

MARRIAGE CHEAPER BUT MORE LASTING IN DAYS GONE BY

(By Tom Williams in Toledo Blade.)
"Marriage was cheaper but more lasting when I was a youngster. A woman didn't usually expect much of a man. He was looked upon as a sort of helpless critter who needed someone to get his meals for him, sew on buttons, patch his clothes, darn his socks, do his washing and help him at his work in a pinch."

"The rear brakeman on No. 23 married the widow down at the Junction, they tell me," informed the Old Timer, suddenly switching the subject.

"She got two kids and I suppose Barney figured she needed some help. Besides, they tell me her home is paid for and she's a first-rate housekeeper and cook. Barney is a steady fellow himself, but I kind o' figure that he didn't get none of the worst of the bargain."

Enoch is Back.

"Enoch? O' yes! He wintered all right. Been wondering you ain't asked about him before. He's out there

in th' patch full o' bugs and drowsiness. That toad was in a dreadful state, though, when he made his appearance this spring. Badly run down in the constitution and completely caved-in in the abdominal quarter. I figure winters will have to be made shorter or toads longer if they are going to survive our climate. But Enoch has great recuperative powers."

And the crossing watchman tossed a lump of earth toward a stake in the cultivated patch back of the shanty. Enoch drew his head far into his emaciated body and crouched lower in the earth until another earthen pellet landed on his back. And then he resented with a sprightly hop.

"He'll be quite pert in a few days when the sun and the air have got their work in on him. I figure sun rays don't penetrate frog pelts so easy. But I've seen folks that was colder." And the Old Timer thumbed his watch chain meditatively.

"Yes, sir; in them days it was decided whether a man did well in marryin' or not by the way his clothes was patched and th' buttons kept up, and whether his boots were newly talloed when he went to church Sunday mornings."

"The only mill that grinds with water that is past is the divorce mill. I believe that if women folks didn't expect so much of men nowadays

there wouldn't be so many disappointments. And if men did differently women would too. When men and women keep their minds at home that home is usually happy."

"Folks Got Along."

"We had never heard of manifest destiny and such things when I was a youngster. Folks sort o' got along on old-fashioned religion and just be in' plain honest, with an occasional family tilt over when a cow should come fresh or how much the egg and butter money had mounted to."

"The stake-and-rider fence was a sign of prosperity. That was about the time the farmers in the older neighborhoods that had frame barns and houses passed through the lightning' rod era. I have seen barns so spiked with lightning' rods that the cone of the roof looked like the back of one of them ancient mammals that the fellows who ain't got nothin' else to do dig out of the earth where the glacier buried 'em."

Hens hadn't been taught to lay by electric light and make to work overtime. Eggs was so cheap that it didn't matter much if you forgot to gather them. Every self-respectin' hen stole its nest and come clatterin' to th' kitchen door with a brood—very proud though a little pale at the gills and clamoring for food.

"Now you get chicks by sittin' up nights nursin' a incubator and you raise 'em on roup cures. Some folks think they are helping Nature when they're only cheating her. But you can bet on it she's going to have the last say whether it's in the destiny of humans or critters or fowls."

In the meantime the Old Timer was busy milling various brands o' tobacco in the palms of his hands and d-

positing the grists in a d'minutive wooden keg which he admitted he had made himself for the special purpose of ripening and blending his pipe ammunition in.

Mixes Own Tobacco.

"If you get every kind of pipe tobacco offered these days in the pretty packages and tin boxes, throw away half of it after inspecting it, and mix the balance in proper proportions with native leaf, you might get some smokin' out of it. Otherwise you just get smoke," and he loaded his pipe with great care.

"I suppose the reason there was so much more personal liberty in my young days was because nobody abused it and not because it was in the constitution. By the way, you hardly ever hear anyone mention the constitution any more. It would appear to be kind o' out o' style. Generally, people think there ain't no sense in anything unless they believe in it. You can't root new ideas in a soil too weak to raise dog fennel."

"I can recall old pioneers in my kid days who wasn't afraid o' nothing exceptin' ghosts—and their wives—some of them. Superstition was very popular and if you didn't believe in it you didn't have no standin' in th' community."

Politics Have Changed.

"The best politician was the man who knew most first names. Didn't make no difference about th' second. If you was running for office and 'mistered' a man you was likely to lose a vote. County rings was different to what they are now. They was smaller."

"There was nobody in our settlement mean enough to charge a neighbor for anything. Yes, I suppose, it's

hard for you to understand a social order that put a clean hickory shirt on you on Sunday and put you on an equality with the fellow who had two of them. And the man who bought his wife an occasional calico dress was a good provider. Women didn't get it no divorce courts till they began togging up so."

"Scandal was scarce in them days. When a bit of it came along it had to be coddled a long time to make it last, and it mostly wasn't true, anyway. But that didn't make any more difference then than it does now. Seems as if th' human animal always did suffer from a lot of repressions and scandal seems to be a sort of safety valve."

"I doubt if the fellow who lets facts interfere with peak production in the gossip industry will ever be as popular as he is just."

Car Struck Delivery Wagon.

A car operated by Alphonse Deveau struck the delivery wagon of Charles F. Marsh in Needham street, Saturday night, and knocked a wheel off it.

"Why do you feed your dog axle grease?"

"It helps his waggin'."

A HUSBAND IN TWO HOMES IS JAILED FOR FRAUD

New York, May 26—Frank H. Biggs, 41-year-old Wall Street cashier, whose arrest for defrauding his employers revealed he had been playing the role of husband and father in two homes was sentenced to serve from two to five years in Sing Sing Prison today.

Although tried for raising a check by \$100 it was testified he had defaulted with almost \$8000 from his employers over a period of years. On his arrest he explained he had been unable to support two families on his salary of \$65 a week.


Biggs had a wife and two children in Freeport, L. I., and another woman and her son lived in New York as his wife and child.

Tramp—Is dis all yer can gimme

—a glass of cold water?"
Kind Lady—Of course not. You can have as many glasses as you want.

BLACKHEADS

Blackheads go quickly by a simple method that just dissolves them. Get two ounces of peroxide powder from your druggist, rub this with a hot, wet cloth briskly over the blackheads—and you will wonder where they have gone.



RED ROSE

"is good COFFEE"

THIS IS THE PROPER WAY TO SHEAR A SHEEP

The pictures, with printed instructions illustrate and describe briefly a system of shearing sheep that has been developed by the thousands of professional shearers of America and Australia.

Read Clockwise

While slight modifications in the directing of the strokes taken with the shear are made by different shearers, the beginner should follow the instructions as closely as possible.

