

# A FOURTH OF JULY DINNER

By E. M. Lucas



LOWERS, red, white and blue, were lavishly employed in decorating the round dining-table which stood on the lawn under an improvised awning of red, white and blue. The table-cloth was of white, the centrepiece of crimson satin, upon which stood a blue bowl filled with red and white roses. At either end of the table were placed low, flat forms filled with dampened moss, banked slightly toward the centre. These were filled with even stripes of red, white and blue flowers to represent the American flag. The stripes were composed of roses, red and white, and larkspurs, blue, the variety known as "hyacinth flowered," which have long spikes of large double flowerets. The stems were cut short and thrust into the moss compactly. On the larkspurs the lower flowerets were cut away, only the rosette-shaped tips being utilized. The whole design was edged with ferns, which drooped in feathery fronds over the snowy cloth. Floral ropes of red and white roses and blue larkspurs twined with smilax ran from the centrepiece to the four corners of the table, and were held in place by small, flat baskets enamelled in clear red, the handles decorated with smartly-tied bows of blue ribbon, and filled with white roses and ferns. At either end of the central mass of bloom stood quaintly-shaped baskets heaped high with red and white cherries, the whole edged with fluffy masses of delicate blue ageratum and ferns.

BEFORE each guest was placed a little basket in white enamel, with bows of scarlet ribbon on the handles. These were filled with white and blue forget-me-nots and ferns.

The menu cards were large, and on the white surface were sketched in water-colors sprays of red, white and blue blossoms, encircled in dainty foliage of green. Some had red roses, white lilies and delicate forget-me-nots. On others were red, white and blue gloxinias, and others bore carnations in red, carnations in white, and blue centaureas.

Scarlet columbines and graceful bells of white and blue campanula were shown upon the guest cards, with a patriotic motto in letters of gold, such as :

"For aye must our motto stand fronting the sun,  
'E Pluribus Unum'—though many, we're one."

"Ne'er shall the sons of Columbia be slaves  
While the earth bears a plant or the sea rolls its waves."

"Long may our land be bright  
With Freedom's holy light."

"Day of glory! Welcome day!  
Freedom's banners greet thy ray."

"Own fair land—refinement's chosen seat,  
Art's trophied dwelling, learning's green retreat."

"To mark this day we gather round,  
And to our nation's founders raise  
The voice of gratitude and praise."

"Thou art the shelter of the Free,  
The home, the port of Liberty."

"Flag of the brave, thy folds shall fly  
The sign of hope and triumph high."

"Thy spirit, Independence, let me share,  
Lord of the lion heart and eagle eye."

"Long, long in hut and hall,  
May hearts of native proof be reared."

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land?"

"I do love  
My country's good with a respect more tender,  
More holy and profound than mine own life."

"What strong, mysterious links enchain the heart  
To regions where the morn of life was spent."

"Columbia, Columbia, to glory arise,  
The queen of the world, and the child of the skies."

With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,  
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us."

"All who the wreath of Freedom twine  
Beneath the shadow of their vine  
Are blessed."

"Hail, Heaven-born peace!  
Thy grateful blessings pour  
On this glad land, and  
Round the peopled shore"

"Soul-searching Freedom! here  
Assume thy stand,  
And radiate hence to every  
Distant land"

"May Peace, like the dove who  
Return'd from the flood,  
Find an ark of abode in our  
Mild constitution."

THE piazzas and trees were decorated with bunting, and from several windows hung the flags of our own country.

The edibles were served from side tables by white-capped maids, whose costumes consisted of blue skirts, red waists, white collars and cuffs and white aprons. The menu consisted of :

- Little-Neck Clams
- Brown Bread and Butter
- Clear Tomato Soup
- Croutons
- Lobster Cutlets
- Rasp Rolls
- Roast Lamb, Mint Sauce
- White Potatoes, Cream Dressing
- Green Peas
- Currant Jelly
- Lettuce, French Dressing
- Crackers
- Cheese
- Raspberry Cream
- Fancy Cakes
- Frozen Cherries
- Bonbons
- Black Coffee

The little fancy cakes were baked in the shape of stars and iced with red and white icing, and the bonbons were served in red, white and blue paper cases, all of which served to add brightness and suggestiveness to the occasion.

Should it be desired to give either a dinner or luncheon after the one described here, which was given last Fourth of July, the United States flag, with its additional star, might be used as a design for the corner of the invitation and of the menu card, both of which would then be of value as souvenirs of the change in the stars and stripes which goes into effect on Independence Day this year.