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## SELECT CULLINGS

### Forty and Rich and Marriage.

Writing of a popular artist of the day who happens to be unmarried, a contributor to one of the current magazines says: "In these days a man doesn't indulge in matrimony until he has achieved forty and a fat bank balance."

What folly! When will writers stop attributing to mankind in general the thoughts and habits which pertain only to an insignificant minority? The average man, if he marries at all, "indulges in matrimony" long before he is forty and still longer before he has a "fat bank balance." It matters comparatively little to him or to his wife, if she is as sensible as she ought to be, whether the fat bank balance ever matures. And both of them are unfortunate if marriage is postponed unnecessarily till either reaches the age of forty.

At forty a man ought to have children approaching graduation from the high school. He may even have a son in college; the better for him if he has. A comfortable balance at the bank is an admirable attribute for any home, but it is not so important as that the home be established. If men postponed matrimony till they were forty and had a fat bank balance—well, what sort of world would this be anyway?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Wingless Chickens the Latest.

Chicken wings will disappear from bills of fare when the new wingless chickens raised by W. A. Bertram of Illinois become common. He has found that wings decrease the value of chickens in cities and towns by making their confinement in yards more difficult. He conceived the idea of crossing common breeds with the Wyandottes and Bantam Rocks, whose wings are smaller in proportion to their weight than those of other chickens. After several seasons he has produced a fowl which has only a few pin feathers where nature meant wings to be and which cannot jump a fence higher than two feet. It will be easier, Mr. Bertram says, to fatten chickens which do not reduce their weight by the exertion of flying. This will compensate by putting more flesh on drumsticks and wishbones for the ultimate atrophy and disappearance of the wings.—Science Siftings.

### Juggling With Figures.

Die Wocher in a recent number speaks of the fabulous prices paid by Americans for amusement and cites the case of the "millionaire" Mrs. Astor, who paid a tenor 12,000 marks for singing twelve minutes. "A profession," says the writer, "in which one may earn a thousand marks a minute is certainly a remunerative one." Commenting on the paragraph, another paper says: "At the rate of a thousand marks a minute an hour's work for the tenor will bring him 60,000 marks, and for a day—with labor limitations, so that he could work only eight hours—his pay would be 480,000 marks. At this rate the singer would realize for a year's work—300 days—144,000,000 marks, or about \$36,000,000. It's wonderful what one can do with figures, having a good twelve minutes to start with."

### Scared the Savages.

The pluck of Sir Harry Johnston, the famous explorer, who has lately been elected a corresponding member of the Italian Geographical society "in recog-

nition of his research work in Africa," is unquestioned, but stratagem has got him out of many a tight corner. On one occasion his zebra was surrounded by a howling mob of savages, who sent an envoy asking him to surrender. Sir Harry merely told the envoy that they had smallpox in the camp, and a wretched albino was trotted out as the awful example. Five minutes later the scared tribesmen were busy putting as large a stretch of Africa as time would permit between themselves and danger. As Sir Harry well knew, they were more afraid of "the white disease" than they were of all the inventions of Maxim.—Tit-Bits.

### Ancient Trial Marriages.

Marriage contracts written on ostraca or potsherds have been unearthed at Luxor, Egypt, which convict the experimental marriage man of unoriginality. They are 2,000 years old. Thus one of them: "I take thee, Tamenis, daughter of Pamonthis, into my house to be my lawful wife for the term of five months. Accordingly I deposit for you in the temple of Hathor the sum of four silver stater, which will be forfeited to you if I dismiss you before the conclusion of the five months, and, besides this, my banker shall do something for you, but if you leave me on your own account before the end of the five months the above sum which I have deposited shall be refunded to me."—Argonaut.

### A Free Operation.

"Dr. Doyen fought a duel with a Belgian while I was on the Riviera," said a Chicago surgeon. "You've heard of Doyen? His latest is a serum that, increasing tenfold the energy of our white blood corpuscles, wards off old age."

"Well, we gave him, we sawbones, a supper at the Cercle de la Mediterranee, in Nice, after his duel. He won the duel, you know. And in his after supper speech he told us how he had said to the Belgian as he ran him through:

"You lucky dog! I'd charge any other man 50,000 francs for an abdominal incision like this. And yet, by Jove, you don't look overpleased!"—Washington Star.

### A RAIN OF FIRE.

The Great Meteoric Shower That Scared Folks in 1833.

In Scharf's "Chronicles of Baltimore" there is a vivid description of the starry ballstorm, the fiery meteoric shower, of 1833, and old files of newspapers are made luminous at that date with the impressions of editors and contributors. One writer said it was the grandest and most charming sight ever presented to the vision of man. Awakened from sleep, he sprang to the window, thinking the house was on fire, but when he looked out he beheld stars, or fiery bodies, descending like "torrents." The shed "in the adjoining yard to my own," he wrote, "was covered with stars, as I supposed, during the whole time." Professor Olmstead of Yale college thought that the exhibition was the finest display of celestial fireworks that had been witnessed since the creation of the world, although he, too, while knowing its character, was sufficiently imbued with the theological spirit of the time to believe that it was a solemn portent that carried a divine warning.

One editor whose comment upon this phenomenon was probably more quoted than any other he ever made said: "We pronounce the raining fire which we saw on Wednesday morning an awful type, a forerunner, a merciful sign, of that great and dreadful day which the inhabitants of the earth will witness when the sixth seal will be opened. Many things occurring in the earth tend to convince us that we are now in the latter days."

### Why.

And why is it with Antonietta  
Each day I take a walk?  
She's silly, but she's beautiful.  
I love to see her talk!  
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## Maxwell Wins

Thrills followed thrills as speeding automobiles shot around the course of the Ingleside Race Course, on April 24th, in the second and final day events of the successful meet promoted by the members of Islam Temple of the Mystic Shrine.

The honors of the day were divided between Barney Oldfield, with his 200 horsepower Benz machine, and C. O. King, with his Maxwell 30 horsepower stock car. Oldfield lowered his previous record of one mile to 51 5-6, which is a new coast record for the circular track. With the exception of this performance, Oldfield had to take second place in the list of racing honors, as the world's champion met defeat in both the five and fifteen mile handicap events, and in both races King and his Maxwell were the victors. In fact, King proved the surprise of the meet, driving all of his races with much judgment and taking the turns with his car as close to the fence as did Oldfield. In the five mile handicap, Oldfield drove his Knox racer to the utmost, but the handicap was too strong and he could not get the lead away from King. Not only in the handicap events did King and his Maxwell prove stars of the first order, but in one of the first events of the day, the five mile race for cars costing from \$1200 to \$1600, which was one of the best matches of the meet.

The time for the five mile handicap was as follows: Maxwell, King, 4.40.30; Oakland, Nelson, 4.48.25; Chalmers, West, 4.49.30; Auto Car, finished fourth, and the Knox car, Barney Oldfield driving, fifth. In the event number eight, ten miles free-for-all handicap, King and his Maxwell again were the winners, the Maxwell's time being 8.19.30.

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