Globe Girdling Honeymoon for U. S. Grant
Son of the Former President, After His Marriage With Mrs. America Will, Goes on a Tour Around the World, Following the Itinerary of His Illustrious Father, Visiting the Courts Which Honored the Civil War Hero.

The Beautiful Bride, Marrying Against Bitter Opposition of the Grant Family, and Facing Even the Attempts to Take Away the Fortune Mr. Grant Has Settled on Her, Declares She Never Wants to See America Again.

U. S. GRANT JR. married Mrs. America Will in San Diego on Saturday, July 19. The distinguished family of the groom objected in no uncertain terms. Differences in social position between the pair were alleged, differences in race, differences in age. All of the charges are undeniable. The son of the great civil war general is now sixty-one years old. The youngest of his five children, indeed, is quite twenty. Indisputably, also, the bride is but thirty-two. Already America Workman-Elms-Will-Grant has a bract of husbands, already a meteoric career as the willful daughter of John Workman, a Yankee who grew rich in the Southwest and who married a Mexican beauty of another generation. Out of this colorful past, equipped with the remainder of two fortunes, in addition to her own patrimony, the memorable widow appeared in the smart society of Coronado Beach. Two seasons of able social generalship and she had captured the name of one of California’s foremost private citizens, the powerful Grant family - Of course conservative society in general, instinctively fearful of a newcomer, arches its eloquent eye. But on a Saturday in July the unscathed Mrs. Will was united to her elderly admirer under the noses of critics and sailed away with him on a trip around the world.

That world-belting excursion itself is a sign of how complete has been the triumph. A generation ago the first Ulysses S. Grant, late President of the United States, made that identical tour. The ruler of every country in his path paid homage to the great warrior-statesman, then about to retire from public life. This summer, the son who bears his name will make his second bridal trip in Gen. Grant’s footsteps, visiting the courts that honored his father from Bangkok to London. On his arm will be the picturesque, much discussed young wife to whom the conservative Grant family objected in vain. America Will’s history is romance itself. Of the four elements of romance —youth, beauty, wealth and headlong passion—it lacks not one. The strangely assorted threads in her career have furnished the magnetic young woman with a background that attracted the adventurous members of society as readily as it repelled the conservative.

Aided by her brilliant personality, it gained her the homage of the most marriageable widower in California. America Workman is the daughter of one of the hardy Yankees who ventured into Southern California shortly after the discovery of gold in the region near San Francisco Bay and found in the cattle-grazing lands of the Southwest the fortune that many of his comrades failed to gain further north. Several of the large public buildings of Los Angeles bear the name of John Workman, a mute testimony to one of the first who had faith in the possibilities of the arid southern counties. In those early days John Workman wooed and won the grandniece of Pio Pico, greatest of the Spanish Governors of California before the Yankee invasion. The sole child of the Yankee-Spaniard union was named America in honor of the continent where the two races have mingled and played out one of the dramas of history. The first venture of America Workman, after a brief but exciting social career that followed her school days, was an early marriage. The groom was a Mr. Elms. His given name is not remembered now by the friends of his brilliant wife. He lives quietly on a side street in Los Angeles with his boy, the fifteen-year-old son of America Workman, whose marriage to the lad’s father ended so speedily.
A divorce, sought by the wife and uncontested by the husband, came within a few years. Mrs. Elms resumed her own name and left Southern California. She appeared later in Chicago, where she had friends. The visit ended in another marriage — one that startled the old friends of the romantic California girl by the very mention of the antecedents of the groom. America Workman married to a retail druggist from Marshalltown, Iowa. Investigation proved that the benefit was young and good-looking, that he was the satisfied owner of a small but prosperous drug business, that he had no discoverable ambitions beyond a small but prosperous drug business. His name was Edward Clifton Will. Would America Workman be happy in Marshalltown, la? Everyone who knew the gay-hearted girl shook his head or hers—usually hers. As an indication of the certainties of Fate, they referred to the lonely Mr. Elms living on the side street with his unmothered son. The apparent fact is that America Workman did live happily in Marshalltown, la., as the wife of a retail druggist. The testimony of the grateful little society of the Middle Western city which experienced the humor and grace and kindness of her leadership for several years proves it, so far as testimony can. Suddenly, early in 1909 the young druggist died, leaving widow who, as everyone who knew her at that period believes, was sincerely grief-stricken. Mrs. Will gathered up her husband's little estate, consisting mainly of the visible assets of his drug store, and returned to California.

**From then on America Will lived in the gay world that she deserted after her divorce.** Her first amusement was a trip to the Orient, undertaken with a party of rich Californians. After that cruise she went to Coronado Beach, near San Diego, the most beautiful of the California winter resorts. Her old family friends in Los Angeles had established a somewhat tame social life than that to be found in the palm-fringed spot at the southwest corner of the continent. English titles, New York multi-millionaires and the French nobility are common events at Coronado. The sports and the dances and the social life in general have been established on a European scale. Behind it all, in a huge house built around a patio, lived Ulysses S. Grant, a recent widower. Mrs. Will met him in her first season.

**Social life at Coronado was not easy at first for the beautiful young widow with the incongruous past.** In the end, of course, America Will found the embattled forces of the Grant family far more conservative than Mr. Grant's heart. The first Mrs. Grant, daughter of United States Senator Jerome Chaffee of Colorado, had brought large means to the Grant coffers, and once the attentions of the elderly lawyer-financier became marked, signs were not wanting, particularly on the part of the Chaffee connections, that any permissible social means would be used to forestall a marriage. The polite battle lasted for months. Mrs. Will's tact, however, constantly in use throughout the two seasons she passed in Coronado, coupled with the aroused independence of her wooer, carried the day. The courtship was conducted quietly, so quietly that not even the Grant family credited the rumor of the engagement until the facts were made public by the head of the house himself. And, notwithstanding numerous published reports of the opposition of the Grant clan, the marriage was performed by a justice of the peace on the date set by the contracting parties.

**Mrs. Grant is now the stepmother to several children who are older than herself.** One of them is the wife of Lieut. U. S. Macy of the United State Navy. Will she be able to heal the sore hearts that have been caused by her appearance in the family tree? No one who has watched the ably managed career of America Workman for the last seven years—since she made the first wild marriage of her girlhood — is worrying about that. On the heels of the wedding announcement came the news of the pre-nuptial agreement. By a document signed three years before the wedding America Grant becomes the sole possessor of nearly three million dollars at her husband's death. That constitutes the entire Grant
fortune, save for certain places of real estate that descended to the Grant children from the Chaffee side of the house and which are beyond the father's control.

The immediate departure of the bridal couple for the Oriental steamer that awaited them at San Francisco is reported to have been made to avoid a suit to be brought by Chaffee Grant, the bridegroom's son, against the terms of the agreement obtained by the bride's lawyers. And the crowning clause in that agreement provided that in case of America Grant's dying before her husband several hundred thousand dollars of the Grant estate should descend to Fred Elms, the one offspring of that early mistaken marriage! In the hour of her triumph America Workman did not forget to provide for her own flesh and blood. In San Francisco, on the steamer that was to take her around the world, Mrs. Grant gave one brief interview to the gentlemen of the press. She was white and spent with the long strain of the wedding in San Diego the day before, which had been "distressing." Of the sixty-five guests who had been bidden to the wedding feast only twelve appeared. Every one of the places that had been set aside for the numerous Grant and Chaffee families was vacant. "I never want to see America again!" cried the tired bride.

After her marriage, she and her husband were U. S. and America Grant!

When Buck died, he actually left an estate worth less than $3,000. (New York Times, November 24, 1929)