the full maiden name of Mrs. Evarts, was the eldest daughter of Allen Wardner, a prominent banker of Windsor, Vermont, in which historic town Mrs. Evarts was born about seventy years ago.

Mrs. Evarts was educated in the schools of Windsor and Burlington. While she was yet a young girl her mother died, leaving her to take her place at the head of the household, and to become, as far as possible, a mother to her sister and three younger brothers. The grave responsibilities of such a trying position were bravely borne, although involving the sacrifice of many pleasures, and, without doubt, this experience better qualified her for the duties of after life. Nevertheless she found time to devote to music and drawing, beside attaining the more practical accomplishments of good house-keeping. Born and reared amid healthful scenes, in a society free from sham and pretence, a society that believed in "Honest work for to-day, honest hope for to-morrow," all that was best in her character was very strongly developed.

After graduating from Yale, in 1839, William M. Evarts, of Cambridge, Mass., went to Windsor to study law and teach, and the acquaintance between the grave, learned law student and the pleasant, practical young girl which began then, culminated in their marriage, August 30th, 1843, Rev. W. D. Wilson, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Windsor, being the officiating clergyman. Mr. Evarts had in the meantime established a good law practice in New York. In every respect the marriage has been a most felicitous one; Mrs. Evarts having unbounded confidence in her husband's ability, as well as a pardonable pride in his achievements, has been content to let him do his own work in his own way, while she has had the entire management of household affairs. No sound from the domestic machinery has ever been allowed to distract his mind from graver matters. Each very wisely recognized the fitness of the other for his and her special line of work; consequently the combined results have been mutually satisfactory.

Since her marriage Mrs. Evarts' life has been so interwoven, her individuality so completely involved in that of her family, that it is almost impossible to speak of her apart from it. Mrs. Evarts' good health, even disposition, absence of nervousness under trying circumstances, have made her an inestimable help-

meet for an astute lawyer and active politician, as well as a judicious mother to their ten living children. Mr. Evarts' business has been in New York, where they have a winter home; but "Runnymede," a beautiful estate of twelve hundred acres, is at Windsor, where they spend their summers. Formerly Mrs. Evarts remained there the greater part of the year in order to keep her children in the country. She has always been very careful of her children's health, believing no expenditure of time and money too great to secure to them strong and healthy bodies. Like the women of her generation Mrs. Evarts is a good needle-woman. There was always so much to be done for actual use, as she assisted in cutting and making her older children's clothes, that she had time for but little fancy work.

The eldest son, Charles B., died last December. The eldest daughter, Hattie, wife of C. C. Beaman, Mr. Evarts' law partner, has a delightful summer home, "Blow-me-down Farm," about two miles from "Runnymede," and with her four children is almost a part of the Evarts household. Mary, the next daughter, has of late years relieved her mother from the management of their always large household, taking entire charge of servants and purchases. Minnie, the third daughter, is now Mrs. Weed, of New York, and has three children. Betty is married to Edward C. Perkins, of Boston, also a lawyer, and has four children, while Louise, wife of Dr. Scudder, of New York, has but one child. Allan E. is in New York; Prescott and Sherman are twins—the former is an Episcopal clergyman in New York and has two children, while Sherman is a lawyer and in partnership with his father. The youngest, William Maxwell, also a lawyer, has devoted himself to the interests of "Runnymede."

Mrs. Evarts very heartily enters into whatever interests her family, and her children always found her ready to supplement all their pastimes. If the private theatricals, which were so delightful to them, meant hard work for her in preparing the costumes, scenery, and the repast which invariably followed, the little folks never knew it, and both Mr. and Mrs. Evarts constituted a delighted and appreciative audience—finding something to commend in the work of each child. The family are all very fond of the opera and the theater, and are regular "first-nighters," though none are specially proficient in music, nor have ever sought histrionic honors since childhood days. The daughters all sing and play well; during their earlier years they had a governess,

and were given educations which fitted them for active, useful lives; the sons all graduated from Yale, and are well settled in life.

Mrs. Evarts always dresses in very quiet taste, sensibly and well, black, brown and gray being her favorite colors. Her gowns are well made in simple though prevailing styles. Her daughters have the same quiet tastes in dress. The "Mansion," as Mrs. Evarts' summer house is called, is the largest of the six houses on the estate, and is delightfully situated; screened from view by trees and shrubbery and surrounded by acres of beautiful gardens filled with Mrs. Evarts' favorite flowers, in which she takes great pride.

The yellow exterior of the "Mansion" is an introduction to the brightness within; sunlight, flowers, paintings, books and periodicals are adjuncts to this well-furnished house, but the home atmosphere is derived from the inmates themselves. During the summer all the children come to Windsor, and a grand family reunion is held. The family also entertain largely, many of their New York friends especially making long visits. During Henry Ward Beecher's life he and Mrs. Beecher used to spend weeks at a time at "Runnymede," Senator George F. Hoar, of Massachusetts, President Hayes and family, General W. T. Sherman and daughter, and President Harrison and suite have been among their distinguished guests. Mrs. Evarts possesses the secret of successful entertaining; the happy faculty of making her guests feel at home.

Since the accident to Mr. Evarts his wife has felt great solicitude for his health, and devotes herself most assiduously to his happiness and comfort, spending much time with him in conversation, reading aloud, driving or visiting some of their children domiciled near. They have traveled extensively both in this country and Europe, and have been much in Washington and New York society, but Mrs. Evarts finds her chief happiness in her home and family, and is happier in these than in her abundant worldly possessions. Mrs. Evarts does a great deal in a quiet way for the sick and unfortunate, her daughter assisting her in her work among the poor, and both taking special interest in the welfare of former servants. Mrs. Evarts is very much interested in the Episcopal church, and does much to support it and its charities. Her summers are spent very quietly at "Runnymede," gaining health and strength for the more wearing city life, and all social obligations are laid aside, only occasional informal calls on a few very old friends being paid. Unknown she may be as a leader in fashion or art, for her life work has been wholly domestic, and her sole aim and purpose to be a devoted, self-sacrificing wife and mother, receiving the loving homage of those who constitute woman's kingdom, her husband and children.



MRS. EVARTS

\* In this series of pen-portraits of "Unknown Wives of Well-Known Men," commenced in the January, 1891, JOURNAL, the following, each accompanied with portrait, have been printed:

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