

"Unique Fiftieth Anniversary

Fifty "maiden" friends of Miss Susanna A. Winn have for several weeks been looking forward to the celebration of her fiftieth birthday, to which they each had received a specially worded invitation to an "old maid's party," written on an attractive note sheet bearing a fine engraving of the Winn homestead on Summer Street, where the affair was to be held, the year of her birth and celebration, as well as a private seal, a saw, which curiously constitutes the initials of her name, and which is always seen on the productions from her brush. the anniversary came on Sunday, Sept. 28th, and so naturally was celebrated on that day. The guests included not only Arlington friends, but others from Winchester, Boston, Waverly, Cambridge, Belmont, Bristol, R.I., Griggsville, Allston, Salem, Lexington, Brockton, Reading, Medford, and Holbrook. The invitations read from one o'clock to eight, p.m., and although the day dawned far from propitious, by noon the sun had come out and the usual good luck of the hostess prevailed the remainder of the day, which naturally added to the pleasure, as a part of the entertainment was planned to be held in a large tent erected at one side of the house. Although the invitation read "no presents", most of the guests evidently skipped that part in the reading and besides many handsome and useful gifts, to the house was made fragrant by bouquets of choice roses in clusters of fifty, which came not only from the bidden guests but many from the unbidden, who were not even permitted to look upon the happy company, who were proud of the title and not ashamed to be called the old maids.

Surely the nine pairs of sisters looked extremely happy, and the twins from Cambridge, artists on the piano, cello, guitar and mandolin, as well as sweet singers, must have thanked their lucky stars many times that they had clung to single blessedness and thus been permitted to be present and disperse their sweet music to such an appreciative gathering, for surely their contributions added greatly to the affair. Many are aware the Winn homestead contains many valuable relics, but the guests were unprepared to witness the fine display attractively arranged in one of the rooms which was given up wholly to the exhibit. Some of the more valuable articles were placed in a large show case, the rare old china being one of the important features, while many of the articles were worn by Miss Winn and her sisters and their parents. Besides these articles there was shown the playthings preserved by the family for many years back. The room also contained many paintings from the brush of Miss Winn.

The hostess received informally and her guests were given the privileges of the house and to inspect the fine collection of curios that would do honor to any museum. A guest book was provided, in which each inscribed her name.

The tent referred to was for the serving of the elaborate supper provided by Miss Jones of Cambridge, assisted by her full corps of old maid waiters, and it was complete in every particular from the salads, coquettes and cold meats, down to the ices and creams. Miss Winn escorted Miss Simmons, the oldest guest present and her first Sunday school teacher, to the table, the rest following to the delightful music provided by the twins. The tent and tables were lavishly decorated with flowers and were lighted by innumerable red and white incandescent electric lights. Here good cheer and mirth abound, which found vent in the witty poems and original song composed and given by some of the guests. There were four poems, one, however, being contributed by a bachelor friend.

All good things have to end and so it was with this company, but before the good-nights were said, all joined hands around the table and sang those good old songs, Old Lang Syne, American and Nearer, my God, to Thee. It was not strange Summer street had quite an attraction for pedestrians and especially the sterner sex, who of course, just by chance happened by, and although some of our dignified

ministers of the Gospel were in the train, only one dared to penetrate beyond the borders of the stone wall, and he only accomplished the daring feat by means of strategy. A picture of the group was taken and it is safe they would bring a high premium if the members of the old maids party would be willing to share what will no doubt be one of their choicest treasures and souvenirs of a most successful anniversary.

Miss Winn was attired in a handsome toilette of black velvet, which was exceedingly becoming to her. The edge of the bodice, which outlined the shoulders, and the sleeves, were trimmed with ruffles of embroidered black chiffon, while some exquisite white point-venise lace, combined with embroidered white chiffon, further ornamented the bodice. It will perhaps not be out of place to say that this article was written by a "maiden lady," and those who were present will no doubt be glad to have the following poem, which was one of those read and which we are privileged to print as follows: -

A maiden just fifty years young,
Whose praises have often been sung
 Had a famous birthday
 In September, -not May,
Which on history's walls will be hung

For fifty old maids were invited,
Not one of whose lives had been blighted
 By the terrible male,
 Whose sins we bewail
For the many fond hearts he had slighted

All their offers "we" treat with disdain,
For what is "man's" loss, is our gain.
 We've thrown them all over
 And are living in clover,
And thus we intend to remain.

We've no time for idle repining,
And no love-sick thoughts about "twining;"

For the ivy and oak
Is a chestnutty joke,
And our clouds have a silvery lining.

So here's to each happy old maid!
Drink bumpers of pink lemonade.

We know we are "It,"
And such beauty and wit
Can never be put in the shade!"