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**HINDU WEDDINGS.**

The weddings usually come in the hot months, when the families have leisure to prepare for them, but an astrologer must select an auspicious day for the event. The groom is ready for his preliminary game of diplomacy, which is scarcely more than a "bluff." This is a pretence to visit the sacred Ganges at Benares and wash away his sins in its healing waters. Generally there would not be time before the wedding day to complete such a journey when the groom undertakes it, but the readiness must be shown, and the company sets out. When the bride's father meets them and dissuades the groom from such an undertaking, he is very ready to stop. He is assured, moreover, that his sins have not been so grievous as to need cleansing before his nuptials. If the bride's father is satisfied with his spiritual condition, the young man need say no more, but he returns and prepares the "thali," or gold badge, that all married women must wear suspended from their necks.—*Woman's Home Companion.*

**GALILEE RAILROAD.**

The State Department at Washington is in receipt of a report from the United States consul at Beirut stating that the Ottoman Government has bought up the British concession for the line of railroad from Haifa to Damascus, and intends to build a railroad through Galilee to Mzerib, by way of Beisan, connecting at Mzerib with the Damascus-Mecca line. The Vali of the province of Beirut recently unveiled a monument in commemoration of the beginning of operations. The estimated cost of the narrow-gauge line from Haifa to Mzerib is \$2,000,000. The Damascus-Mecca railway has now reached a point east of the Dead Sea. It is thought that the new line, which is to be built for strategic purposes, will take from Malan a southwesterly direction straight (as anything ever goes in the Ottoman empire) to the Gulf of Akaba in the Red Sea. The line, if built, will bring the trans-Jordanic region into touch with the rest of the world.—*Zion's Herald.*

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