

WHAT SOCIETY IS DOING



Personal notices of visitors in the city, or of Coos Bay people who visit in other cities, together with notices of social affairs, are gladly received in the social department. Telephone 133. Notices of club meetings will be published and secretaries are kindly requested to furnish same.

A RHYME OF LITTLE GIRLS

Prithee tell me, don't you think
Little girls are dearest
With their cheeks of tempting pink,
And their eyes the clearest?
Don't you know that they are
The best
And of all the loveliest?

Of all the girls with roguish ways
They are surely truest;
Sunshine gleams through all their
Days
They seek skies the bluest,
And they wear a diadem
Summer has bestowed on them.
Lydia doesn't care a cent
For the newest dances;
She is not on flirting bent,
Has no killing glances,
But without the slightest art
She has captured many a heart.

Older sisters cut you dead,
Little sisters never;
They don't giggle when they've said
Something very clever—
They just get behind a chair,
Frowning, smiling at you there.

Florence, Lydia, Margaret
Or a gentle Mary,
They form friendships that, once set
Never more can vary—
Staunch young friends they are
And true,
Always clinging close to you.

Buds must into blossoms grow,
(Morn so early leaves us!)
Maids must into women grow,
(There's the thing that grieves us!)
Psyche knots of flying curls,
That's good-by to little girls!

Romans, and in Sparta it was found necessary to make a law against luxury by stating that none save iron rings were permitted to be worn. Luxury in rings was carried to extremes in Rome, where at first they were worn on one finger only, then on all the fingers, and then on each joint of each finger, and finally a real Roman fop had to wear certain rings only on certain days of the week. Some of these Roman rings were of extraordinary size.

The ring was early used as a lover's pledge. While some assert that we owe the origin of the ring as a wedding pledge to the Romans, many believe that it goes much further back, to the Egyptians, Babylonians and Hebrews.

Among the Romans the ring was given at the engagement, probably as a pledge that the engagement to marry would be kept. Pliny says that rings in his time were made of iron, but they were certainly made of gold in the second century.

In Rome, at the signing of the marriage contract, there was a great feast, and the man gave the woman a ring, which he put on her left hand, on the finger next to the smallest, for the Romans held that there was a nerve running directly from this finger to the heart. This ring was at first of iron or copper, with little projections in the shape of a key to suggest that the wife had possession of her husband's keys. Later these rings became very much more costly and elaborate.

Some Roman nuptial rings had inscriptions, such as "Ama me" (love me), "Amo te" (I love thee), "Bonam vitam" (a good life). One ring picked up in the ruins of Pompeii represents a man and woman joining hands.

The use of a ring as a sign of betrothal is very general. Copts have a custom of betrothing girls at 6 or 7 years of age by putting a ring on the finger of the girl thus "sealed." In Persia a ring is among the marriage presents made by the groom to the bride. In Spain if a man gives a girl over 12 years of age a ring, that constitutes a betrothal, to which he may be held.

Shakespeare refers to a custom prevalent in England in his day of exchanging rings at the betrothal, as in "Twelfth Night," "Strengthened by the interchange of your ring." In Germany the exchange of rings at the betrothal is a very common and time-honored ceremony.

In the early Christian church a ring of truth was given to the woman by the man. The Christian fathers were at great pains to explain the ring, and according to Clemens Alexandrinus the ring was given not as an ornament, but as a seal to signify the woman's duty to preserve the goods of her husband, because the care of the house belongs to her.

The first Christians engraved upon their seals symbolic figures, such as the dove, fish, anchor, lyre, etc. The rings used for the marriage ceremony represented pigeons, fish or more often two hands joined together. In the Christian weddings the same finger was still used as that for the wedding ring, but not for the former reason of any connection directly with the heart.

In the ancient ritual of the English marriage the ring was placed by the husband on the top of the thumb of the left hand, with the words: "In the name of the Father"; he then moved on to the forefinger, saying: "In the name of the Son"; then to the middle finger, adding: "And of the Holy Ghost," finally placing it upon the fourth finger, with the word "Amen."

The ring has now become so closely identified with marriage that it is regarded as the one essential sign of marriage, and many hold, especially the ignorant, that a marriage is not valid without it. But during the time of the commonwealth in England the Puritans seriously contemplated doing away with it, as having originated with the heathen.

One dominant superstition has been built up around the ring as

Contributions concerning social happenings, intended for publication in the society department of The Times, must be submitted to the editor not later than 6 o'clock p. m., Friday of each week. (Exceptions will be allowed only in cases where the event occurred later than the time mentioned.)

a symbol of marriage; that it is bad luck, and a sign of misfortune to remove the wedding ring, if only for an instant.

The plain gold ring for the wedding is modern. In ancient times it was often ornate in design, bearing a Cupid and Psyche, or a Christian device, such as:

"First love Christ, who died for thee,
Next to Him, love none but me."
"God saw thee
Most fit for me."

Aside from marriage, rings have taken on great significance. The papal ring is probably the best known, for it is put on when the pontiff assumes office, having the device of St. Peter in a boat drawing a net from the water. When the pope dies it is broken.

The mode of wearing the ring has been developed into what is termed "Love's Telegraph." If a man wants a wife, he wears a ring on the first finger of his left hand; if he is engaged, he wears it on the second finger; if married, on the third, and if he intends never to marry, on the fourth.

When a lady is not engaged she wears a plain ring or one set with a diamond on the first finger; if engaged, on the second; if married, on the third, and on the fourth if she intends to die a maid.

The making of name—on sentiment—ring is one of the fanciful turns to which rings have been put. The words regard and dearest are more common. The former is made up of these stones R(uby) E(merald) G(arnet) A(methyst) R(uby) D(iamond). The latter: D(iamond) E(merald) A(methyst) R(uby) E(merald) S(apphire) T(opaz).

Rings were also used largely as amulets, either because of some word inscribed upon the ring, supposed to ward off evil spirits, or because good influences might be summoned by the wearer. The most famous of these in song and story is the "Seal of Solomon," which figures in the "Arabian Nights" and in many Oriental legends. It was supposed to be inscribed with the letters of the ineffable name of God, and to be able to summon to assist its wearer the good spirits, or jinns, and drive off the evil demons.

Special virtues were held to inhere in some precious stones, when set in rings. Jasper set in silver was a powerful healer of diseases. Nostradamus writes: "The diamond renders a man invincible; the agate of India or Crete, eloquent and prudent, amiable and agreeable; the amethyst resists intoxication; the cornelian appeases anger; the hyacinth provokes sleep."

Other ancient authorities claim that a ruby restrains wrath and fury; an emerald is an enemy with all impurity; the sapphire will keep all men pure, and is therefore to be worn by priests; the opal is said to sharpen the sight of its possessor and cloud the eyes of those about him.

One of the largest rings ever found is a gold ring bearing the portrait of Trajan's queen, Plotina, the headpiece being made up of three rows of precious stones cut in facets.

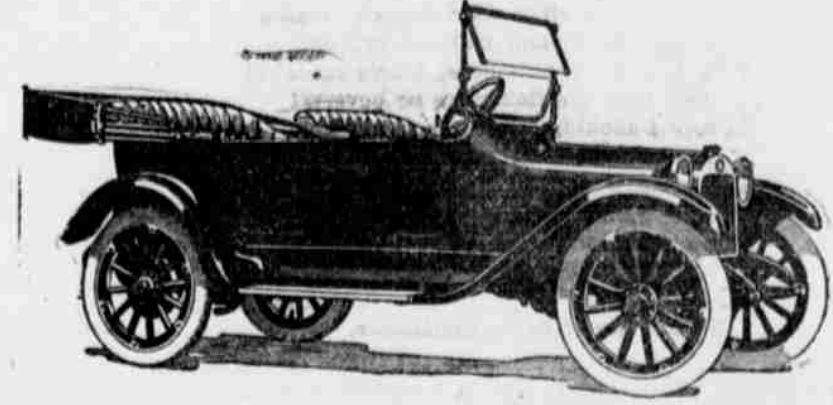
Another enormous ring is the one which was presented to President Franklin Pierce in 1852 by some citizens of San Francisco. It weighed one pound. The hoop of the ring is cut into squares, on each of which was shown some scene in the history of California. The bezel, bearing the seal, has engraved upon it the arms of the state of California, surmounted by the Stars and Stripes of the United States and the name of Franklin Pierce. This ring was valued at \$2000.

BROWNIE-TOWER NUPTIALS

Announcements were received in Marshfield this week of the marriage of Miss Nora Frances Tower to John Waddell Brownlie, which

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took place in San Francisco on Saturday, November 27. The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Tower of this city, both of whom were present at the wedding. Since she has made her home in Marshfield Mrs. Brownlie has made a host of admiring friends and acquaintances by her sweet disposition and winsome manners. She is a graduate of Marshfield High School and also spent two years at Berkeley. Mr. Brownlie is a promising young business man of Vallejo, California, where, after January 1, the young couple will make their home. The groom spent two weeks on the Bay a short time ago and while here made many friends.

D. M. C. CLUB MEETS

Mrs. Henry Kern enjoyably entertained the D. M. C. Club at her home in North Bend last Wednesday afternoon, when the time was spent as usual in a pleasant manner, sewing and chat being the principal diversions. Mrs. S. McDonald, Mrs. Charles Williams, Mrs. N. G. Hames and Mrs. Roy Brainard were appointed as a committee to arrange for a card party which will be given on the evening of January first. Special guests present this week were Mrs. Fay Ward and Mrs. C. L. Coe. At the close of the afternoon Mrs. Kern served an appetizing luncheon. Members out were: Mrs. Ira Wenzel, Mrs. S. McDonald, Mrs. Hames, Mrs. W. Vaughan, Mrs. A. E. Morten and Mrs. Brainard. The next meeting will be in two weeks with Mrs. McDonald.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS ENTERTAIN

Tuesday evening the Royal Neighbors of North Bend entertained their husbands and a large number of friends at a genuine old-fashioned dance in Loggie Hall. There were about 200 in attendance, all of whom declare they had the best time ever. At a late hour, a bountiful supply of refreshments were served.

(Continued on Page Three.)

MATT L. MAY

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