

SOME STRANGE UNIONS.

Some Remarkable Marriages that have Taken Place.

One can scarce credit the statement that marriages have occurred in which the bridegroom proved to be of the same sex as the bride, yet as far back as the last century a woman received a term of imprisonment for thus deceiving her fair sisters. Nothing pleased this remarkable woman more than to go about, dressed in male attire, captivating and marrying her own sex, eventually defrauding her unlucky "wife" of money and clothes.

Even more remarkable is the case of two women who, by common consent, lived together as man and wife for nearly forty years, and it was only on her death-bed that the wife acquainted her relatives of the fact relating to her unique union.

A certain popular adage might verily read: "It is never too late to marry," for only a few weeks ago we learn of a marriage, celebrated at a Devonshire village, where the veteran bridegroom, at seventy, tottered to the altar with his fifty-year-old bride. The venerable benedict apparently found much solace in married life, for only eight months previous had he buried his third wife.

More advance still have been the ages of many brides and grooms. At a village in Berkshire records exist which show that the united ages of the contracting parties reached the appalling total of one hundred and sixt-eight years. The bridesmaids were none the less aged, the youngest being a sprightly damsel well on the shady side of seventy.

'May and December' weddings are common events enough, and at Liverpool recently a unique marriage was celebrated in the Mohammedan manner. The bride was sixteen years of age, the youngest daughter of a French count, whose widow resides in London. The groom was the Nawab of Rampur, who is over forty years old, and is next in succession to the throne of a country as large as the whole of Ireland. The union was preceded by a civil ceremony in London. The engagement ring cost 250 guineas, and the happy bridegroom settled a handsome sum of money upon his bride as a dowry. By the consent of her relations the youthful bride abjured her Roman Catholic faith and accepted the religion of Islam.

An equally mysterious union took place in Vienna a month ago. A decrepit and penniless count, residing in the principal workhouse of the Austrian capital, was married to an exceedingly wealthy woman, who had never before seen her future husband. When the unique ceremony was concluded, the groom returned to the solitude of the 'house,' while the bride, after making arrangements for her husband to receive a comfortable yearly income, departed on her way. It transpired that her motive for this step was in order to give her illegitimate son an honourable and illustrious name.

Death bed marriages are not unknown, and a few months ago an American girl, at the urgent request of her dying lover, consented to 'love, honour, and obey' the man who after four short days of married life was borne to his last resting-place followed by his weeping wife.

A curious case of compulsory marriage took place some years ago at Clerkenwell. A certain blind and aged woman conceived a violent affection for a young man who lived in a house adjacent to her residence. Having become acquainted with the object of her affections, she lavished presents upon him with reckless prodigality, eventually lent him a sum of money to enable the gay Lothario to start in business on his own account. His business bought, the youth waited upon his lady patron to thank her for the attentions she had paid him, and announced his intentions of leaving town and residing in the country. But this the lady would not hear of, as it directly opposed her ends—viz., their marriage. Remonstrance with the rash youth was in vain, and to bring matters to a sensible understanding, the lady, whose affections still remained unreciprocated, imprisoned her 'lover' for debt. Once safely away behind prison bars she visited the luckless youth, and offered to effect his release on the condition that he married her; and, choosing the lesser of two evils, the young man consented to become her protector. As a fitting close, it is amusing to note that the man who arrested our hero subsequently gave away the blushing bride at the altar—Tid Bits.

Her Ambition.

Maude Valerie White, the English music teacher, says, in Cornhill, when discussing the humors of a musical life, that there are people who believe that singing can be learned, like any mechanical art, and that in three or four months an industrious pupil would be able to earn her living thereby. One music-master was visited by a lady who said she wished to become a professional singer.

Would he try her voice?
"Yes," was the answer. "Are you a soprano or contralto?"
"I really don't know," was the answer. "I haven't any voice yet."
The teacher was naturally puzzled. "What do you mean?" asked he.
"Well," she replied, "I'm forty-eight, and

I've never sung a note in my life. But I'm a widow, and I've only twenty-five pounds a year. One can't live on that. I can't say I'm fond of music; I never was; but I've been told it's a lucrative business and so I want to become a professional singer. How long will it take?"

Just One Question.

The amount of satire which may be conveyed in an apparently harmless remark was well-illustrated in a conversation which recently took place in the writer's presence. A number of business men were discussing the sudden rise in life of a certain wealthy manufacturer.

"I taught him all he knows," said a gentleman present who belongs to a race famous for its money-getting capabilities. "I remember him when he was a little tradesman with a turnover of about £3 a week. He had a fire which brought him in a couple of hundred pounds or so and enabled him to extend his business. After that he had another fire which brought him over a thousand, and he found the money very useful."

"Very interesting," remarked a quiet man; "but there is one thing that I—and I have no doubt others here also—would like to know."

"What is that?"
"Well," said the quiet man, "you say you taught Mr. ——— all he knows. We should like very much to hear how he 'worked' those fires."
And then silence reigned.

Feathers to Stockings.

Economical Suggestions for Women and Girls.

The hat and bonnet, with its trimmings of feathers, ribbons or velvet, the silk neck scarf and tie, the cape, jacket, blouse, waist, skirt, sash and stockings, are all outward articles of feminine attire costing considerable money, and demand close attention, so that daily neatness and good taste be maintained from day to day.

When articles of everyday wear such as we have mentioned become faded and dingy, they are usually cast aside by the inexperienced and careless, who forget that the garments are still whole and yet serviceable. A few economical suggestions at this time will be useful.

Thrifty, wise and economical women and girls know just what to do when confronted with such a problem. They have a full knowledge of what can be done with the wonderful Diamond Dyes, those marvellous money savers, and they act accordingly. They use Fast Black Diamond Dyes prepared specially for feathers, which give a deep rich and lasting black, making the feathers equal to new ones. Their dull and lifeless silk ties, scarfs, sashes and gloves are quickly made new creations by the Diamond Dyes. The faded jacket, cape, blouse, skirt and stockings are magically transformed to suit the taste of the wearer.

Wise women know well that failures are impossible when the popular Diamond Dyes are used, as the manufacturers provide a special black dye for feathers, and special dyes for silk, wool, all cotton, and for every make of mixed or union goods.

"Av Coorse!"

A family who have recently taken into their employ a rosy-cheeked Irish maid of all-work, say that her blunders cause them amusement enough to compensate for any trouble they may entail. One day the master of the house stated in Bridget's hearing that he intended to have a woodshed built on a piece of ground which at that time enclosed a well.

"And sure, sorr," said the inquiring Bridget, "will you be movin' the well to a more convenient spot whin the woodshed is built?"

A smile crossed her employer's face, and instantly Bridget saw that she had made a mistake.

"It's meself that's a fool, I'm thinkin'," she said hastily; "av coorse, when the well was moved ivery drop of water would rin out av it!"

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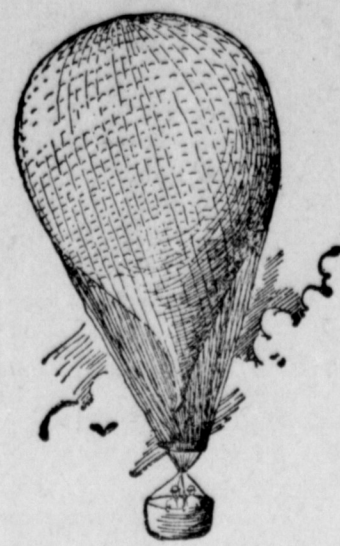
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The feeling of buoyancy produced by the action of Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills is remarkable. One feels bright and active, energetic and full of snap and vim. Rich red blood fills the veins, and the nerves tingle with the sensation of youthful life and vigor.

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DEAR SIRS,—I have spent half a fortune in doctors' bills, all to no avail. These Pills seemed to reach the seat of disease at once, and they also seemed to possess a remarkable influence over me. The violent palpitation of the heart, the trembling of the hands, the loss of masculine vigor, the frightful dreams, the loss of memory and general collapse of the entire system, have yielded to Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills. Great were the results from the use of four boxes of these Pills. I am enjoying the very best of health. I fully believe they are able to do for others as much as they have done for me. Before using them I was a miserable wreck. To-day I am a well man.

Yours truly,
THOS. FLYNN, 51 Elgin St., Hamilton, Ont.

Dr. Ward's Blood and Nerve Pills are sold at 50 cents per box, 5 boxes for \$2.00, at druggists or mailed on receipt of price by The Dr. Ward Co., 71 Victoria St., Toronto. Book of information free.

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Avoid imitations, which are numerous and unreliable.

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GROWTH OF OUTLAWRY.

America has its Brigands as Well as do Foreign Countries.

The recent attack on a railway train in Texas, by a gang of six armed men, is one among other signs that America, like many an older country, is capable of producing its own banditti. In several of our cities—as a few days ago in London—companies of reckless youths have given to quiet citizens much alarm, and have caused the police a deal of hard, rough work. Birds of this feather easily discover each other; and there is doubtless a tendency in the criminal class to comradeship and cooperative enterprise. Various causes are at work to produce outlawry and hoodlumism and not alone among the degraded poor.

Not neglected children only, but the mis-educated and ill-disciplined, contribute recruits to the army of evil. It is thought that the tolerated lawlessness of a few college students is emulated by lads who never enter college halls; that corrupt journalism and rotten literature work like poison on thoughtless minds; that the lax administration of the laws, the misanthropy which broods on social wrongs; and perhaps more than all else, the widespread disrespect for honest, thorough work; the aversion to it; and the lack of training necessary to success in any form of industry, are creating a class which lives by preying upon society.

Bandits are not all men of violence. Many of them know that craft is less dangerous, because less offensive, than brutal robbery. Yet all combinations for plunder, whether in defiance of law, by evasion of it, or even by the abuse of it, are of the same bad quality. They alike expose property and person to outrage and depredation. Civilized society, acting in self-defence, while dealing sternly with the evil which shows itself above ground, must also dig up the poisonous root.

If there is anything in the world that will make a mule laugh his tail off, it is to see the man with a glass eye trying to wink it at a pretty girl.

FLASHES OF FUN.

'Darling, does your father object to my smoking?'
'Not if you bring your own cigars.'

'Are you very anxious to get even with him?'
'Well, not anxious enough to pay him what he claims.'

He: 'It is nothing against her that she is beautiful.'

She: 'Decidedly not. Such beauty as that can only be acquired.'

Mrs. Benham: 'Was the hotel where you stopped homelike?'
Mr. Benham: 'Very. There wasn't a thing on the bill of fare that was fit to eat.'

Critic: 'That poster of yours looks more like a sea-serpent than a girl.'

D'Auber (with dignity): 'Well, I'm no photographer; I'm an artist.'

Mrs. Gabley: 'Saw my new portrait, dear. It was taken by the instantaneous process.'

Gabley: 'I wondered how they caught you with your mouth closed.'

Mme. Snipper has perfected a wonderful invention.

'What is it?'
'A revolving hat; it works so that the congregation can see all sides of it.'

Customer: 'What kinds of engagement rings d'ye sell?'
Polite Jeweller: 'All kinds.'

'Well, I want one a girl can't sneak out of.'

'Do you know Pat Meehan?' a peasant was asked.

'Of course I do,' was the answer. 'Why he's a near relation of mine. He wance proposed for my sister Kate.'

'Witness,' said the attorney 'was it this man's habit to talk to himself when alone?'
'Just at this time,' was the answer, 'I don't recollect ever bein' with him when he was alone.'

'I always test my poems by reading them to my wife,' said the youthful poet.
'I should think that was testing your wife rather than your poems,' answered the candid friend.

'Here is a short poem taken from the French,' said the would-be contributor.

'The French should be everlasting grateful to you,' snorted the editor, as he opened the door and bowed series of short bows.

Jenny: 'What's a patent, Benny?'
Benny: 'Oh, it's a sort of thing that gives one person the exclusive right to all the litigation in connection with some other sort of thing for a certain number of years.'

Teacher: 'Tommy Taddles, what is a centipede?'
Tommy: 'It is a creature with a hundred feet.'

'Name another many-footed animal.'

'A gas meter.'

Clerk: 'I believe you said, sir, that after the first of the month you would raise my salary.'

Employer: 'You are quite mistaken. What I said was, that after that date you would be worth more to us.'

Clergyman (showing a lady visitor around the church): 'Now, madam, you have seen the organ, the font, and the nave. I should next like to conduct you to the altar.'

Lady Visitor: 'Oh, this is so sudden.'

Proud Dame: 'I do not see how you could think of marrying into such a commonplace family as that.'

Romantic Daughter: 'Oh, I assure you, I'm not going to marry into his family; he's going to marry into ours.'

Physician: 'Two of your ribs are broken your right arm is fractured, one of your ears is missing, and three fingers gone.'

Patient: 'How is the bicycle?'
'Without a scratch.'

'Thank heaven! Think of what might have happened!'

'Is this case to be tried by a jury of women?' asked the plaintiff in a whisper.

'It is,' replied the lawyer.

'Can't we fix it no other way?'
'We cannot.'

'Then we might as well throw up our hands now. The defendant is younger and handsomer than I am.'

'I do not claim,' said the thoughtful member of the club, 'that the influence of fashion is entirely harmful. We must admit that we owe the milliner and dress-maker something.'

'Goodness, yes!' exclaimed the usually frivolous member, shuddering. 'My account can't be less than £30.'

'Woman in business,' he said thoughtfully, 'adds much to the confusion of things.'

'What's the matter now?' she demanded.

'Why, here's this new woman editor out with an announcement that she will appear in a new dress next week, and for the life of me I can't make out whether she's got some new type or a new gown.'

A young bachelor, who was beset by a sewing machine agent, told the latter that his machine would not answer the purpose.

'Why said the agent, with voluble praise, 'it is the best on the market in every respect.'

'That may be,' replied the supposed customer; 'but the sewing-machine I am looking for must have flaxen hair and blue eyes.'

'I am surprised, Mr. Flintrock, at your request,' said the manager of the Solidville Bank, with considerable feeling. 'Mr. Straight has been a model of conscientious rectitude during all the years in which he

has filled the position of cashier. There has never been a whisper breathed against his integrity, and—'

'So I have always thought till recently,' interrupted Mr. Flintrock, the hard-headed old director with a jaw like a steel-trap. 'But I have just learned that his friends are referring to him as 'Honest John,' and I demand that his accounts be examined at once!'

Of course they were dear friends. 'Did he kiss you when he proposed?' asked the one in pink.

'No-o, I believe not,' answered the one in blue.

'You are too quick for him, I suppose,' suggested the one in pink; 'but really, I think you made a mistake. It is better to let the man initiate anything of that sort.'

It is hardly necessary to explain why they are no longer dear friends.



Almost with reverence does the grocer's boy regard Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand Coffee.

Often has he been admonished to bring only Chase & Sanborn's Seal Brand, he now realizes that it stands in a class by itself.

The best people to whose houses he is sent demand this brand.

No matter what he may forget, no matter what he may bring wrong, he never makes a mistake in bringing another kind of coffee when Seal Brand is ordered.

All grocers sell it, in pound and two-pound tin cans.

Kidney Trouble FOR YEARS.

Nothing did Mr. R. E. Pitt any good until he got Doan's Kidney Pills.

Throughout the County of Leeds and the Town of Brockville there is no medicine spoken so highly of for all kinds of Kidney Diseases as Doan's Kidney Pills. As Canada's pioneer kidney pill, introduced by Mr. James Doan, of Kingsville, Ont., in 1885, they stand to-day far superior to all the imitations and substitutes that have been offered the public in their stead. Mr. R. E. Pitt, the well-known contractor and builder, voices these sentiments when he says, "I have had kidney trouble for years. I had tried numerous remedies without much relief, and had given up my back as gone for good, but since using Doan's Kidney Pills the result has been marvellous! The pain is all gone. I feel like a new man, and can highly testify to the virtues of Doan's Kidney Pills."

Doan's Kidney Pills are sold by all dealers or sent by mail on receipt of price, 50 cents a box or 3 boxes for \$1.25. The Doan Kidney Pill Co., Toronto, Ont.

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