

## ADELICIA CONDUCTS A TOUR OF BELMONT MANSION, 1881

An account from a correspondent of the  
*Louisville Courier-Journal*

... Mrs. Cheatham receives guests with that charming ease and grace of manner which has ever been one of her chief characteristics. The years have sat lightly upon her, and one would hardly imagine in looking at her that as late as a quarter of a century ago she was one of the foremost leaders of Southern fashion and society. As she escorted me through the spacious and elegant apartments, I was struck with enthusiasm she evinced in pointing out the merits of some rare painting or piece of statuary. I ceased to remember that I was in a private residence, but thought myself in some grand art gallery. If the reader will follow me through the house, I will tell in detail all my eyes feasted on. In the

### FRONT HALL

was a life-size statue of "Ruth," by Randolph Rogers, and a life-size portrait of Col. J. A. S. Acklen, the second husband of Mrs. Cheatham; life-size portrait of Mrs. W. A. Cheatham, by Bush, of Kentucky; statue, "The Sleeping Children," by W. H. Rinehart (sic); Statuette, "Venus Stepping into her Bath," by \_\_\_\_\_; statue, "Sleeping Cupid," with bow unstrung sleeping on a bundle of his arrows; statuette, by St. John, "Atlanta Adjusting Her Robe." The original is in the Louvre, and it is said to be the most beautiful draped statue known.

### TETE-A-TETE ROOM.

Paintings: "The Italian Peasant Girl" (original), by Riedel, in Rome, 1867. The peasant girl having charge of her infant sister, has found a shady nook from the heat of the summer sun, and has there fallen asleep. The mother in the meantime... has grown anxious, and is seen coming in the distance through a vista of the forest. The exquisite management of light and shade in the picture, the rays of sunlight falling through the leaves, the perfect expression of repose upon the face of the sleeping girl, imparts to this picture a fascinating interest. Painting: "Iris." An almost nude figure rising from the river, transparent drapery, her form carved as the sunbow, whose tints are perceptible even in her long, waving blonde hair. Portrait of Miss Pauline Acklen, the only daughter of Mrs. Cheatham. The portrait was painted by W. Cooper, a venerable artist of Nashville. "Holy Family," painted after Murillo, very old. Painting: Guido painting the portrait of Beatrice Cenci; scene in her cell. "Turk's Head," a painting after Rembrandt. Head of "Beatrice Cenci," copied from the original in the Barberini Palace.

### CENTRAL PARLOR.

Family portrait, by Robt. Gschwindt, 1857. Paintings—The Twins; their resurrection; size, 5 x 7, by the same painter. "Neapolitan Fisherman;" seated near his skiff playing on a guitar, his wife and daughter sitting near the blue waters of the bay, the dim mountains beyond, the expression of maternal tenderness on the mother's face while her daughter clings to her, with olive complexion, black hair and eyes; the fine coloring, the anatomical knowledge displayed in this picture—the indolent, happy life shown by accessories. Statue—*Sans Souci*, life size, by C. B. Ives; perfect abandon of a child.

### THE LIBRARY.

Statue: Rebecca at the Well, by C. B. Ives, Rome, 1866. Painting: Child's Dream. Excited great admiration when completed in New Orleans. Subject: Child is dreaming; an angel, with a hand in hers, is beckoning her toward Heaven with other hand; the child contrast in appearance with angel; latter ethereal, bland expression of perfect bliss on the angel's face; former, dark hair and eyes, startled yet pleased expression.

Two Scenes in Southern Italy. Ruined temples; pressing the grapes; the flora and fauna are in accord; the glowing sunsets so often observed.

### DINING ROOM.

Paintings: View of the Upper Cumberland (river); Sunset on the Sea Shore.

### GRAND SALON.

Venetian Views by Canaletti: 1. Ducal Palace; 2. Grand Canal; 3. The Rialto; 4. Church of the Frari; 5. Church of the Salute. Marriage of Jacob and Rachel; painted in the Seventeenth century; contains the figures of Laban, his wife, of Leah, Rachel and the pipers. Statue, bronze Sea Nymph, life size. Busts in marble, above life-size, of Antoninus Pius, Emperor Hadrian, Cicero and Demosthenes; the originals are in the Vatican. Painting, Vulcan and Venus. Painting, Scene in the Highlands of Scotland. Painting, Inquisition in Spain.

### BED-ROOMS.

Guido's Holy Family, copy, life-size. Cumean Sibyl copy, life size. The Great Eastern in New York Harbor. Bacchante, bronze, by Devaulx, 1846. Battle of Monmouth—the moment of victory. Weeping Magdalene. Napoleon I. Raphael's Holy Family, copy.

### WINTER DRAWING-ROOM.

The Game of Draughts, by a painter of the Dutch school. Hager in the Wilderness. Marriage of St. Catherine. Lago di Como, Lago Maggiore. Falls of Tivoli.

### HEAD OF STAIRWAY.

Queen Victoria in her Coronation Robes, by Thomas Sully, size four and a half feet by seven. In a niche on the stairway is the bust of Oliver B. Hayes (father of Mrs. Cheatham).

### SECOND STORY.

Marius Among the Ruins of Carthage. Agriculture. Portraits—Christopher Columbus, Americus Vespucci. Engravings: "Mercy's Dream," "Arco Della Pace," "Duomo Di Milano," "Village Blacksmith," "The Play-ground," "Shakespeare and His Friends," "Irving and His Friends."

In the center of the grand salon stands "The Peri," the *chef-de-oeuvre* of Mozart (sic). This statue is about the height of the "Venus de Medici," perfectly nude, with wings. In her left hand she holds one of "the starry bowls."

"That lie upon the lucid lake  
Upon whose bank admitted souls  
Their first sweet draught of glory take,"

She seems to be the embodiment of one of those beautiful creatures of Tom Moore, with the attributes of an angel, yet human. In her right hand shines the crystal tears of the penitent sinner, and she exclaims as she confidently presents at the eternal gate those gifts most dear to angel eyes:

"Joy, joy forever; my task is done;  
The gates are passed and heaven is won."

I also noticed several crayon and watercolor sketches by Miss Pauline Acklen which exhibited much talent.

I have told you about all there is to tell of this palace of the beautiful, and I am certain it will interest your thousands of readers in the Sunny South.

O. O. S.

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