



HOME PARTIES AND CHURCH SOCIALS

A Page of Suggestions by Experienced Entertainers

A PATRIOTIC HOME AFFAIR

By Edith Lyndon

IT was not only Washington's Birthday that we were preparing to celebrate, but also sister Jean's, which fell upon the twenty-second day of February. We were determined to make this birthday party a very patriotic affair, and began by using our water-colors to such good effect that our invitations, with an American in the upper left-hand corner, holding the star-spangled banner, and bearing the wish that the recipients thereof would appear upon the evening of the day we celebrate in a costume made to represent one of the States or Territories, were quite unique. For ourselves we planned gowns of red, white and blue cheese-cloth, Jean wearing a liberty cap, thus personating Liberty, while I was to carry a pair of scales, thereby representing Justice. We decorated the house with all "sorts and conditions" of American flags, and in the most prominent place in the parlor hung a picture of the hero of the day, George Washington. When our guests appeared on the evening of the twenty-second we gave each one of them a small blank book with a cover of heavy water-color paper, upon which was painted our flag; to this was attached with the narrowest of tricolor ribbon a white programme pencil.

Our guests had certainly entered most heartily into the costume plan, for almost every State and Territory had its representative. Florida was represented by a striking brunette in a bright orange gown decked with garlands of artificial flowers, while a basket of oranges hung on her arm. A young man in full Highland costume came as Georgia, thus drawing upon the early history of the Colony. We quickly recognized a young girl in the palest of pink gowns hung over with artificial peaches as Delaware, while a young man displaying in large letters upon one shoulder, "Race-Track Law," and upon the other, "Republican Veto," was plainly New Jersey; Minnesota was there in the person of a youth dressed as a miller. Virginia, the State named in honor of the "Virgin Queen," was a young girl in full Elizabethan dress; Pennsylvania was represented by a sweet little Quakeress and a typical William Penn; a young lady adorned with every imaginable kind of modern small timepiece was Connecticut. Washington was with us in the person of a young man dressed as George Washington, while "Mother Massachusetts'" history was recalled by a most fascinating young lady dressed as a witch.

WE gave our guests half an hour in which to guess what States the various costumes represented, and to register their guesses in the little blank books. At the expiration of that time we found who had been most successful guessing, also who had been least, and awarded prizes accordingly. We next distributed numbered slips among the company, upon each of which was written the part we expected the recipient to take in the remainder of the evening's entertainment. We had prepared these slips with considerable thought. We heard that Miss W— played a pretty arrangement of "The Star-Spangled Banner," so we asked her to come prepared to play it, and her slip read, "No. 1—Piano Solo, 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'" Miss S— has obtained an enviable reputation as an elocutionist; in response to the request upon her slip she favored us with "Grandmother's Story of Bunker Hill Battle."

All of our guests, however, were not musical, nor were there many gifted elocutionists among them, so one company of nine or ten received slips requesting them to get up a charade bearing upon American history or life, while a somewhat larger company was asked to get up a tableau representing a scene in United States history.

The charade company made a pleasing bit of acting out of the word "American" (A-merry-can), giving us four acts in all, three for the syllables and one for a final representation of the whole word. It was left to the tableau company to give the most amusing part of the programme, a burlesque of "Paul Revere's Ride." "Paul Revere's" steed was a dilapidated hobby-horse, and Ned Wills, who personated "Paul Revere," rocked furiously to and fro; John Blank at suitable intervals put up placards reading, "Medford," "Lexington," and "Concord," and as the name of each historic town appeared a group rushed out armed with old swords, shovels, etc., ready to answer the rider's summons. Like all things our pleasant evening had to come to an end, "Paul Revere" having "spread the alarm."

A BUNDLE PARTY

By Clara J. Denton

ON returning from school one day I found a dainty little note awaiting me. It had arrived by private messenger. Upon the upper right-hand corner of the envelope, in the place usually occupied by the postage stamp, was a neat pen-and-ink sketch of a collection of bundles of various shapes and sizes. On removing the envelope I found the same unique device heading the sheet of heavy note-paper, while beneath it was the following neatly-written invitation:

Miss Ethel Rood presents her compliments to Miss Ella Mayburn and requests the pleasure of her company at a "Bundle Party" on Saturday afternoon, February Twenty-fourth, Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-four, 84 Washington Avenue.

I studied the pen-and-ink drawing carefully, but failed to gather from it any hints as to the nature of a "Bundle Party." So a great deal of curiosity was blended with my anticipation of a good time as I entered my friend's parlor on the designated afternoon. There I found many guests, but nothing at all in the shape of bundles. But very soon a portiere was drawn aside and our hostess led the way into the adjoining room, where, upon a large table, reposed packages of all shapes and sizes. On the wrapper of each was very distinctly marked a number. To each guest was then handed a slip of blank paper and a lead pencil. And then our hostess gave us the following explanation: "There are thirty bundles upon this table; each bundle is numbered. Each one of you may handle any or all of the bundles as long and as much as you please, provided that you do not open them nor tear the wrappers. When you have used your sense of touch to your entire satisfaction you must write down the name of the article that you think is in the bundle, and number your guess as the bundle is numbered. Should you find a package, on the contents of which you cannot decide definitely, put its number on your list and make a dash after it. When you have examined all the bundles and recorded your guesses I will open each package and hold the contents up to your view. You will then consult your lists, and those who have hit on the article will hold up their right hands, and I will mark opposite each girl's name the numbers that she guesses correctly. To the one whose name has the most numbers attached will be given a prize."

AS there were only fifteen guests and thirty bundles there was no lack of employment for our fingers, and more than an hour had elapsed before all the bundles had been examined and the guesses recorded. Then our hostess took up a bundle, announced its number, and after giving us time to examine our lists she opened the package and held its contents up to view. When she had credited the number to those who had raised their right hands she asked each unsuccessful guesser to read out the name of the article she had assigned to that particular number. She had opened first what she considered a very puzzling bundle. It was a peacock feather, and as only two of the girls had hit on the right article, while the other guesses were very wide of the mark, the reading of these not only made much amusement but gave the unsuccessful ones confidence to read their failures aloud.

It is possible to vary this "Bundle Party" by making of it an auction sale instead of a guessing contest, and this entertainment may prove quite as enjoyable as those already described. To do this it is necessary to appoint one of the elders of the company auctioneer, and it is well in doing this to select a person having a ready wit and who is an easy speaker. Provide the auctioneer with a mallet, and place on a wooden table in front of him an assortment of bundles and parcels of varying sizes and shapes. To each guest must be given, on arrival, a small bag, box or basket containing either fifty or one hundred beans. If there are many parcels and a limited number of guests it will be better to give each guest one hundred beans, as they will then have plenty of currency for their purchases. The only point to be especially observed is that each guest must receive the same number of beans, so that there may be no advantage given any individual. The auctioneer, after the guesses have been registered and before the parcels have been opened, will hold the packages up for bids from the assembled guests, the package in each case being awarded to the highest bidder. The opening of the parcels later will add greatly to the merriment and amusement of the guests, who will then discover how wise their bids have been.

A TEA AND TEST SOCIAL

By Mary Isaline Heath

SOMETHING novel for an evening's entertainment is a "Tea and Test Social," which may be held in a church parlor. The letter T or its sound is the keynote to the whole. Have prepared for each person a folded card with pencil attached. Written or printed on the folded cards is the Tea Test. Each "kind of tea" should have the corresponding number, with blank space for filling in the answer on the opposite side of the folder.

The Tea Test:

- 1 What our forefathers fought for. Liberty.
- 2 A total abstainer. The temperance cause.
- 3 A carpenter's instrument. Square.
- 4 "—, thy name is woman!" True.
- 5 The greatest thing in the world. Truth.
- 6 Forever and ever. Eternity, immortality.
- 7 Something new under the sun. Novelty.
- 8 The mother of invention. Necessity.
- 9 Faithful allegiance. Obedience.
- 10 The crown of woman. Beauty.
- 11 The best policy. Liberty.
- 12 "Sweet are the uses of —." Advancement.
- 13 The soul of wit. Truth.
- 14 The "Four Hundred." Society.
- 15 Mother Eve's failing. Integrity.
- 16 A witty retort.
- 17 To laugh. Humor.
- 18 The power of the age. Electricity.
- 19 Beauty's temptation. Vanity.
- 20 The religion of civilization. Christianity.

Allow twenty minutes for the test. Then at the tap of a bell let the participants exchange cards and check off the answers as they are read by the one in charge.

If any decorations are used they should be in green and white, suggesting the leaves and blossoms of the tea plant. The refreshments, which might be sold for a small sum, might properly consist of any edible commencing with T.

A BOOT AND SHOE CHURCH SALE

By Margaret Byerly

THIS entertainment is not as formidable as it sounds from its name, and it has the great merit of combining a bazaar on a small scale with some very practical and evident charity on the part of each attendant. Send out the notices of the sale on small brown cards cut in shape like a man's boot or a lady's slipper, announcing on each that "A Boot and Shoe Bazaar," admission by package only, will be held on Tuesday evening, March 17, in the parlors of the church. At the bottom put a note: "Guests are expected to bring for charitable donation an old pair of boots, shoes, gaiters or slippers. Such gifts will secure admission." Outside the entrance to the bazaar place two large boxes, into which the bundles of old shoes should be placed until they are afterward distributed to the poor. An official of the bazaar, dressed in the costume of a shoemaker with cap and leather apron, should stand at the door and charge a quarter admission to all those who are not provided with bundles.

Within the door there should be a counterfeit "old woman who lived in a shoe," who for five-cent donations should hand out small bundles containing shoe-laces, button-hooks, shoe-button cases, doll's shoes, shoe-shaped match-boxes, etc. There should be two counters, at one of which should be sold bedroom shoes and slippers, shoe bags and cases, knit leggings, evening rubber overshoes and gaiters, and fancy articles made in the shape of shoes or slippers. At the other, a notion counter, should be button-hooks, shoeing-horns, laces, mending-cases, packages of shoe buttons, needles and cottons, and bottles of shoe blacking and russet dressing.

A QUOTATION HUNT

By Polly Pemberton

UPON entering, by invitation, a friend's parlor one evening last June, I was puzzled by the sight of the numerous little slips of paper that seemed to be everywhere—pinned to curtain, chair, mantel lambrequin and cushions, over table and piano cover, on picture-frames and on bric-à-brac the little slips found lodgment. Presently the guests arrived, and our hostess informed us that on each slip was written one-quarter of a familiar quotation. We might pick up any slip we wished and proceed to find the rest of the quotation of which it formed a part. We were allowed to ask for parts of quotations, the one asked being obliged to hand over the slip asked for if he or she happened to have it. At a given signal we started and a lively time ensued, the object being to see who could match the greatest number of quotations. I first picked up a slip on which I read, "to see ourselves," I found "Oh! wad sae power" in the hands of one of the company. "The giftie gie us" had taken refuge in the corner of a white picture-frame, and "as ithers see us" was nestled comfortably in a fold of a portiere.

The prizes were appropriate, but inexpensive, the most elaborate one being a dainty booklet for the most successful searcher, while the member of the company who had been least successful received a pair of steel-rimmed spectacles, to which was attached a note expressing the hope that they would aid in future searches.