

MOST MAGNIFICENT HOME IN AMERICA

Clarence Mackay's Present to His Wife Will Cost Five Million Dollars—Bath Tub Cost \$17,000.

On the highest point of Long Island one of the most magnificent mansions on this continent has just been completed, and is now in the possession of its owner, Mrs. Clarence Mackay.

For over two years an army of workmen has been employed on the building and the grounds; agents have searched the corners of the earth for art gems and interior decorations; nothing has been spared that taste could suggest or wealth procure.

Some idea of the way money has been spent in this magnificent residence may be gathered when it is stated that the bath of the beautiful mistress of "Harbor Hill" cost no less than \$17,000. Cleopatra boasted no such bath. It was made in Italy and is cut from a solid piece of marble.

The bathroom in which this treasure is placed is twenty feet square, and the

bath proper is sunk in the floor, the bather descending into the water by means of five steps cut in the marble. The water is not turned on from a common faucet, as with ordinary baths, but spouts from the mouths of marble dolphins. This expensive bath was imported from Italy, where skilled craftsmen shaped it after a design furnished by Mrs. Mackay.

The house itself, which, including the 700 acres of land which forms the park, is valued at \$5,000,000, is built in the style of Louis XIV. After a drive of just one mile from the lodge gate by way of a road which, to suit the plans of the landscape gardener, has been made picturesque by the changing of the scenery, regardless of expense and labor, the house is reached.

The drive ends in a splendid avenue sweeping up to the house from a terrace whose outlook is toward the Atlantic, which can be plainly seen on fine days.

Wide steps lead to the main entrance,

and the opening of the great doors reveals what seems at first sight to be an immense hallway. It runs the entire width of the mansion and is in reality the ballroom. To the left a great staircase of English oak leads to the southwest wing, while passages to the right terminate in the dining rooms, the billiard rooms and Mr. Mackay's rooms.

Mrs. Mackay's suite of rooms, in which is included the wonderful bathroom described above, are splendidly done in French mahogany, with wide panels of lavender silk; the handles of the doors are of cut glass, and the decorations are the work of high-priced artists. In the three rooms reserved especially for baby Mackay and her nurses, the trimmings and fittings of the French windows are all of solid silver.

All the rooms of Harbor Hill are large and lofty, with the exception of the servant's bedrooms, twenty-seven in number, which are very small, just large enough in fact, for one servant in each. Mrs. Mackay has shown her good judgment in thus allowing servants individual bedrooms. However small the rooms, the servants rejoice over the possession of a few feet of floor space that they can call their own.

The kitchen is arranged on a scale seldom attempted outside a large hotel. In fact, Mrs. Mackay, who has personally superintended the building of the house, has had the culinary department rearranged several times, regardless of the expense of demolishing costly work.

In the hall room, referred to as the first room seen on entering through the

large doors, there are four great marble columns. It was intended to have these columns cut from single pieces of marble, but it proved impossible to get columns of such size in a single piece. They were therefore made in sections and shipped to Harbor Hill to be put together.

MRS. MACKAY HARD TO PLEASE.

When the house was almost finished and the hardwood floor of the ball room was receiving its finishing touches, Mrs. Mackay took a dislike to the marble columns, on the ground that they did not harmonize in color with the woodwork of the room. She promptly ordered that they be torn down and others of a different shade substituted.

This meant the tearing up of the hardwood floors, the loss of much hard work, as well as the additional expense of purchasing and shipping new marble pillars to Harbor Hill. But Mrs. Mackay winned it, and there was no questioning her wish, for Harbor Hill was to be nothing short of perfection.

The house proper is 338 feet long from east to west and 160 feet wide from north to south. The view is magnificent from all sides. In one direction the waters of Long Island sound can be seen through a vista of trees; in another the broad Atlantic is visible; New York is a termination of the view on a third side, and the wooded slopes of Long Island the attraction on the fourth.

The foundation was laid two years ago, the highest point on Long Island being selected for the site. It will be at least a year before the grounds are

finished, notwithstanding the fact that over 100 men have for months been employed daily in changing the landscape, removing trees that obstructed the view, planting others that beautified it, digging, removing, transplanting and changing.

The house is a present to Mrs. Mackay from her husband, Mr. Clarence Mackay, the son of the president of the Mackay-Bennett Cable company.—Philadelphia North American.

SICKLE'S MISSING LEG.

Gen. Sickle is so impressive in appearance that people stare a good deal at his crutches (he lost a leg at Gettysburg) and not a few strangers have the bad grace to stop him and inquire how he met with his supposed accident. The general does not take these importunities any too kindly, though he usually avoids giving expression to his opinion of the questioner. Once in a while he indulges in sarcasm. A young man who ought to have known better, came up to him one day in the presence of a number of spectators and said: "Excuse me, sir, but where did you lose that leg?"

Sickle turned a stern look upon him and answered in his most tragic base voice: "You ought to know."

"Perhaps I ought," said the inquirer, "but I don't, and I should be obliged if you would tell me."

"Young man," thundered the general, "I lost my leg at the battle of Bunker Hill, and don't you forget that again!"—Cleveland Leader.



If it could

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