

The American Women at Home.

THE "At Home" held at the Hotel Cecil on the evening of Monday last, and organized in aid of the *Maine*, by the Society of American Women in London, was a magnificent success, and was attended by at least fifteen hundred guests, who were received by Mrs. Hugh Reid Griffin, the President of the Society, supported by Baroness van Horst, Mrs. Arthur Fay, other members of the Committee, and Lady Randolph Churchill.

The Grand and Victoria Halls were thrown open, exquisitely decorated with flowers and flags, and a most picturesque and brilliant gathering assembled to listen to fine music and recitations, and to enjoy a succession of beautiful tableaux arranged by Mr. Ben Greet.

The Programme, designed by Mr. Carl Hentschel, was charmingly appropriate. In the centre is a wide Red Cross, on which the *Maine* stands out in tone. The figures of America and Britannia clasp hands over the Cross, the one, with face hidden by her hand, grieving for her wounded children, the other a very sweet looking daughter of the New World, expressive of helpful sympathy. These programmes will not be lightly cast away.

To be seen were the American Ambassador and Mrs. Choate, the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Earl and Countess of Essex, Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain, Sir Arthur Sullivan, and a host of celebrities in the worlds of Professions, Art and Letters, all in the happiest of moods, in aiding the popular American War Fund, and evidently much "enthused" by the strains of the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "God save the Queen," admirably rendered by Mrs. Hunt's Ladies' Orchestra.

The arrangements of the Tableaux were very novel, a great vocal or dramatic artist stepped before the curtain, and either sang or spoke the description of the lovely pictures presented. Of course, the two most popular tableaux were "The Absent-minded Beggar," recited most forcibly by Mr. Franklin McLeay, and the final picture, in which the medical and nursing staffs of the *Maine* appeared, together with Mrs. Reid Griffin and Lady Randolph Churchill—"lovely ladies" exquisitely posed, wearing, in contrast to the nurses' white, black glistening gowns, relieved by bouquets of delicate mauve orchids. This picture was warmly applauded, and was called for again and again.

And then I must not omit to mention that a first-rate supper was part of this delightful fête, tables being in great request, in the Richelieu and Medici rooms, in which sweet music gave wings to time. People had made up cheery parties round gay little tables, and at one Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Mower (the latter being Chairman of the Reception Committee) had as their guests Miss Hibbard and the Nursing Sisters of the *Maine*, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, and Miss Margaret Breay, and a very animated circle they made. Indeed, the Nurses aroused the greatest interest amongst their neighbours, many compatriots gracefully toasting them from afar.

When some one said "It is long past one o'clock," the guests made unwilling movement towards the door; indeed, so enjoyable a time passed all too soon, and nothing but congratulations were heard on all sides, concerning the perfection of the arrangements, and the unalloyed enjoyment of the Society of American Women in London. I hear fifteen hundred tickets were sold, so a nice little sum will be placed to the credit of the *Maine*, which leaves our shores in ten days' time. All success to her mission of mercy!

"ONE WHO LOOKED ON."

Letter from Holland.

The Hague, Nov. 29th, 1899.

By the special request of Dr. Koster, the leader of the second expedition of the Dutch Red Cross to the battle-fields of South Africa, all manifestations have been avoided at the departure of the members of this ambulance when leaving the Hague. In the early morning of Saturday, November 25th, there were, however, a great number of persons on the platform of the Dutch railway-station in the residence—relations of the departing Sisters, some members of the Men's and Women's Committee of the Red Cross, and many others, all assembled there to take leave of the nurses, who were to join the ambulance at Amsterdam, on board the *Hersog*, the steamer of the East-African Line, which will convey this second expedition to its destination.

A beautiful bouquet was offered to each of the Sisters.

When the train started, at seven o'clock, a last and most cordial farewell was paid to Miss Slot the Matron, and the other nurses.

Her Majesty the Queen Mother has sent the following telegram to Miss Slot:—

"Wishing most fervently to give proof of my warm and sincere sympathy at the departure

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