

MATRIMONY.

The Case of a Lover who had "Conscientious Scruples" at the Hour of Marriage.

A MODERN DESDEMONA AND OTHELLO.

There was once an enterprising Scotch widow, who, failing the appearance at the eventful moment of her intended second husband, utilized the occasion, the clergyman, and the company in a way which must call forth the admiration of the most skilled diplomatist. She was a bouncing young widow of 25, and had agreed to marry "No. 2," as she playfully termed him, in a year and a day from the demise of "No. 1." The happy day fell on a Wednesday, and the ceremony was to take place at the bride's house. A magnificent wedding-feast was provided, and about sixty guests invited. The hour fixed for the marriage was 6 p. m. In the forenoon the bridegroom arrayed himself in his best, and went off to invite a few friends in the country who had been overlooked. Whether he happened to take with him a copy of the "Pickwick papers," and came across Mr. Weller's famous advice to his son Sam on the subject of "vidders," will probably never be known; but by this or some other means he appears to have been reduced to a peculiarly vacillating state of mind with regard to the important step he was about to take; for by the afternoon post his bride-elect received from him an intimation to the effect that he had conscientious scruples as to marrying a woman so recently widowed. He would make it a matter of careful consideration, and abide by the result of his subsequent feelings. She was not to take this as a positive declination; but if he had not arrived by six o'clock she might consider the marriage off. The widow did not faint or go into hysterics, but decked herself in her bridal robes, and smilingly received the guests who had been bidden to the feast. When all the company had arrived the lady read to them the communication she had received from the recreant bridegroom. Loud and long were the denunciations it elicited, and the heroic bearing of the widow under such trying circumstances was marked and commended by all. "This need not prevent the feast," she said, and the banquetting began. The feasting over, the room was cleared for dancing, and everything went merrily as if the wedding had passed off under the most favored auspices. The result of it all was that an elderly bachelor, who had opened the ball with the irrepressible widow, became so enamored of her that before the evening was far advanced he had proposed, and what was more, had been accepted. The minister was recalled; and at 11 p. m. the wedding, though not the one for which the guests had been assembled, was solemnized. The ceremony had scarcely been performed when the door-bell was violently rung, and in stalked the superseded bridegroom. "Careful consideration" had at length overcome his "conscientious scruples," and he had come back to claim his bride—only, however, to be introduced to her as the wife of another. Served him right.

Extremes of many kinds are so common that we need not particularize them here. Unless on the theory of the saying that "extremes meet," it is by no means easy to account for some of them. Here is a somewhat curious though far from unpleasant illustration which was communicated to us some time ago by a lady who had just returned from a voyage to India with her husband in the vessel of which he was skipper. The cook, a negro, was a general favorite with all on board; and in the course of the return voyage not only our lady friend, but all the passengers, and the crew as well, became deeply interested in Sambo's matrimonial affairs, for nothing afforded the honest fellow greater delight than to talk of the pretty little English wife who, he said, was waiting to welcome him on his return to England. Some, especially the ladies, were disposed to be skeptical, suspecting that Sambo was either romancing or indulging in one of those elaborate equivoques in which the negro mind delights. The precedent of Desdemona and Othello notwithstanding the idea of a nice-looking English girl actually falling in love with and marrying a Sambo was not to be accepted without considerable reserve. In the restricted community on board a vessel small matters are often investigated with an altogether exceptional importance, and so the question of Sambo's wife was magnified into one of the great problems of the day. It was at length resolved, in order to gratify the general curiosity and put the story to the test, to have a party of some sort on board ship as soon as London was reached and invite Sambo to bring his wife, who he declared, resided there. She party was arranged accordingly. The long talked of guest of the evening duly appeared—"And would you believe it?" the Captain's wife afterward remarked with great animation, "she was actually pretty!" Sambo was the hero of the hour; and everybody declared that a prouder husband or a more happy, contented, and devoted little wife had never been seen.

The very act of marrying at all in some instances a most eccentric proceeding. What, for example, could be more absurd than the recent marriage, in a small agricultural village in England, of a couple whose united ages came to 158, the bridegroom being 77 and the bride 81. Nor

was this the only peculiar feature of this extraordinary union. The bridegroom's Christian name was Thomas and the bride's Mary; and this was the third Mary that Thomas had selected as his partner, while it was the third Thomas to whom Mary had been united by the conjugal bond. To crown all, both were in receipt of parochial relief to the extent of two shillings and a loaf each per week.

HOUSEHOLD.

PNEUMONIA.—Dr. Loomis says, "The causes are atmospheric; there is abroad some unknown influence which predisposes to inflammatory diseases that have an infectious element." Usually the maximum number of cases occurs in March or April but this year probably on account of the peculiar weather, it has come earlier than usual. Young people, Dr. Loomis says, usually recover from it; old people, scarcely ever.

Dr. Alonzo Clark says that the exact causes of the disease are as yet unknown, but that from records which have been kept it appears that barometrical conditions of the atmosphere have as much to do with it as thermometrical. It is usually traced to sudden exposure, followed by a severe cold. A weak condition of the system, an indulgence in alcoholic liquors, and business anxiety or overwork constitute favorable conditions for its rapid development.

Dr. William A. Hammond thinks that the disease, together with many others, may be traced to the overheating of houses so common among us. When the temperature of a house is too high there is great danger of taking cold by passing from the overheated rooms to the cold outside air. This is especially true in country houses, where the halls are not heated and a shock is given the system every time one passes from room to room through the cold passage.

Taken altogether, this testimony from three leading physicians justifies five conclusions: First, that one is especially liable to pneumonia at this season of the year; second, that overheated rooms are dangerous; third, that violent changes of temperature should be guarded against; fourth, that overwork and worry predispose to pneumonia; fifth, that indulgence in alcoholic liquors helps the disease.

Any one may contract this ailment but a reasonable degree of caution in the particulars we have named, and a prompt application of remedies on the first appearance of the symptoms, will constitute pretty efficient safeguards for every one.

In a family of four small children, one who was less robust than the rest was always peevish in the morning and without appetite for breakfast. The fretfulness was excused on the ground of delicacy of constitution. The mother was induced to let the child sleep alone, instead of with a healthy older sister, and the gain in both strength of body and sweetness of disposition was so marked that single beds are now used in the children's and servants' rooms throughout the house. Especially during the years of growth should a child be protected against having its vitality absorbed during sleeping hours by occupying the same bed with another person.

The *Grange Visitor* thinks, all things considered, there is no way of keeping apples quite so good and practicable as packing in tight barrels and storing in cool cellars; the barrel forms a room and prevents circulation of air and consequent drying and shrinking of the fruit, and also lessens the changes of temperature, and besides more fruit can be packed and stored in a given space than in any other way. The poorest of ways is in a large, open bin, and the objections are, too much weight upon the lower fruit, and too much trouble to handle and sort when desirable to market.

When exhausted by severe mental or bodily strain, nothing restores tone to the system so quickly as hot milk. Though less palatable to some than cold milk or even alcoholic stimulants, one who has experienced the refreshing influence which follows almost immediately, will not forego its use for anything more agreeable to the taste.

JAPANESE TIDIES.—Paste a Japanese picture on a square of white glazed cambric, then a row of black velvet overlapping the edges; outside of this a row of bright satin ribbon and put on a row of white lace to form a ruffle. A picture pasted on a square of pink satin and edged with white Breton lace, is handsome.

Take a new flower-pot, wash it clean, wrap in a wet cloth and set over butter; will keep it as hard as if on ice. Milk if put into an earthen can, or even in a tin can, will keep sweet for a long time if well wrapped in a wet cloth.

LACE AND VELVET TIDIES.—These are made by sewing velvet ribbon and insertion together alternately, finishing them with a row of lace and insertion. Black velvet and white lace look best, but some like colors. Scarlet velvet and black lace look very rich.

CARAMELS.—1 cupful of molasses, 2 cupfuls of sugar, 1 cupful of cream or milk, 1 teaspoonful of flour mixed with the milk, a piece of butter the size of an egg, 8 ounces of chocolate.

The *Riverside Press* thus sums up the damage by frost in that region: The orange crop is slightly damaged; the lemon crop is seriously damaged and the lime crop is ruined. Small trees are seriously hurt in places, while large orange trees are not hurt at all, and large lemon trees are hurt but little.

NOTED PERSONS.

The Religious and Charitable Bequests of two Prominent Millionaires.

MISS SARAH BARR'S SINGULAR LIFE AND DEATH.

The doctors tell Vanderbilt to be careful, but that is hardly necessary, as he always has been careful, and never was more so than in the past couple of years. No man in New York is more regular in his habits than this noted millionaire of ours. He has no particular weakness except for driving fast horses, and his health is more likely to be helped than hurt by that. Equally regular is his neighbor and brother millionaire, Jay Gould, who has no weakness of any kind—so far as the public knows, at all events. His life, away from Wall street, is almost that of a recluse. He rarely goes out and he receives but little company in his handsome Fifth avenue home. His coming trip around the world will be the first real vacation he has had since he became rich enough to enjoy one. The \$160,000 steam yacht in which he is to make the trip will be ready, it is said, about the first of June. Mr. Gould's son, by the way, has just become a member of the Lotos Club. The young man shows a good deal of spirit and has already made a large number of friends, socially and otherwise. But it should not be hard for the prospective heir of \$50,000,000 to make friends.

Speaking of millions, it appears that the wealth of Wm. E. Dodge and Gov. Morgan was not so great as had been supposed. The will of each has been offered for probate, and the value of the respective estates is given at \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. Each was popularly credited with the ownership of twice the latter sum. Mr. Dodge's religious and charitable bequests amount to \$300,000, and those of Gov. Morgan to \$750,000. In the latter case, however, the gifts made some time ago to the Union Theological Seminary and Williams College, amounting to \$300,000, are included. As Mr. Dodge was so active in religious work, it was thought he would leave more money for it than his will provides for. The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions get \$50,000 each. The peculiar evangelist, Jerry McCauley, who was one of Mr. Dodge's proteges, is remembered to the extent of \$5,000. Jerry certainly lives much more comfortably now than he did in his penitentiary days, and he always makes that a leading point in his appeals to sinners. Gov. Morgan's bequests include \$100,000 to the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and the same amount to the Board of Home Missions; and \$50,000 each to the Presbyterian Hospital, the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital and one fund to supplement salaries of clergymen. He left \$100,000 in equal parts to the Woman's Hospital, the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, the City Mission and Tract Society, and the Association for the Relief of Respectable Indigent Women. Each millionaire left a widow, made ample provision for her support, and kept the bulk of his wealth in his own family, which was a natural and proper thing to do.

The long contest over the will of Miss Sarah Barr is closing at last. It has dragged in the Surrogate's Court so long that the public has lost interest in it, yet it may well stand as one of the most singular will cases ever tried. Miss Barr, 88 years old, left an estate valued at \$3,000,000 almost entirely to religious and charitable interests. It has been shown in the course of the trial that for several years before her death her life was little better than that of a pauper. In its gruesomeness it resembles that of Miss Havesham, so graphically pictured by Dickens in "Great Expectations." In her early years and in middle life she mingled freely in society and had many friends. As she grew old she became sour toward the world and withdrew from it altogether. Her once handsome and luxurious home in University Place became a dismal jail, with windows closed all the year round and hardly a sign of life. The rich furniture, draperies and dresses of the old times were put away and concealed. Hardly any visitor was allowed to enter. The only servant was a faithful Irish woman, who could scarcely get enough food in the house to support life. A few rickety pieces of old furniture were all that the eccentric mistress would allow to be used. The furniture and the kitchen utensils were as wretched as could be found in the most squalid tenement. Her only companion was the servant mentioned, and when she died in the kitchen, on an old lounge which the servant had brought to the house, it was the faithful Irish woman who prepared her for burial, laying her out a few feet from the kitchen range. And when all was over, it was found that the erratic spinster of 88 had left her \$3,000,000 to religion and charity. The result of the contest over her will will probably be known in a few days.

Precarious and uncertain gains are usually as speedily dissipated. Try, if possible, to save a portion of whatever you receive, to lay by. The impudence of literary individuals has often been a subject of reproach to the profession, and not without reason.

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