

HAS A UNIQUE RECORD.

The Champion Marrying Parson of the United States.

Rev. Dr. George C. Baldwin, of Troy, N. Y., Has United Six Thousand Persons in Wedlock, and Is Still at It.

The champion marrying minister of the United States is the patriarchal Rev. Dr. George C. Baldwin, of Troy, N. Y.

Dr. Baldwin is nearly 80 years old, but he is as young in mind at least as most men of 50. His eyes are piercingly keen, his smile bright and cheery, and his voice stentorian. His handshake is strong and hearty.

For more than a half century he has been marrying couples, and to-day the list has reached the enormous number of 3,000.

Six thousand persons united in wedlock by one minister.

Everybody in Troy and vicinity knows Dr. Baldwin. Young people who want to get married go to the venerable pastor, knowing that they will always receive a kind greeting and a hearty "God bless you" when departing.

They like him because his cheerfulness is so spontaneous, so contagious and so quick to dispel any embarrassment they may feel. Dr. Baldwin is enshrined in the hearts of thousands.

He has wedded the children and the grandchildren of those who first came to him. He has seen many of "his children," as he loves to call them, become old and pass away. He has seen their children grow up to manhood and womanhood, and he has seen many of them cross the great divide.

"I performed my first marriage more than half a century ago," said the venerable pastor to a New York Journal reporter, "and since then thousands of young people have come to me. For years I have ministered to the spiritual wants of a great body of people who belong to no church. While I was pastor of the Third Street Baptist church, and



REV. GEORGE C. BALDWIN.
(The Champion Marrying Parson of the United States.)

even before that, they came to me. I have married many of them and I have officiated at the funerals of many of them. I have seen many of them grow old; I have married many of their children. I marry several couples a week now when times are good, but when times are bad there are fewer marriages. Commercial conditions sway the matrimonial straws with great accuracy.

"I suppose that one reason why I marry so many people is because I am so well known. I marry a couple; they know another young couple who also wish to wed. They tell them of Dr. Baldwin, and so, of course, they come to me. I predict that the wave of prosperity which is now slowly spreading all over the United States will cause many marriages."

"Do you have many queer experiences, doctor?"

"Oh, yes; so many that I can't begin

to recount them. But I recall one in particular. Not very long ago a man from Albany came to me and said he wished to be married, and I obliged him by wedding him to the woman of his choice. He was an elderly man. Before he left he called me aside and said: 'Doctor, I want to tell you something. You are the man who married me 50 years ago. I don't suppose you recollect the event?' Of course I didn't remember him, but I was very glad to meet him again. It is not the privilege of every minister to marry the same man twice, especially when those weddings are half a century apart."

"As to the financial aspect of the question, doctor?"

"Well," replied the venerable marrying dominie, "I believe that the marriage state is less expensive than celibacy. Of course care and prudence must be exercised. It should be so in everything. Marriage is not a mere question of expense. It is a great venture, and when two people are happily and properly mated their lot is indeed an enviable one. Matrimony broadens their mentality, fits them for better things, and makes life brighter. I am speaking, of course, of perfect, or nearly perfect marriages. Oh, yes, they are to be found. There are thousands of happy marriages. They are the happiest features of our civilization. If more people took the right view of matrimony there would be fewer jails and penitentiaries. I believe it is the duty of people to marry; let them obey the Biblical injunction."

Men Who Get Drunk on Clay.

The habit of clay-eating exists among the Indians in Paraguay and is looked upon by the natives in much the same light as inebriation by liquor in this country. The clay eaten is of a dirty white color and has a peculiar appearance and does not crumble, but becomes sticky when moistened. It is held in the mouth until it dissolves and is swallowed in small quantities.

Married People Live Longest.

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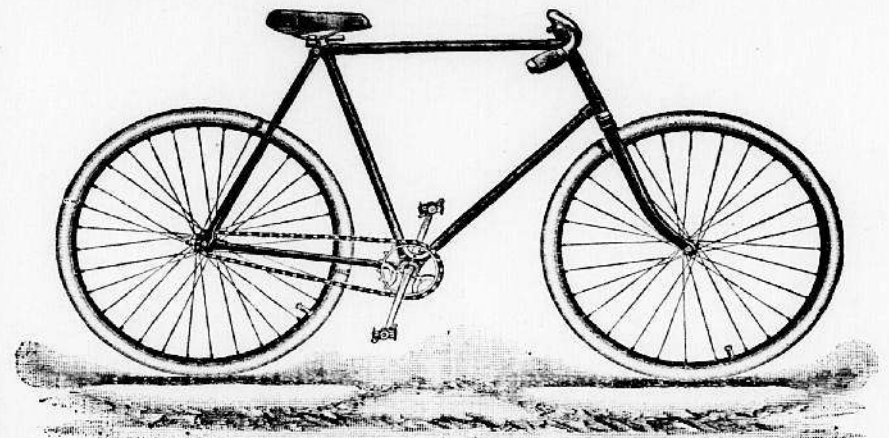
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