

THE SCIENCE OF WOOING.

How It Is Practiced in Many Strange Lands.

Talk with a Man Who Has Made the Subject a Study—The Origin of Some Old Wedding Customs—The Modern Marriage Broker.

Written for This Paper.
There are fads and fads. Some are vicious, others lead to the loss of time and money, and still others are perfectly harmless. Not long ago I met a long-haired gentleman who has devoted years of travel to the study of marriage customs in various parts of the world. He allowed his love for the subject to develop into an innocent fad and, according to his own testimony, spent thousands of dollars in the purchase of wedding gifts peculiar to different countries. But in spite of this seeming extravagance his fad has remained perfectly harmless. In



A MARRIAGE IN KOREA.

fact, it has proved itself of great value, as it enables me to present to the readers of this paper facts in condensed form whose collection has cost many thousands of dollars.

Marriage among primitive people, according to my informant, is purely a business transaction. The natives of southern Siberia, for instance, buy their wives from the parents, paying for them sums ranging from twenty to seventy-five dollars, according to the physical attractiveness of the girls. Among the Tartars the same custom prevails, but the brides are more valuable, some commanding as much as one thousand dollars. A still more simple way of wooing is that of the Tchuktches, a Siberian tribe, among whom the would-be-groom serves his prospective father-in-law for a certain number of years, according to agreement, like Jacob served Lehan in patriarchal times.

A wedding in Korea is described as a unique ceremony. The groom, clothed in a gorgeous gown hired for the occasion, is preceded by his best man who carries a goose in his arms. The procession marches toward a small table before which the groom bows profoundly. Then he relieves his attendant of the goose, whose feet are securely tied, and sits down. Soon afterward the bride, chaperoned by two elderly females, makes her appearance. Her face is painted white, with ghastly red spots on the forehead, on each cheek and on the lips, and her eyes are sealed. She is led across a large mat in the center of the room. At the end of the apartment her attendants place a white handkerchief over her clasped hands and lead her back to the mat. At this moment the bridegroom is supposed to appear at the other end of the mat. The bride salutes him by raising her arms to the level of her eyes and bowing three times. This greeting is returned in kind by the groom. Then they sit down at opposite ends of the mat, and the goose—an emblem of fidelity—is released after having been fed by an old woman. This completes the ceremony and the twain are one.

In Burma the love-sick avain follows his innamorata for several days, at a respectful distance. If she is favorably disposed toward him she will smile at him on the third day, and the



KABYLE BRIDE READY FOR WEDDING RIDE.

young man can begin his wooing in earnest. In China girls are betrothed at a very early age, many brides being scarcely ten years of age. After marriage the girl is taken to her husband's home, where she becomes the virtual slave of her mother-in-law, whose every word is law. My informant argued from this that the stale mother-in-law jokes of our period must have had their origin in the celestial empire.

The most nonchalant method of courting of which we have authentic records is practiced in the Tonga islands and among some Australian tribes. When a man happens to see a maiden who pleases his fancy he knocks her down with a club and carries her to his hut. Among the Bengalis of India the maiden does the chasing. She pursues the youth of her choice in true foot-race style. When she has caught him he is carried to a river or creek by the girl and her friends and immersed with a vengeance, a proceeding which always terminates in a wedding.

All of the Mohammedan peoples and

tribes, including the Turks, Egyptians, Persians and Arabs, cling to the tradition that it is improper for the groom to see his bride until after the marriage ceremony is performed. Among the Kabyles prevails another ancient custom. After the couple has been married the bride rides through the principal streets of the village on a mule, surrounded by a picturesque mob of relatives, who exhort the villagers to contribute victims of various kinds toward the establishment of the new household.

In rural Russia the bride is conducted to the church by two young men and the groom is escorted by two bridesmaids. After the marriage ceremony the bride is conducted to her new home by the relatives of her husband and the groom is placed in charge of his wife's people. The Kirghese, sometimes called the lords of the steppe, are very fair towards their young women. If a girl objects to the youth who wants to marry her she has the right to challenge him to a foot race which is conducted on such a basis that she can easily escape, as the sympathy of the crowd usually is with the maiden.

But the material supplied by my informant is so voluminous that I could fill column after column with interesting details of primal courtship; and I might as well close here and devote a few paragraphs to the symbolical customs in vogue in different lands.

Not so very many years ago betrothment was recognized by the laws of most European countries. These enactments, whose penalty was excommunication, have, however, been repealed. Instead of being made a social outcast the man who now refuses to marry a girl after having pledged his troth becomes defendant in a breach-of-promise suit.

Betrothment in all civilized countries has always been sealed by a pledge. In Turkey and other Mohammedan countries the groom-to-be sends to his prospective bride a gold snuilet which is worn around the neck. In China red cards are exchanged in token of an engagement. The ancient Romans exchanged rings, a custom which has been adopted by all civilized nations.

Moldavia, a province of the kingdom of Roumania, is the home of the time-honored custom of throwing grain at newly-married couples, which is equivalent to expressing a wish for their prosperity. Another custom prevailing in that and adjoining provinces compels the bride to sweep the hearth of her new home in the presence of the assembled guests to indicate that she is willing to assume the duties of a housewife.

In the country towns of Germany the custom of throwing broken dishes



A KIRGHISE BRIDE.

and earthenware vessels against the door of the house occupied by a bridal couple is still maintained, the object of the fusillade being the driving-away of "scoolding sprites." This custom also prevails in Sardina. In some parts of the orient the bride cuts off her hair in tokens of submission to her husband, and in certain sections of Russia she pulls off her husband's boots, the groom at the same time giving her a slight cut with a whip.

Betrothments are still announced in newspapers and by card in Germany and Austria as well as in most other European countries. In the United States this custom has never obtained a foothold, except among the Jews and the direct descendants of foreigners.

An important means of comparatively recent development, in matrimonial negotiations is the marriage broker. Adept in this profession have existed from time immemorial. In parts of Asia and in the districts of eastern Europe, they have always been considered important personages; but in genteel society they were not recognized until very recently. The marriage broker of Paris is the prince of his profession. He usually maintains a fashionable boulevard. Applicants for husbands or wives are listed and scheduled. They have to give their names, age, titles, possessions and prospects. Their statements are carefully investigated, and if found correct, they become clients of the establishment. The modus operandi of the brokers is as follows: After an applicant and his wants have been entered on the books, the agent proceeds to employ sub-agents who are familiar with the financial circumstances of all wealthy or titled families. These designate a man or woman, as the case may be, whose social position corresponds with the requirements of the applicant. The agent next ascertains what places of public amusement are frequented by the person he wishes to meet. Having accomplished this, he makes use of his large circle of acquaintances in all classes of society and secures an introduction. It is then a very easy matter to bring the two young people together; and in nine cases out of ten a marriage results. For his trouble the broker receives an entrance fee and a certain percentage of the bride's dot, without which no marriage is made in continental Europe. Many attempts have been made to establish similar matrimonial bureaus in the United States, but hitherto, let us thank the good sense of our people, without success.

G. W. WEIPPERT.

DEER HUNT AT NIGHT.

How Sportsmen in the Adirondacks Guard Their Game.

Long lake is one of the best feeding grounds for deer in the Adirondacks, growing as it does a kind of spire weed and cranberry, of which the deer is very fond. The process involved in hunting deer, says an eastern exchange, is very curious and interesting; in the guide's own words, "one must know the nature of the animal to succeed." It is the custom of this animal to browse on its way down to the water at night for drink, and the slight crash made in coming through the brush betrays them to the guide, who, with his companion seated in a boat, is slowly and noiselessly paddling close to shore, and nearer and nearer to the locality from whence the sound comes. Although there are many other noises abroad on the night air none can mistake this particular one. The guide holds his breath or emits it in quick gasps. Absolute silence on the part of the inmates of the boat prevails. The night wind blows softly. The stars are reflected in the still water. The air is heavy with the fragrance from woods, flowers and trees. The boat drifts or is propelled so gently that it is calculated to deceive one's own senses as to whether, after all, it is not all a dream. The occasional sound of the paddle sounds like the ripple of water or the lapping of the waves against the shore, when suddenly another and unmistakable crash is heard close at hand. The cap is off the jack lantern, instantly a search-light is thrown over the lake and adjacent wooded shore. Two bright eyes are seen, a terrified whistling is heard, and the deer starts to run, but it is too late; a whizz and bang and a fine four-year-old buck falls to the ground. The tense straining of every muscle and nerve is relieved and followed by the wildest excitement and commotion as the boat is hastily paddled to shore.

CHECK ON TOBACCO.

In Some German Towns the Weed Is Prohibited on the Streets.

The consumption of tobacco of all kinds in France, according to recently compiled statistics, is nearly one hundred and twenty-five million pounds per year, says the Milwaukee Wisconsin. An analysis of the figures shows that the people of northern France use nearly four times as much per capita as those in the southern provinces. Almost every country of Europe, however, consumes more smoking tobacco in proportion to its population than does France.

This is especially the case with Germany. In many small German towns smoking in the streets is forbidden. Less than fifty years ago if a man ventured on the streets of Berlin with a cigar in his mouth he would be liable to arrest. The same provision existed until 1848 in Vienna, though the law was not observed by the populace. The town of Broeck, in Holland, which is said to be the cleanest city in the world, has long forbidden the people within its walls to smoke after sunset in the streets unless with a covered pipe. "In order that the cinders may not be blown about," smoking with an uncovered pipe in German or Austrian forests is an offense that is rigorously punished, and, as a result of this regulation, forest fires are rare in those countries.

SUNLIGHT AND COLORS.

Remarkable Changes Produced by Manipulation.

Every one knows the danger of mistakes in attempting to select colored articles in artificial light. Only the white light of the sun, containing all the elements of color known to us, can be trusted in such cases to reveal the actual hues possessed by the objects under examination. Some interesting scientific experiments on the effect of light in revealing or concealing color were lately made by Dr. M. W. Vogel, the distinguished physicist and astronomer in Berlin.

Starting with the fact that in a photographic "dark room," filled with ruby colored light, bright scarlet cloth appears white, it was shown that when no white light whatever is admitted to a dark room, the power of the eye to distinguish colors is temporarily lost, and all objects appear of various shades of white and black. By means of a blue or green with red light, the colors of objects can be made to undergo remarkable changes. The quantity of light alone also affects the appearance of color, particularly certain tints of blue and violet, for which reason, even in the absence of artificial lights, a person purchasing colored goods in a dark store must carry them to the door or window, where a strong illumination can be obtained, in order to make certain of the precise shade.

Gambling in Sydney.

Public attention has lately been called in Sydney to the serious increase of gambling in that city. The local inspector general of police has made a report on the subject, in which he says that the evil is largely on the increase and that a considerable number of the men trafficking in it are making large fortunes at the cost of their victims. In twenty months there have been four hundred convictions for gambling, and fines of various amounts have been imposed, but the traffic goes on flourishing in such a way as to demonstrate that the fines are utterly futile as deterrents, and that they bear but a small proportion to the profits. When the last mail left arrangements were being made for calling a public meeting to consider the subject.

Savage Spanish Cattle.

Cows held up a railroad train in Estremadura, Spain, a few days ago. The engine ran a bull down, cutting him in two, and then could not be started. While the trainmen and passengers were trying to help the engineer, the rest of the herd attacked them; they had to take shelter in the cars, and were kept there till night, when the herd went off.

Round Oak Stove.

Now is the time to buy heating stoves. The Round Oak is still in the lead. It is the only air tight stove on the market. The genuine ROUND OAK found only at Forbes & Bro. It heats more on less fuel than any stove made and will out last a half dozen of the cheap imitations.

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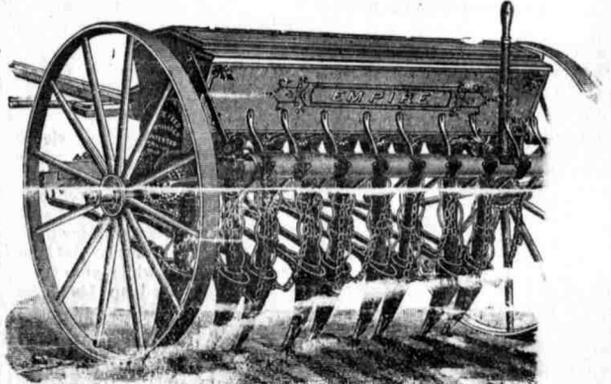
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