

[From the Baltimore Weekly Sun.]

## OLD MARYLAND WOMEN.

### Baltimore Society Eighty Years Ago.

BY COL. J. THOMAS SCHARF.

So few of the present generation realize the various changes which have come over this community during the past century that the writer feels tempted, in this paper, to try to give some idea of Baltimore society as it existed about eighty years ago, say from 1789 to 1790. Instead of a population of nearly 400,000, as at present, Baltimore numbered in 1790 13,500 inhabitants, or about one-thirtieth of its present citizenship. There were no railroads, no horse-cars, no omnibuses, no photographs, no sewing machines, no coal fires, coal stoves, nor furnaces, no anaesthetics, no police, and no Congress water. There was scarcely a house west of Liberty street, and but few north of Calvert and Saratoga streets, and Market, now called Baltimore street, as late as 1804, contained but 49 scattered warehouses, stores and dwellings. The fine residences were situated principally on Lovely lane, South, South Gay and Water streets, the latter afterwards widened, and now called Exchange Place. On these narrow and crooked streets were seated the elegance and refinement, and at the same time the home of the arts and sciences, and the paradise of fashion and frivolity of the third commercial city in the Union.

Here the large landed proprietors and wealthy merchants of Baltimore lived like feudal chiefs in the winter, their days given to politics and their nights to dancing, card parties and other pastimes, and in summer they took up their quarters on their estates in the neighborhood. Their palatial summer residences crowned the semi-circle of hills around the newly-corporated city, and were built of brick in the highest style of the English architecture of the day. They were rarely more than two stories high, and in most instances consisted simply of a central hall with wings stretching right and left, and showing a total frontage of from a hundred to a hundred and fifty feet. Unconnected with the main building, but clustering about it, were the store-houses and the offices for domestic purposes, and in the rear or on one side, screened by trees, but within easy distance, were the "quarters" for the negroes, and still a little farther off the stable, kennels, and other out-houses. Simply plain and massive externally, and with an air of solid comfort about them, the interior finish of these mansions was remarkable for thoroughness and elaboration, large sums of money being lavished on the carved mantels, cornices and moldings, and on the broad, heavy, ballustraded stair cases. The rooms were all wainscoted: the floors beautifully white, but rarely carpeted. The pictures on the walls were few, and these for the most part family portraits. The furniture of these fashionable dwellings was often imported from England, particularly the finest clocks, many of which yet remain in proof of the excellence of the manufacture; leather beds were used, and bed clothing was commonly quilted and worked with beautiful designs; artists were liberally patronized in the adornment of dwellings, chinaware and porcelain were in common use, and the remnants of the tableware that have been preserved show a refined taste in the choice of such articles. Jewelry of great value was displayed by the wealthy on grand occasions, and costly silverplate was frequently to be found.

A Maryland gentleman of the olden time, seated on a d-d-cain that spread over thousands of acres, and living in what was very like a baronial estate, and educated perhaps in Europe, polished in manners, hospitable, generous, cordial and manly, was a noble specimen of man. He is described as wearing his hair or a wig powdered and tied in a long queue; a platted white stock, a shirt ruffled at the bosom and over the hands, and fastened at the wrist with gold silver-buttons, a peach-blossom coat with white buttons, lined with white silk, and standing off at the skirts with buckram; a figured silk vest, divided so that the pockets extended over the thighs; black silk or satin small-clothes, with large gold or silver knee-buckles; cotton or silk stockings; large shoes with short quarters, and buckles to match.

The ladies of Baltimore were already distinguished for those attractions which have been celebrated so much and so justly in more recent times. For beauty, grace and intelligence they cannot be surpassed, and at the time of which we are writing their costumes followed the country from which they obtained the rich material for their dresses—silks and satins and broadsides. They were gorgeous brocade and taffeta, luxuriantly displayed and girdled under the armpits with ornately laced bolos, and sleeves that clung to the arm as far as the elbow, and then expanded into prodigious ruffles. The hair was powdered, pomaded and puffed; their collars were low in the neck, and a kerchief, silky and white, was folded over the bosom, and tucked within the armor of the unending high-peaked stays; their high-heeled shoes were satin, and beneath their petticoats, like little mice, crept in and out, for they took the daintiest of little mincing steps, and put on a multitude of coquettish airs.

Pre-eminent at this period in point of elegance was the princely estate of "Belvidere" or "Howard's Park." The front of the mansion faced the northwest, the colonnade in the rear looked to the southeast, but in all directions the view of park scenery opened to the eye. Uniting the triumphs of the patriot soldier to a princely fortune, Col. Howard was most happy in his domestic relations. His wife, Margaret Chew, was the daughter of Hon. Benjamin Chew, a man of loyalist proclivities during the revolution, and was married at his fine mansion, at Germantown, Pa., during the sittings of the federal constitutional convention. Mrs. Howard and her sister, who married Charles Carroll, a son of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, were celebrated for loveliness, elegance and refinement, and were great favorites of Gen. Washington, who was present at Mrs. Howard's wedding. It is an interesting fact, and one by no means generally known, that the most friendly relations existed between Mrs. Howard, during her maiden days, and the celebrated Major John Andre, adjutant-general of the British army, and the lamented victim of Arnold's treason. Major Andre visited her father's house on terms of the most cordial intimacy, and he wrote for her a full account of the "Mechlanza," or the celebrated tournament and festival which the British officers in Philadelphia planned and consummated for the amusement of their fair admirers. This description of the wedding, entirely in Major Andre's own handwriting, is now in possession of the family.

Col. Howard's style of living was princely, his equipage a la postillion, with his neat jockey cap and jacket, had a fine effect as it came towards the mansion along a beautiful winding road overhung with majestic oaks. His park, one of the most beautiful in this country, had not the contracted look of those of England; it was large, extending over acres as far as the eye could run. Nor did he keep it exclusively to himself; it belonged to the people; it was the resort of all, from the fashionable exquisite to the honest mechanic. In one portion of the grounds you could see the slow walk of lovers; elsewhere, perhaps, a group of romping children, the old and infirm; the invalid catching a few breaths of fresh air—all enjoyed Howard's Park. An old citizen told the writer a short time since that at the corner of Howard and Baltimore streets, in his day, "these squares were all fields. It was a common custom, as children, a number going together, to shorten our road by crossing diagonally squares that are now covered with fine houses, and many were the times we chased up the lazy cows on what was then a common, from Howard to Liberty street, and have seen the boys with their little wagons gathering mushrooms to furnish themselves with pocket money."

Before his death Col. Howard appropriated a lot bounded by Eutaw, Park and German streets and Cowpens alley, for the use of the State, provided the seat of government was removed to Baltimore. He laid another square, bounded by Lexington, Eutaw, Park and Fayette streets, which he presented to Judge Samuel Chase. It was then a forest; large oaks were cut down to make way for improvements. The Judge erected an elegant dwelling near the corner of Eutaw street, opposite the site of the present Lexington market, which was occupied by his aged widow until a recent day. In this elegant establishment the venerable old Judge was often seen in his oriental wrapper, sometimes in his English phaeton, with cocked hat, red cloak, knee breeches and diamond-buckles. "Agreed, says Chase," was the frequent expression of the boys of the day, and to show the election spirit of the time Commodore Barney in the height of excitement once threatened to jump down Judge Chase's throat. The particular friends of Judge Chase were John E. Howard, of "Belvidere," Dr. James McHenry, whose splendid estate is now owned by the Messrs. Winans, at the corner of Baltimore and Fremont streets, Col. Nicholas Rogers, of "Druid Hill," and Henry Dorsey Gough, of "Perry Hall."

Col. Nicholas Rogers, during the war of the revolution, was appointed an aid to Gen. DuRoi, and afterwards an aid to Gen. De Kalb. He furnished the designs for the old Baltimore Assembly Rooms, which stood at the northeast corner of Fayette and Holliday streets, and also the design for the old city jail. He resided on the southwest corner of Light and Baltimore streets. His dwelling stood back from the street with a neat lawn in front, and the spinnet in his drawing-room formed a prominent and admired article of furniture. About the year 1800 Col. Rogers retired to Druid Hill, where he died at an advanced age. He was a very courtly, polished gentleman, drove his carriage, and lived in the best style of the times, the esteemed friend of Washington and Lafayette. He left many evidences of his taste as a gentleman and a scholar. Druid Hill was among the few estates that continued in the possession of the descendants, Col. Rogers's only son residing there until after its purchase by Baltimore city, or a public park. His first wife was of the Curtis family, his last was a granddaughter of President Monroe, daughter of the celebrated George Hay. Her mother was educated in France, at the school of the famous Madame Campan, during the period when her father represented this country at the court of St. Cloud. At this school an intimacy with Hortense Beauharnais (Napoleon's step-daughter, who afterwards married his brother Louis and became Queen of Holland and mother of Louis Napoleon) sprang up, which lasted through life. Mrs. Rogers's daughter was called after her early friend, Hortense, and as the Queen frequently sent to her young namesake tokens of her regard, an anecdote is related of Miss Monroe, which showed at an early age her independ-

ence of character. At the English court, Miss Monroe, on being presented to her Majesty, was offered the royal hand to kiss, a favor generally highly esteemed. Miss Monroe hesitated, whereupon the lord-in-waiting said, "The Queen extends her hand." Miss Monroe, with all the dignity of an American lady, replied, "My lord, I am not a subject!" Her Majesty smiled, and Miss Monroe became a favorite.

Henry Dorsey Gough, then the wealthiest merchant of Baltimore, resided in a large yellow frame house on Mercer street, near Calvert, on the banks of Jones's falls. He afterwards became the proprietor of "Perry Hall," out Gay street, in the northeastern section of the city. He was an exemplary member of the Methodist Church, and was much beloved. His residence was much visited by the aristocracy of that day, and in all his luxury he did not forget to assemble his family daily in the private chapel to return gratitude to God for His beneficence and the many sources of happiness they derived from it. He particularly delighted to do honor to the ministers of his church, and was very liberal to the poor. He married Prudence Carman, sister of Charles Carman, who changed his name to Charles Carman Ridgely to inherit the immense estate of Capt. Charles Ridgely, of Hampton, a bachelor. Henry Dorsey Gough had one daughter, a celebrated belle, and a remarkably lovely woman. She married James McCubbin Carroll, who had removed to Baltimore from Annapolis, and took the name of Carroll to inherit the estate of Charles Carroll, barrister, of Mount Clara, who had married the daughter of Matthew Tligham, of Talbot county. Mount Clara House was erected in 1754, and is still a graphic monument of the past, notwithstanding it has been converted into a lager beer saloon and garden. In that day it was scrupulously aristocratic and magnificent in its appointments. One may fancy the Tully Veolan of Waverley, in its amplitude and grave dignity of exterior, with the old lions carved in stone that stood rampant on the pillars of the gateway, reminding us of the Baron of Bradwardine's favorite bears. It is but a few years since these disappeared, and with it the fine old terrace which overlooked the town.

The family of the Moales have always been among the aristocracy of the town. John Moale the elder married the daughter of Captain North, who commanded the ship Content, and visited the Patagonas as early as 1723. The homestead of John Moale stood in the rear of old St. Peter's Church, which was lately torn down, at the corner of Sharp and German streets. It had a broad, old-fashioned piazza, looking out on a beautiful garden, extending to Hanover street and the basin. Often Mr. Moale bathed in the refreshing waters of the latter, which extended up to this garden, and his bathing place was overshadowed by the wide-spreading oak, the air redolent with a thousand sweets. He entertained in the most lavish style, and his old-fashioned welcome rendered his house the home of hospitality.

Another of the old nobility was Daniel Bowley. He owned the beautiful estate called Ferley. He was a hospitable man, jovial companion and a bon vivant; he was one of the heirs of the great Lux estate. One of his daughters married Wm. Hollins, called "Spanish William," who built the mansion at Chateaufort, afterwards occupied by Mr. Dawson, the British consul, then by Jeremiah Hoffman, and later the residence and owned by Daniel H. Banks.

Speaking of marriageable daughters, Elizabeth Carroll, the eldest daughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was the most elegant woman of her day. Her fascination of manner won all hearts, and Washington in particular was extremely partial to her. She was the reigning belle at Annapolis, and Washington often visited her in his post-chaise with four horses, accompanied by Miss Custis and his retinue of servants. Judging from his account books he used to go to the Annapolis races in a grand way, and while there used to spend his money like a "gentleman." He was a constant contributor, too, to the famous Annapolis "clubs," of which there were a great many. He bet on the horses and bet on cards. He went to the theatre and took his friends with him, and he apparently enjoyed himself to the full. The following is a transcript of his account of expenses at the Annapolis races in 1762: "Travelling expenses £1 10s. 11d.; servants in trip, 17s.; sundry tickets to the play there, £1; sundry tickets to the ball there, 12s.; two boxes of claret, £25 in Maryland currency, £20 16s.; horse, £20 in Maryland currency, £16; charity, £2 3s.; cash lost on the races, £1 6s.; cash paid for a hat for Miss Custis, £4 4s.; cash to Miss Custis at Annapolis, £2 14s."

This was an extraordinary large amount of money for Washington to spend, even after he had deducted "£15 won at cards." The next year the races took place two weeks earlier, and Washington was promptly on hand with his retinue of servants and with money to spend, though with not so large an amount as he scattered about the year before. His account this year stood: "For travelling expenses, £4 16s. 11d.; sundry play tickets, £5 16s.; ticket to the ball, 6s.; cards and racing, £3 16s.; servants, £1 13s. 3d."

He was probably restrained by the presence of young Mr. Custis, who made his first appearance at the races, and whose expenses amounted to £3, not itemized.

Miss Carroll finally married, in November, 1766, Richard Caton, an English gentleman, who came to this country the year before. He was considered at this time a poor young man, and her father opposed the match. When he found all his arguments in vain, he called in the assistance of his friend Thomas Ockey Deye. At the earnest entreaty of Mr. Carroll, Mr. Deye conversed with the daughter, but found her mind was not to be changed. Mr. Deye informed Mr. Carroll, when he resorted to the last extremity, "Oh, she will ha, and ask her if he gets into jail who will take him out." The friend delivered his message, when she raised her beautiful hands, and with countenance filled with all that is lovely in woman, exclaimed, "These hands shall take him out." On hearing this her noble father hesitated no longer; they were married, and he gave them a princely fortune. Catharine Carroll, the second daughter of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, married, about the year 1802, the distinguished lawyer and statesman, General Robert Goodloe Harper, of South Carolina. Mr. Carroll having purchased the splendid house built by Hugh Young, in South Gay street, presented it to his daughter, with an income sufficient to keep up the elegance of their establishment. It was the first house in Baltimore where the drawing rooms were thrown open once a week, for the reception of their friends. At these brilliant soirees congregated all the beauty and fashion of the city. Gen. Harper was an eminent statesman, politician and orator, and his office was always filled with students of law. Three children survived him, Charles, who married Miss Chafelle, of South Carolina, Robert, who died on board of one of the packets returning from Europe, and Emily, who inherited all her father's benevolence.

Charles Carroll, the only son of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, married Harriet, the beautiful daughter of Benjamin Chew, of Germantown, Pa., whose other daughter had married Col. John E. Howard, of Belvidere. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, built for his son "Homewood," on what is now Charles-street avenue, and his son lived there until his death. Charles, his only son, who married Mary Digges Lee, a grand-daughter of Hon. Thomas Sim Lee, the second Governor of Maryland, inherited Doughoregan Manor, so called by Charles Carroll of Carrollton's grandfather after an estate of the same name in Ireland, which he lost by confiscation. Charles Carroll, of Doughoregan Manor, was the father of Hon. John Lee Carroll, the present Governor of Maryland; Mary Carroll, who married Richard H. Bayard, of Delaware; Louisa Carroll, who married Dr. Jackson, an American representative at a foreign court; Harriet Carroll, who married Hon. John Lee, late State Senator from Carroll county, and Elizabeth Carroll, who married Dr. Richard Tucker.

Richard Caton had three daughters who were handsome, witty and accomplished. The eldest, Marianne, married Sir Robert Patterson, whose only sister, the late Elizabeth Patterson, married Jerome Bonaparte, afterwards King of Westphalia. The marriage ceremony was performed in the chapel in Charles Carroll of Carrollton's house, at Annapolis, and was attended by all the elite of the city. The bride was attended by three of the then distinguished belles of the city as bridesmaids, and the entertainment on this occasion has never been surpassed in Maryland. Mrs. Patterson traveled in Europe with her husband, where she attracted the attention of Sir Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington, who followed her over half the continent, and by his unguarded devotion caused not a little scandal. Mrs. Patterson and her husband returned to Maryland, and her admirer for many months wrote a minute diary of what occurred in the gay world abroad, which he transmitted in letters by every packet for the United States. When she became a widow she revisited England with her two younger sisters, the Misses Caton, but the future hero of Waterloo was now himself married, and therefore unable to offer his hand; he, however, introduced his younger brother, Col. Rich. Wellesley. In a short time she became the wife of Richard, second Earl of Mornington, Marquis of Wellesley, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Governor-General of India. She died at Hampton Court, on the 17th of December, 1833. Her sister, Elizabeth Caton, married in 1803, George William, Baron Stafford. Her daughter Emily married Mr. McTavish, for a long time the British consul in Baltimore, and father of Charles Carroll McTavish, a member of Parliament from Dundalk, and Miss McTavish, who married the Hon. Henry Howard, son of the Earl of Carlisle. The third daughter of Mr. Caton, Louisa Katherine, married first Sir Trilston Bathurst Hervey, Baronet, and subsequently, in 1828, Francis Gasparin D'Arcy, seventh Duke of Leeds. These three sisters, by their attractive grace and winning manners, were the belles of English society as well as of that of Maryland.