LAXITY OF MARRIAGE VOWS SHOCK CZARINA WHO TRIES TO WORK CHANGE

Russians Good Lovers but Unfaithful Husbands.—All Classes Have Two or Three Wives Openly Acknowledged in Society and Czarina's Effort at Reform Brings Only Laughs.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 7.—(Special.)—"Russians make the best lovers in the world," enthusiastically exclaimed Miss Hallie Erminie Reeves, the well-known American authoress, a few months ago in Petersburg. As wife of Post Wheeler, who is in the American diplomatic service, and now stationed at St. Petersburg, Miss Reeves has had plenty of opportunities of studying Russian society. And yet her statement, which aroused great interest as coming from a distinguished American, was denied by several Russians. "They are the best lovers, perhaps," answered one Princess, "but they make the worst husbands in the world." "They are gloriously unfaithful," remarked one of the Tsar's adjutants, adding, "But what does that matter?"

The fact remains that the marriage bond is looser in Russia than farther west, no matter what class you take. Nobody looks upon it as final, whether Prince or peasant. Divorce, though theoretically so difficult to obtain that foreigners wonder why the holy synod does not change an antiquated procedure, is easier than in any other country, not barring America. The other day a well-known diplomat was in a Petersburg drawing-room and asked a Russian to introduce him to his wife. "Which one?" was the retort. "There are three of them here at this moment. My latest is standing over there." This is not a rare case.

To have three wives, not divorced, and live with them all seems ridiculous, and yet it happens in Russia and all three are received in society. Russians are far less strict about these things than Americans are. Take, for instance, the case of Count Tarlo, who is well known in Moscow and Petersburg society. He has three wives. One he married "in a civil marriage" in Petersburg. This civil marriage consists in putting in the papers an announcement to the effect that Mr. So-and-So, is henceforward going to acknowledge Mrs. or Miss Somebody as his wife. Some people object to receive the lady for a time. But hundreds of houses are open to her and the stricter ones give in after a while.

Marriages Badly Mixed.

So Count Tarlo had a wife in Petersburg. His second wife lives in Moscow. He married her while still young, so she ought to be called his first wife. The lady and the Count differed on some points, and each went a separate way. But there are children. Tarlo goes to see them and lives in his wife's house and goes with her into society while the visit lasts. In Moscow the elder wife is received as the Countess Tarlo; in St. Petersburg, the younger one enjoys this distinction. The Count's third wife lives in the country, where she meets are receives the neighboring landed proprietors as the Countess Tarlo. The most extraordinary part about such domestic conditions, from our point of view, is that Russian law cannot touch them so long as the interested parties do not complain, though the church, of course, forbids a man to have more than one wife or a woman more than one husband at a time. The church only allows her clergy to marry once, and forbids the remarriage of a widower-clergyman; but does not appear to think such restrictions necessary for the laity.

Another of the many cases of "bigamy," as it would be called anywhere else, is that of Colonel Millar, who married a Miss de Roberte when he was Governor of Kovno, a large town in Lithuania. The Count left this post after some years and removed to Petersburg, while his wife remained at their estate near Kovno. When in Petersburg he met a Madame Dzevanek, who had been divorced from her husband, and proclaimed her as his wife. He is now Chief Magistrate of the City of Warsaw, and goes into Russian society with his "second" wife. Wife No. 1 is still in the country, but makes no attempt to press for her rights or get a divorce. Her husband visits her occasionally and her children are with their father most of the time. This state of things would not be tolerated in American society, both the man and his second wife would find it hard to get a footing into any respectable house. And yet these cases are so common in Russia that nobody takes any notice of them.

Strange Case Confusing.

A curious instance of this kind electrified even St. Petersburg some time ago. A young army Captain, Apanoff, who had just married, was sent out on active service. Several years passed, and his wife heard no news of him, so she thought him dead, though his name had never appeared on the lists of killed which were issued by the War Office. Last year she married another man, without producing the certificate of her first husband's death, which would be demanded in any other country. After she had been married several months a visitor was announced one day as she sat in the drawing-room, and her first husband entered. The situation was exceedingly awkward, but what astonished their friends most was the fact that the first husband, instead of settling the question by a duel, or at any rate a game of cards, in which the disputed wife formed the stakes, insisted in taking the question before the tribunal and claiming his wife in a legal way. This step puzzled the Judges as much as it astonished society. There was no precedent to go on, and both marriages were quite legal according to the custom of the country. The case is not likely to be decided for years, and everybody blames the parties concerned for not "fixing it up" privately, society being ready to accept their verdict.

Foreigners who see these things going on in perfectly "good" society raise their eyebrows and ask "Why?"

The answer is so difficult to find that even those Russians who have traveled much disagree about it. Most of them put it down to the Asiatic influence of the Tartar domination and this is the opinion of a member of the Holy Synod, who said: "The question, of course, seems almost inexplicable to foreigners. But nobody can understand us Russians unless he understands the influence of the Tartar. Though remaining Orthodox in name, the Russians of that time were so used to seeing all sorts of Mohammedan customs, including polygamy, all around them, that it ceased to trouble them, and found many imitators among the pure Russians, as well as among those who had married into Tartar families. Several Christian Kings of Rus and Muscovy, which compose the modern Russia, followed the Tartar fashions to the extent of keeping three or four wives. The life of a Russian woman was spent in a harem till Peter the Great, who had learned other ideas in Europe, determined to introduce them into Russia. The women "caught on" so very reluctantly that he was obliged to issue rescripts which forbade women to cover their faces in public, and ordered them to attend the theaters Czar Peter opened in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

Wives Won at Dice.

European and especially French customs, gradually came in; but these semi-Oriental views of marriage still remain. Even today wives are bought and sold. The parties concerned settle the matter by gambling for the woman. More than one well-known dame in St. Petersburg society owes her present position to the turn of a card, or the throw of the dice.

One peculiar union is what is called a political marriage, of which Mr. and Mrs. Ivanoff are a fair example. Mrs. Ivanoff was a revolutionist and member of the same party as her husband, whom, however, she had never seen before their marriage was arranged. She was imprisoned. Her advice was greatly needed by those outside, as she had planned several bold attacks on the government. Only her mother, father or husband was allowed to visit her. Her parents were not revolutionaries, and she had no husband. So the committee of the party ordered Ivanoff to marry her, so as to get the right to visit her in prison. He obeyed and now visits her twice a week, carrying party messages to and fro.

One reason why foreigners who study Russian customs on the spot can never idealize peasant life is the fact that they take such a very prosaic view of marriage.

Courtship, as we understand it, is almost unknown in the Russian village. A girl's beauty counts for nothing in her chances of finding a husband, with the result that a pretty girl generally leaves her native nest as soon as possible, to seek an irregular life in the towns. What the peasants look for are robust health and a strong pair of arms, since the women do all men's work, even to bricklaying. The idea, too, of a Russian workingman making a "home" for his mate would never enter their heads. The customs are far too patriarchal for that. The newly-married pair live with the bridegroom's father and mother. Indeed, the bride has been chosen by her mother-in-law, with the help of a woman called svakha, a sort of go-between in the marriage market. The bride brings no portion but her wedding outfit, consisting of half a dozen chemises, two pairs of boots, a sheepskin, pillows and a bed cover, but enriches her husband's family by working for him in the fields. He goes to the town to find work, generally spending the whole Winter, and often many years, away from his native village. The soil is too badly tilled to enable the whole family to live on it, so he must go away. He returns home for the harvest, when all possible hands are needed in the country, if his work does not keep him in the factories. But the chances are ten to one that he has taken to himself a second wife in the town, who, though knowing of the existence of wife number one, does not trouble about her. Distances are so long and communication so difficult that they will probably never see one another, though cases are by no means rare when they meet and even live together on fairly good terms.

Gorky's Case Is Recalled.

This system helps one to understand Gorky's astonishment when New York tabooed him for traveling about with a lady who was not his wife. "She is my wife in my eyes and the eyes of God," he indignantly told newspaper men.

"I don't understand the States at all," he complained on reaching Europe. "They say it is a free country, and yet I could not find a hotel because I was with my second wife." These words explain the whole difference between Russian ideas and ours. The lady with whom he went to America was known among his friends as his wife. His "first" wife knew, too, and did not object. "Why then," he asked, "should other people?"

The same ideas run through all classes, and this is why nobody ever stops to censure them. People rush into marriage without hesitation because it is so easy to shake off the yoke as soon as it proves burdensome.

The present Tsarina's ideas about the marriage bond have done much towards making her unpopular among the aristocracy. Having been brought up in her simple German home with very different ideas, she was inexpressibly shocked at the "laxity," as she termed it, which prevailed among the ladies of the court. She even went so far as to say she would not receive divorced women into her immediate circle. "Then you will see nobody," the Dowager Empress is said to have retorted. Many ladies were cut off the list of waiting ladies, or "frayling," as they are called, on this account, with the result that the aristocracy only frequented the court when absolutely obliged to do so. This curtailment of the circle of the Tsarina has grown to such an extent that many princely houses think it useless to go to the capital and live in Moscow, always the "capital of the discontented," since St. Petersburg was built. The Tsarina gave great offense once by calling out indignantly to a maid of honor, whom she saw kissing one of the little Grand Duchesses, "How dare you embrace my child?" The maid of honor was so hurt that she persuaded her husband to give up a very high position at court so that she might retire. The Tsarina explained her words by saying that though she could not help seeing the wife of a high official at court, she felt that the caress of a woman of such utterly worthless reputation could only contaminate an innocent child. The Tsar has quite bowed to her opinion in this matter, but his mother laughs at her daughter-in-law, collecting around her many of those friends of her youth on whose foibles and "Asiatic ideas," as the young Tsarina calls them, she has winked for so long.

But, so far, the Empress is alone in her efforts to reform Russia's ideas on the subject of marriage. People all over the country, where political liberty is a myth, enjoy, and evidently mean to keep, an amount of individual license unknown elsewhere. Social severity is therefore tabooed. Nobody asks how many wives a man has, or how many husbands a woman has wedded. Even the ordinary forms are uncared for. Married men and women openly go about with their sweethearts and no hostess would dream of asking her friends without including their affinities in the invitation. The "liaisons" are talked about quite openly and lapses from domestic virtue are invariably excused.

126 SIXTH ST. THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO

PORTLAND'S EMPORIUM

Your Unrestricted Choice $6.85

Every Women's High-Grade Hat in Stock at $6.85

ANNUAL CHOICE OF THE HOUSE SALE

No matter how beautiful, how elegant or exquisite the hat may be or whether priced at $12.50, $15, $18, $20, $25, or even still higher, will be on sale Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at **$6.85**. The high character of our stock, so well known to many women, will make them all the more eager to obtain these unparalleled values. This sale is so extraordinary and the price so remarkably low that you simply cannot afford to miss it.

All our $7 to $12.50 Hats must go at $4.29
All our $4 to $6 Hats must go at $2.29
All our cheaper ones must go at $1.49
All our Ostrich and Willow Plumes ..... ½ PRICE
All our Furs must go at ..... ½ PRICE
All our $2 and $2.50 Baby Bonnets ..... 98¢

Every Untrimmed Shape on our Economy 3d floor $1.29

Big reduction in our Cloak and Suit Department.

Come Early and Get First Choice

CHRISTIANITY'S AUTHOR IS RULER OF NATIONS

Writer Sees Divine Power Establishing Its Rule on Earth in the Unrest and Upheaval Among Nations.

No. 3.

BY REV. J. H. LEIPER.

Having reached the conclusion in our last article that the American Republic is a Christian Nation, we proceed to elucidate the necessary and reasonable deductions. To be Christian is to be in harmony with Christ in word and conduct. Christ sustains a much closer relation to the church than he does to the state. He is the head of the church (Colossians, 1:18) and "the head over all things (else) to the church," (Ephesians, 1:22).

It might be profitable to secularists to discern the import of that phrase, "Head over all things to the church," and then to remember that the "all things" includes civil government. This world in its present probation would not stand an hour were it not for the presence of God's redeemed people in it. It is axiomatic that the great Redeemer of man could never have accomplished his mission to our world unless all things and all powers had been made subject unto him. Bad men pale in his presence; and devils tremble. Of course the secularist refuses to accept either our argument or conclusion. So much the worse for him. He is Coleridge's owl flitting athwart the sky under glare of the noonday sun, seeing nothing—not even the sun itself. We refer the reader to the Bible as authority in our discussion in the confidence that all will recognize the propriety of doing so without our stopping here to establish its inerrancy.

The Bible's assertions of the supreme rulership of the Redeemer of man are so numerous that we shall refer to a very few of the most prominent. All Bible scholars agree that the person referred to in Psalm 110:1 as "lord," from the Hebrew Adoni, is the Messiah of the Old Testament and the Christ of the New Testament. The first, second, fifth and sixth verses proclaim his supremacy over human rulers. He is expressly declared in this official character in the book of Daniel (7:13-14.) He himself laid claim to universal supremacy. "All power is given to me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18.) John, while on the island of Patmos heard a voice from heaven saying: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever" (Revelations 11:15.) This power has never been and never will be surrendered or delgated to any man or angel. Men have denied its existence and myriads still deny and ignore it. They are anarchists in the realm of God. Of them it is written:

Why do heathen nations rage? Why vain things do people mind?
Kings of earth in plots engage; rulers are in league combined.
Thus against the Lord they speak; thus against his Christ they say:
Let us join their bands to break, let us cast their cords away.
He shall laugh who sits above, God most high shall scorn them all.
Them in anger fierce reproce; burning wrath shall on them fall.

The fact for the recognition of which we are pleading is as clearly asserted in the letter to the Romans, (13:1-7) as it is possible for human language to make it. (See the passage.) When Paul wrote these words Nero was on the Roman throne wielding in the most diabolical manner the scepter of the empire. He was grossly abusing the power with which he was clothed. His administration was a travesty of justice. Paul was enjoying obedience to civil authority as an authority of God. He was not commending its awful abuse by a wicked emperor whose hands were red with the blood of his own mother and wife and with the blood of thousands of the followers of Christ. Nero stepped out into the blackness of darkness by his own suicidal hand at the age of 31 to account to him who has said: "Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord." But he left the throne behind him. And the righteous features or Roman law remain to this day in the jurisprudence of civilized nations. But only those elements of Roman law traceable to the divine source have come down to us through the ages. The infallible lawgiver is gradually and surely casting the jurisprudence of the world to the knowledge of the rock principles of civic righteousness. "He must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet." (Cor. 15:24.)

The gradual and certain fulfillment of this prediction is exactly what is causing the unrest and upheavals among the nations. "I came not to bring peace on the earth," said Jesus, "but a sword." And as long as satan is permitted to muster his minions against the advance of Christian civilization that sword will refuse to return to its scabbard. People who pray have for long, long ages been imploring the lord of nations to establish his rule on the earth: "Thy kingdom come," has been their prayer. There are encouraging signs of an approaching answer to that prayer. It can only be answered after the removal of dominant evils. The most serious feature of the situation is the fact that some of the most formidable forces of evil have succeeded in fortifying themselves behind human enactment.

For example, there are on the statute books of various states of the Republic more than two-score reasons for divorcing husbands and wives. All but one or two of these reasons are in contravention of the divine law. How has it worked? Between 1866 and 1887 (I have no later statistics) 328,716 divorces were granted by our courts! In the light of such figures what becomes of the sanctity and purity of the home?. Tell me of your firesides and I will tell you of your Nation. The stability of the Nation can be secure only when the home is maintained on the divine basis of marriage and divorce.

The drink traffic has succeeded in drawing the folds of our National flag about its unspeakable form. Its friends conceived the strategic idea of enlisting the Savier of sinners and placing him at the head of their ranks; because he furnished unfermented wine at a Jewish wedding! They would have us believe it was intoxicating stuff. And thus they would make a brewer out of the son of God! But the same spirit that sanctioned that act of Jesus Christ held Solomon's pen while he wrote: "Look not thou on the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright (ferments). At the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder," (Prov. 23:31-32.)

How suggestive is the next verse of the kindred of the vices! "Thine eyes shall behold strange (lewd) women and thy heart shall utter perverse things"! (obscenity and profanity.) The pen of Solomon easily glided from the description of the one vice to the other. Then as now they were inseparable. Are the vices a legitimate field for civil prohibitive legislation? Our next subject will be "The Decalogue and the Republic."

OIL LEASE CAUSES MURDER

Rich Kansan Kills President of Company Which Contests.

CANEY, Kan., Jan. 7.—J. D. S. Neeley, president of the Wichita Pipe Line, president of the Lima (Ohio) Trust Company, and head of several large oil companies, was shot and killed at the Palace Hotel here this morning by Al O. Truskett, a prominent business man of Caney. The shooting was the result of litigation over an oil lease. Truskett surrendered immediately.

Truskett is of one of the oldest and wealthiest families in the city.

The lease which led to the litigation between Truskett and the pipe line company was to a tract of oil land four miles south of this city. Robert F. Goodman, a minor Indian, who owned the tract, leased it several years ago to Hugh Bronson, an oil man, who later disposed of it to Winkler, Anerfield & Hicks, a local oil firm, for $400. Truskett paid this firm $9100 for the lease.

Shortly afterward the Wichita Pipe Line Company claimed the lease of the tract, saying it had come into possession of it through a lease by Goodman to Fred C. Losser and Herbert Scott, who were interested in the Wichita Company. The company asserted that the leasing to Truskett had been illegal.

Owen Owen, of Caney, a nephew of Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, traveled with the Indian boy, Goodman, from the time the rival claims arose until the boy became of age, September 24 last. It was said Owen was in the employ of the Wichita Company. On the date Goodman became of age, the Wichita Company began action in the Federal Court to clear its lease to the land. Litigation has been in progress ever since. Truskett asserted the pipe line company used undue influence on the Indian boy, spirited him away and finally bought from him the lease for $5000.

VEIN OF COAL IS FOUND

Property of Littel, Near Centralia, Will Be Developed at Once.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—Another industry has been added to Lewis County. At Littel, eight miles from Centralia, a splendid vein of coal has been discovered after careful development, and the company expects to have more than 200 men at work there before the end of this year. About 50 miners will begin work within a few days.

A remarkable feature about the new mine is the difference of its coal from the kind hitherto mined in this county. Nothing but lignite has, so far, been mined here, but the new vein is found to be bituminous, similar to the coal mined in Virginia collieries.

Our "Store Service"

You hear much nowadays about "Store Service" which is simply the effort made by merchants to give good buying facilities to the public.

When you visit our piano salesrooms, you will find an organization which carries out our idea of what service should be. You will have the attention of people who will give you the information you want without persistent solicitation for you to buy, and you can have as much of their time as you can use.

You will be given access to our entire collection of World Famous Instruments, and the special features of each will be fully explained, as we particularly desire that every caller shall know all about the Pianos and Player-Pianos we sell.

A Remarkable Exhibition

which you should become acquainted with if you are interested in Music.

Here you have before you the final results of modern Piano making, and when you have finished your inspection, you will understand why every year brings added favor to the Pianos we sell to our thousands of customers.

NEW 1911 PIANOS IN VARIOUS DESIGNS ARE READY FOR YOUR EARLY INSPECTION

The Weber — The Fischer — Andrew Kohler
The Steck — Kohler & Chase — Hoffman
The Wheelock — Weser Bros. — and Others

And besides these there are the

FIVE GENUINE PIANOLA PLAYER PIANOS

each containing the remarkable Themodist and Metrostyle attachments, which give you the power to play the masterpieces, even if you have "never learned a note."

You will not regret making a special call to see what we can show you.

DO NOT DELAY

Be One of the Early Callers and See How Easy Your Piano Purchase Can Be Made

Kohler & Chase

375 Washington Street — Established 1850