

rendered by a chief or shaman in a prehistoric marriage ceremony.

Our ancestors invoked the aid of gods or spirits only for one particular purpose. That was when they endeavored to ascertain beforehand the will of the gods in reference to the marriage that was to be contracted. Being very superstitious, they were anxious to know the most auspicious day, month, or year, during which marriages could be advantageously contracted. They, therefore, invariably consulted the shaman or priest on this subject, whose advice was always accepted. Here are a few interesting instances of this wide-spread superstition, gathered from all corners of the world. The Scotchman formerly avoided contracting marriages in May, and the Romans regarded May and the first half of June as very unlucky for marriage purposes. In Thuringia (Germany) marriages are contracted at full-moon. In China the spring season is regarded as the most fortunate nuptial period. The Arabs consider Friday as the most auspicious day, while the Copts of Egypt marry on the night preceding Sunday. And the preference which we ourselves give, as a matter of fashion, to June weddings, may be considered another form of this ancient belief in auspicious nuptial periods, which has remained with us unconsciously, against our reason, and in spite of our high standard of civilization and knowledge.

SOME HISTORY

WHEN THE BRITISH TOOK WASHINGTON



ON Aug. 24, 1814, only a little more than 100 years ago, the capital of the United States was in the hands of the British. In all of the second war with Great Britain no event operated so powerfully to arouse the indignation of the American people, to stir them to a determined effort against their ancient enemy and to bring down on the heads of the British so much of the world's disapproval and censure as the capture and burning of the American capital.

It was decided by the British government early in the year of 1814 that all of the American coast from Maine to Georgia should be laid waste. In pursuance of this plan an English squadron numbering 50 to 60 vessels arrived in the Chesapeake bay about the middle of August in readiness to strike the first blow at Washington. This British force was divided into three parts; one went up the Potomac, another went off to threaten Baltimore and the main body went up the Patuxent river