

### AN IMPENDING EVIL.

Observations Upon the Annual Decrease in the Number of Marriages.

A social reformer who is as precise in his statements of facts as he is expert in the manipulation of figures, reports as the result of the investigation that the number of marriages is decreasing every year. We have just cause for alarm if the report is true. Certainly the choice of a wife is a subject full of piquant attraction to romantic young men who have sown his wild oats and is saving his earnings and longs for the comfort and sheltered ease of a home of his own. The difficulties of courtship, however, are perplexing, arduous and real. In Knickerbocker times the knot was securely tied after a bluff proposal and the young married couple were ready to start housekeeping with a barrel of potatoes, a blunderbuss and a family Bible. Then life was idyllic and full of romance and song. But *tempora mutantur* and they change for the worse, in most respects. No longer do the married pair flutter through life on wings of romance. The chief bond of interest that unites young lovers in this mercenary age is a Government four percent. The domestic tie is so elastic, divorce so easily procurable, the feminine heart is soickle within, that eligible young men feel morbidly shy about exposing themselves to the matrimonial noose and would as soon think of slipping a halter around the neck.

The rule of woman in masculine attire and common sense shoes is not a pleasant spectacle to contemplate. But if the girls of the Republic are not married off in some way, old maids of the most virulent type, in various stages of physical decline, will be clamoring for their rights with exceeding vigor and persistency, and who knows whether there will be enough green tea and scandal left to go around? Already the census table shows a deplorable increase in their number. They are organizing crusades against the most cherished institutions of mankind.

If for no other reasons than the above, human ingenuity should devise some method of facilitating proposals and tightening the love knot so there can be no escape. Cynics scoff at the marital relations. Idle flirtations are destroying the confidence of young people of romantic temperament in one another. Sir George Campbell has endeavored to prove that there is no such thing as love; that it is a psychological delusion. So long as these ideas prevail, no easy-going youth will feel like sacrificing the frolic and fun of Bohemia for the martyrdom of the domestic circle. But legislation can rectify the evil. The law-makers should take the matter in hand. They can make courtship a civic duty which the individual owes to society, and enforce it by law. Were men who persist in remaining single disfranchised and divested of their property, and were women who refused to marry shut up in convents and denied access to the fashion magazines, the aggressive type of maiden lady who delights in agitating social and political reforms, would gradually disappear and an ominous evil would be averted, an evil that all sensible people would seriously deplore.

—Harold Van Santvoord, in *Life*.

### HINTS ON IRONING.

Reliable Information Relating to This Difficult Part of Laundry Work.

Every housekeeper should acquaint herself with the general rules necessary for ironing. It is difficult to give directions how to iron well, as experience is the best teacher, but there are several things to be observed in doing the work to which strict attention must be given.

A strong table of suitable size, and a light ironing board, also a bosom board should be provided. Irons of three sizes are convenient, and should always be kept clean, and smooth; ashes, salt or brick dust are good to clean irons, and wax rubbed occasionally on them will serve to keep them in good order. The sheets and table linens should be ironed first, then the shirts. First iron the shirt all over, wringing a clean cloth out of warm water, and rub over the bosom, which should be rapidly gone over with a clean hot iron, then the plaits should be raised, and ironed again, then dampened with water or polish, and ironed with a polishing iron. Fine thin dresses, or other soft articles that do not need polishing, should be ironed on a soft blanket. Embroideries should be ironed on the wrong side. Always have near a bowl of clean water, so any spot imperfectly ironed may be dampened and ironed over until smooth.—*Ladies' Home Journal*.

### A Story From Chicago.

The woman who remarked that with one servant your household work is done, with two it is half done, and with three you have to do it yourself, doubtless thought she had said a neat thing. But, according to a gentleman of Chicago, electricity is the only satisfactory domestic servant. He has fitted up his house with electrical apparatus that does everything. It wakes him in the morning. After that all he has to do is to press knobs. With one pressure the fire is lighted, and on goes the kettle; with another his hot water is sent upstairs. Electric scrubbing brushes keep every thing nice and clean, and an electric page-boy opens the door for callers and the morning's milk.—*Philadelphia Press*.

—“What am I likely to draw if I buy a lottery ticket?” asks a rural subscriber. We never succeeded in drawing anything but a long breath.—*Chicago Tribune*.

—Bed-clothing manufactured from paper pulp, strengthened with twine, is one of the latest novelties.—*N. Y. Herald*.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

—Wall paper is so beautiful and artistic now as to easily mistake for fresco.—*N. Y. Mail*.

—The Marquis de Mores, the millionaire cowboy of Montana, has leased a house in New York for four months, paying \$24,000 for the rent of the house and furniture.

—Pierre Lorillard's toboggan slide at Tuxedo Park, near New York, is exactly one mile long and the descent is frequently made in just one minute of time.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

—Here is a lesson from a boy that some older person might well heed: “Why did you not pocket some? Nobody was there to see you.” “I was there, and I never intend to see myself again.”—*Albany Journal*.

—Jim Brown eloped from Tin Cup, Col., with a woman who was described in a local paper as a “fat blonde.” Friends telegraphed the fact to the fair creature, and she returned and smashed a pitcher over the editor’s head.—*Denton Tribune*.

—William H. Warner, a Connecticut murderer and suicide, left a document ordering that his body should be held for one week after his supposed death, and that he be buried face downward, all of which directions were religiously observed by his friends.

—Railway Conductor—“Can’t you do something for this passenger?” Doctor—“Has he appeared sick long?” “No, he got out and took his meal at every lunch-station we stopped at from San Francisco to Omaha.” “Humph! Didn’t he say anything with him?” “I believe not. What do you think ails him?” “Starvation.”—*Omaha World*.

—Mr. and Mrs. Seth Thompson of East Bridgewater, are probably the oldest married couple in Massachusetts. They celebrated the seventy-second anniversary of their marriage the other day, and all of their children were present to wish them joy. Mr. Thompson is ninety-five years old and can read without the aid of spectacles, but his hearing is poor, while his wife’s eyesight is not what it used to be, but her hearing is acute. *Boston Herald*.

—A writer in the *Boston Post* says: “Some years ago I noticed for the first time a frail young girl who had taken her position as a candy seller in a doorway, upon a particularly cold street. I marked her appearance with a sigh, fearing that the severity of a single winter would consign her to an early grave. But what has been the result? She has sat in the same place ever since, and instead of going into a decline she has improved in looks year by year, and is now positively robust.”

—Fifteen years ago G. L. Larne was scalped by the Sioux Indians in the western part of the then Territory of Colorado. Monday he wandered into Waco, Tex., sick, weary and without money. He had been roving about in the mountains for fifteen years. His wounds are still open, and when he lifts his hat and raises the bandages he presents a ghastly spectacle. Many old frontiersmen gathered about him, and the old flesh leaped into their eyes as they listened to his pitiful story. Steps are being taken to permanently relieve his necessities.—*Denver Tribune*.

—“The blizzards out in Dakota are so terrible,” said a man just in from the North, “that the people string clothes-lines from their homes to the out-houses in order that they may pass to and fro during the prevalence of one of these storms without running the risk of losing their way in their own yards. One can not see three feet ahead in a Dakota blizzard, and if he once loses his bearings he is almost certain to drift out upon the prairie and perish before assistance can reach him. With the aid of a rope a man is enabled to grope about his own yard with comparative safety so long as he doesn’t let go.”—*Chicago Herald*.

—“The only stock of type, presses and printing material will be found at Palmer & Rey’s Portland house.

### DYSPEPSIA AND CONSTIPATION.

Henry B. Archer, Receiver of Taxes of the City of Yonkers, N. Y., says of BRANDRETH’S PILLS:

For the past ten years I have been using BRANDRETH’S PILLS for self and family. We find them a sovereign remedy for indigestion and constipation, taking one or two every night for ten days. They are also admirable blood purifiers, perfectly harmless but exceedingly effective as a cathartic. I first used them myself, particularly for biliousness and dyspepsia. They relieved me in two weeks. I cheerfully recommend them.

### ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS WOULD NOT BALANCE THE BENEFIT.

The following letter is one of many in a similar tone from enthusiastic patients of Drs. STARKEY & PALES, 139 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.:

Mr. E. W. Robinson writes from Plattsburgh, N. Y.: “I have no objections to your using my name in connection with my case before the public. I have had more ease in breathing, and less pain and lame ness about my chest, than for many years before. Thanks to your treatment, I am able to work the most of the time. To tell the plain truth, it put me in shape I could work. *I would not be set back to the time I began your treatment for a thousand dollars.* I can walk with more ease, go up and down stairs, etc. in or out of a wagon in one-third of the time, and double the ease I ever could in many years before, for which I owe you, gentlemen, in my thanks.”

“Compound Oxygen, its Mode of Action and Results,” is the title of a brochure of nearly 200 pages freely mailed to any applicant. It makes clear to any one how such statements are justified.

Orders for the Compound Oxygen Home Treatment will be filled by H. A. Mathews, 613 Powell street, San Francisco.

A woman in a North Carolina town, angry at her husband, threw a poker at him as he sat holding their baby in his arms, and it hit the little one on the head and killed it.

### A SUGGESTION TO THE TRAVELING PUBLIC.

Tourists, emigrants and mariners find that Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters is a medicinal safeguard against unhealthy influences, upon which they can implicitly rely, since it prevents the effects of vitiated atmosphere, unwholesome modes of living, and other conditions unfavorable to health. On long voyages, or journeys in latitudes adjacent to the equator, it is especially useful as a preventive of the febrile complaints and disorders of the tropic climate. River and ocean winds are apt to attack sailors of the temperate zone, journeying or traveling in such regions, and it is an excellent protection against the influence of extreme cold, sudden changes of temperature, exposure to damp or extremely bright sunlight, and against the effects of violent exertion and repeated fatigue, and other diseases of a malarial type, but eradicates them, a fact which has been notorious for years past in North and South America, Mexico, the West Indies, Australia and other countries.

Salt should be eaten with nuts to aid digestion.

### SWEET MAUD MULLER.

Whittier’s beautiful ballad contains a touching allusion to the many cares and sorrows which wear upon the “heart and brain” of a wife and mother. Thousands of weary and suffering women have found Dr. Pierce’s “Favorite Prescription” a marvelous recuperator of wasted strength and of sovereign efficacy in all those derangements and maladies peculiar to their sex, by reason of which the vitality is gradually sapped, and the cheek robbed prematurely of its bloom. Price reduced to one dollar. By druggists.

It rests you in sewing to change your position frequently.

—Other agencies of Eastern type founders have to pay freights and will advance their prices.

### WHAT A POSTAGE STAMP WILL DO.

Now read this carefully, and write every word, for it may lay the foundation for your future happiness and health. Any woman, young or old, that suffers with any disease, no matter what it is called, or of how long standing, or who has doctor’d you, if you will sit down and write me a full history of the case, and all the symptoms, I will write you my opinion of the case, the probabilities of a cure and cost. I am prepared to treat everything requiring surgical appliances as well as medicinally; am a graduate; 30 years practice. Men and women both can write to me in strict confidence. Persons coming to the city are requested to call on me. Enclose a stamp and address.

W. B. FORDEN, M. D., Office—8 and 9, First National Bank, Portland, Oregon.

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