

OF MEN AND MATRIMONY

CHANCES OF MARRIAGE AT DIFFERENT TIMES OF LIFE.

Valuable Statistics Gathered by an Inquiring English Writer—Widowers and Bachelors—Strong Hopes Up to a Late Period of Human Life.

That the mothers and daughters of England are greatly to be pitied does not admit of a doubt, says a writer in the Pall Mall Budget. For years has the plaintiff wail arisen that men will not dance and will not marry. They do not object to making love—in fact, many like the process; but matrimony is quite another matter. How often have we heard a lover sigh, "She's the dearest girl, the only girl I ever really loved; but look at my income!" Perhaps while the said income is in the process of expansion the roses flit from the dear one's cheeks. In order that men and women may know how the question actually stands, I have digested masses of matrimonial statistics extending over several years, and the results thereof I humbly present here. I will endeavor to show what likelihood there is of a man donning the matrimonial fetters at various ages, and also indicate at what period of life his hymeneal tendency is greatest. My facts are drawn from the upper or prudent classes of society, because among the artisan and labouring population the same restrictions are not felt. If a man's income does not vary much between 20 and 50, he will probably marry at the earlier age. Among commercial and professional people the conditions are different, and a man rarely takes upon himself the responsibility of a wife and a possible family until his means or prospects appear to justify the step. Also, any rise in the standard of comfort or in the price of necessaries still further delays the happy event.

Take 1,000 young men at the age of 20 and observe them again on the attainment of the quarter-century. In the five years only 21 will have married. In spite, therefore, of five springs, during which the "young men's fancy fondly turns to thoughts of love," on an average only 4.5 fond fancies are wedded. If, on the other hand, we take a 1,000 at 25, and watch their proceedings during the next quinquennium, we shall find that no less than 94 find mates. If I had made similar observations upon the same number of bachelors from 30 to 35 years old, I should have been gratified by attending 138 weddings. This is the way the table runs:—

20-25.....	21 marriages.
25-30.....	94 "
30-35.....	138 "
35-40.....	147 "
40-45.....	122 "
45-50.....	79 "
50-55.....	43 "
55-60.....	34 "
60-65.....	19 "
65-70.....	5 "
70-75.....	3 "
75-80.....	1/2 a marriage

It must be remembered that the above refers only to bachelors.

A careful study of the table will be a great benefit to marriageable maidens. Warned by it they will not waste sweet smiles and gentle glances upon young men under thirty. These will be relegated to the society of dowagers and aged spinsters, while the men from 30 and 45 years old will receive the maximum of feminine attention. Between 35 and 40 is the best age. Under the present system, since only 1 in 50 of young men under 25 gets married, the amount of flirtation indulged in by the other 49 must be truly awful. The fraction opposite the ages 75-80 does not mean that an elderly bridegroom invariably retires before the marriage service is completed, but implies that only one out of 2,000 gay young bachelors of 75 takes unto himself a wife during the next five years. The competition to secure that one must be severe.

It will not surprise any one to learn that a widower is more inclined to marry than a bachelor of the same age. A widower has tried the experiment, and knows the delights of a vis-a-vis at dinner. He also has a house, and perhaps a family on his hands. Taking 1,000 widowers and treating them as we did the bachelors, we shall have:—

45-50.....	110 marriages.
50-55.....	93 "
55-60.....	75 "
60-65.....	57 "
65-70.....	36 "
70-75.....	18 "
75-80.....	5 "

It will be noticed at once that the pursuit of a widower of between 50 and 55 will furnish as good results as that of a bachelor 25 years younger. Think of the trained and tried affections of the widower, and do not hesitate. A bachelor over sixty is no good at all, but a widower presents excellent opportunities; while above 75 the bachelor is literally nowhere. It gives one an increased respect for human nature to think of ten widowers at this advanced age torturing to the altar for every one shrinking experimentalist. When the unmarried reflect upon these things, and upon the courage of their experienced brethren who dare not once but many times to embark upon the matrimonial voyage, we think that a great impetus will be given to the hymeneal market.

One thing has at any rate been established—to wit, that no man can be called a "confirmed bachelor" until he attains at least the half-century. Even then there are strong hopes of ultimate repentance. It is the conduct of those young men in the twenties that gives us the keenest pain.

Very Intelligent Ants:

"One day," writes my learned friend, J. Levalois, "I followed an ant for a long time; she was far from the ant hill and seemed to have no intention of soon returning. In the middle of the path she came upon the body of a good sized snail; she first walked all around it, then climbed upon the ugly creature's back, crawled all over it, and after this thorough examination, instead of advancing as before, immediately returned toward the nest. When half way there she met one of her companions; in an instant they had touched, or rubbed antennae with great animation and she was pursuing her course. The same performance took place when she met a second and third of her com-

panions, and as soon as she had left them, they quickly turned toward the spot where the snail lay. The first ant soon entered the nest and I lost sight of her; but she doubtless continued her work of informing and exciting the rest, for a long line of ants immediately came out and set forth for the prey. Ten minutes afterward the snail was entirely covered with the yellow swarm, and by evening not a trace of it remained.

THE LEARNED BARBER

He Makes a Subtle Attack Upon All His Brothers in Business.

"The chief fault of nearly all barbers," said the learned Frenchman, "is that they are mechanical in their ideas and results. They lack the artistic touch which is the evidence of genius. In this respect, as in most others, barbers are like all other artists. One does fairly well. He blocks out in his mind the shape in which he will trim a beard. The exact figure of that beard is present before his eyes as he works. He adheres to it faithfully, varying not in the slightest degree from his model. He pays no heed to the commotion of his patron's face. He does not notice that the cheeks are not quite even, that the chin is a little shallower than would be just right for such a beard. He is simply cutting a beard, and the face behind it, is invisible to him. He would prefer it if he could detach the beard, trim it so long and so wide, and then put it back on the face again. What is the result of the man's work? It is either ludicrous or rigid. Heaven protect you, monsieur, from the mathematical barber."

"Then there is the fussy barber. He never has any broad general plan. He only knows that one hair sticks out a twentieth of an inch more than another. So he clips here and there until the beard has been dwarfed to a ridiculous shadow of its former self, without shape or character. When the victims of either of these barbers go out into the street everybody within seeing distance, can tell they have just left the barber shop. Can anything be more annoying to a gentleman?"

"Now, let us see what the true barber does. He looks carefully at his customer's face and figure, taking in, in his comprehensive view, all the inequalities and peculiarities of his physique. Then he decides upon the style of beard which will be most suitable. But, unlike the mathematical or fussy barber, he does not consider it necessary to stick to his model, or allow his inspiration to be clogged by unworthy trifles. What sort of a painter is he who makes but a reproduction of his model? He is not worthy of the name. The painter of real artistic power uses his model merely for suggestion, and allowing his imagination to present impressions based upon this suggestion, but inspired by higher ideals, he is able to produce results which challenge our admiration. Thus a boorish peasant model is transformed into a heroic soldier, a simple chatterbox of a girl becomes a Madonna on canvas, and a blacksmith appears as Hercules. Another simile which occurs to me is that of the cook, who, mind you, is also an artist and the recipe. The ordinary cook follows his recipe implicitly. If it is good, the dish is good; if it is bad, the dish is bad. But the cook of genius studies his recipe, discovers the main feature aimed at, and experiments until he has achieved it in its highest perfection. No matter how poor the recipe, if the purpose at the foundation of it is good, he will secure some good results, and however good the recipe may be this artist will improve upon it."

Now, to get back to the barber. He does not care whether the shape of the beard he forms resembles its model or not, provided, always, that it is the most becoming that can possibly be designed for the patron. When he is through the latter not only looks well, but also natural. To sum up all my arguments, monsieur, the ordinary barber depends upon his experience and knowledge of the accepted form of beards. The exceptional barber has both of these and the additional qualification possessed only by genius—artistic taste.—N. Y. Sun.

ROMANIANS HAVE TELEPHONES.

They Have Also Peculiar Ideas as to the Utility of Them.

The profound sagacity of the Roumanian powers that be, in connection with the telephone, is manifested in the following regulation:—

"Persons desirous of communicating by telephone are required to acquaint each other previously of their intention by letter, or in some other way."

As a natural result, people fight shy of the new "institution." The other day, for instance, Mr. Kir Zaridi, of Braila, attempted to break down this absurd rule. Being on the point of effecting a large purchase of barley, he was anxious to know the prices quoted on the exchange at Galatz. He fearlessly stepped into the telephone office and, putting down the usual fee, asked to be placed in communication with his friend Iustru-makis, in Galatz.

"Very good," said the telephone clerk. "Have you informed Mr. P. of your intention?"

"Why, the man is at Galatz!"

"But did you not write to him yesterday?"

"No, Sir."

"Nor send him a telegram?"

"Hang it, I want to telephone and not to telegraph."

"Now, you ought to know very well that this won't do. First wire your friend or write to him to say that you wish to speak to him."

"Well, of all the crazy notions!" exclaimed Kir Zaridi, in great wrath. "Perhaps you expect me to take the train to Galatz and ask him to go to the telephone at a certain hour on such and such a day, as I wish to speak to him from Braila!"

"Oh, yes, that would do as well," stolidly replied the official.

There was nothing more to be said. Kir Zaridi simply lost his chance, of buying barley.

Likely to Keep His Promise.

For a great many years no execution has taken place in Denmark. Recently the case of Jens Nielsen, a noted bandit and murderer, who had been three times sentenced to death, but for reconsideration before the assize court of Copenhagen. Nielsen solemnly promised never to commit another murder if the Judges would commute his sentence to imprisonment; and they did so.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S TITLE.

The Use of the Words "Her Majesty" is Not of Extreme Antiquity.

It is not generally known that the title of "Majesty" was not always the mode of addressing the English monarch. The first sovereign to take the title was Henry VIII. It was of older use in France, and when Henry went there to the famous meeting with the French king, that is known in history as "The field of the cloth of gold," from the splendours then displayed, he heard the title used to the French king, and took a liking to it. Up to then, the most usual title of the English kings was "Your Grace," or "My Liege." Often "Your Highness" was thought sufficient. In a letter from the Chancellor of Henry VIII, these titles are found, all three used in as many lines: "The King's Highness," "His Grace," and "His Majesty."

In formal documents, King Henry VI. is called "the King's Excellent Grace"; Edward IV. became "Most High and Mighty Prince"; and Henry VII. was content with "Highness." Henry VIII. was greedy of homage; in fact, he was perhaps the greatest tyrant that ever sat on our throne. Besides the collection of titles given above, he was the first and last English sovereign to be called "Dread Sovereign," as a description pleasant in his ears. "Dread" he was, no doubt, for he killed and ruined like a wild beast. The poet Earl of Surrey, for instance, was executed by the King for no other offence but that of using the coat of arms of King Edward the Confessor as one of his "quarterings," a thing which his descent perfectly entitled him to do, by the way; but many a man who is "dreaded" by those in his power does not care to be told so; Henry VIII. liked it.

Queen Elizabeth was most often called "Her Grace"; a very elegant title for a woman; but "Majesty" was used to her also; and her successor, James I., was usually "His Majesty."

In the touching letter written to King James I. by his cousin, Lady Arabella Stuart, remonstrating with him for putting her in prison because she had married, he is called "Majesty" throughout. But in the dedication of the translation of the Bible he is only "High and Mighty Prince."

In writing to the Queen it is the established rule to address her as "Your Majesty," though in conversation she is only called "Ma'am"—that is to say, by peers and persons of position. Her servants and humble subjects would say to her, "Your Majesty." The letters written to her, however, are by etiquette couched in a very queer style. Every school boy in these times knows that a letter must not be written in two "persons" of grammar; that if you write in the third person it should be used throughout the communication. But in writing to the Queen this rule is set aside. The Prime Minister, for example, when he wrote to the Queen last, began in this way: "Mr. Gladstone presents his humble duty to your Majesty, and in reply to your Majesty's gracious communication he begs to say," and so on—second and third "persons" united. The Royal reply is always in the third person: "The Queen has received Mr. Gladstone's memorandum."

When writing to other Royal personages, Her Majesty uses the first person, beginning, "Sir and Dear Brother," and signing, "Your Faithful Friend and Sister." The President of the United States is probably the only person who has letters from the Queen (on the rare occasions when she personally writes to that high functionary) beginning "Sir."—Ex.

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