

## MARRIAGE IN JAPAN

Love and Romance Have Little to Do With the Making of the Nuptial Contract

Japan has some marriage customs that are at variance with our Western ideas on the question. In the first place, love doesn't enter into the contract at all.

The primary purpose in a Japanese girl's marriage is to get her placed where she will be well connected and cared for. No father in all Japan would for a moment be so foolish as to think of giving his daughter in marriage to a young man who had no home ready for her reception. He must have the necessary means to care for his wife and he must be able to show a creditable family tree. Without these essentials he might love the girl to desperation and she might regard him with equal ardor, but he would never get her.

The Japanese maiden in any event does not choose her own husband. It would no more occur to her to do such an audacious thing than to have chosen the name given her at birth. An interested friend of the family, known as a "go-between," attends to this matter.

When a girl reaches a marriageable age this "go-between" casts about for a husband for her. When he finds a young man who meets all of the requirements of the family and fortune he arranges for a meeting with the girl and her mother.

Another way is to arrange for a meeting at the house of a friend. Of course, the matchmaker will pretend that it is quite by accident, although that of the party understand perfectly that it is by design.

The girl is very shy and hides her face behind her fan as she bows low many times. Then she retires, blushing and nervous, behind her mother. The young man at this meeting looks her over and decides whether he will wed her. If he agrees, the negotiations are carried to a finish. He pays for the trousseau and the bride's father provides the entire furnishings for the house which the newly married pair will occupy.

It's a clear waste of time to go out looking for insults.

## AN IDEAL MATCH

By HOWARD DEVINE

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It was an ideal match; everybody agreed upon that. Both were young, of the best families, and of equal social station. She was a girl of rare personal beauty and self-poise and, moreover, widely read, keenly intelligent and ambitious. He was a handsome fellow, a bit too impulsive, perhaps, but none the less charming for that. His college career had been more productive of athletic than intellectual triumphs, but that was natural enough in a full-blooded, high-spirited youth. It was clear that they had been designed for one another. Their very difference in temperament seemed to fit them more completely for a complete and well-rounded whole.

He certainly adored her and set her upon a pedestal near the skies. Her intellectual brilliancy made her the more attractive to him because it was a little beyond him. She was very fond of him, with his splendid physique and laughing black eyes.

And so they married and settled down to live happy ever afterward. Now this ought to be the end of the story. And it would be if a curious thing had not happened. For when people get married it is their duty to settle down and live happy ever afterwards. There really is nothing else respectable for them to do. The curious thing that happened was that that which everybody said was not true. It proved that this ideal match was not ideal after all. Maybe Harry was so very inferior to her intellectually that she was compelled to go on and lead her own life in her own way. Maybe Helen was too cold and sacrificed love to ambition or character or something of that sort. Maybe there were not in the family the two bears so essential to every marital establishment—bear and forbear. At any rate they had not been long married before they began to drift apart.

It was natural enough for her to be pushed to the front in the woman's clubs and the church societies and in economic organizations. And it was a pity that he did not follow her in all these things very successfully.

Of course, it was unfortunate that Harry had not the best and coldest business head and made mistakes and all but lost his patrimony and hers, and it, of course, was very fortunate that her head was accurate and cool and after he had given up and gone to her in despair crying that they were ruined she valiantly took the reins and engineered the affair through to a successful issue. But the world was not sure about that in the light of subsequent events.

"Better if he had lost all and gone to work on a salary," some said "than to have the property saved at the expense of domestic happiness."

For it was evident as the years increased that they were growing apart very rapidly. After the business episode she scarcely concealed her lack of respect for his judgment. This made him, but not less than her, embittered of all the "isms" and "ologies" and fustian theories of modern asceticism. Never demonstrative she came more and more to be sufficient unto herself. The first year of the marriage had scarcely passed before she became annoyed at any demonstration of affection by her husband—later she repelled them, so they were not offered. He was naturally of an affectionate disposition and would have lavished a wealth of affection on her if she had permitted it. And into his eyes there grew a light of sorrow and yearning. When the baby came he brightened up, believing that might change it all. But it only made it worse, and not only did Helen not change, but brought little Alice up to stifle and look down upon all demonstrations of affection.

And so Harry Thornton began to be seen more and more at the clubs and the haunts of men and to go on long fishing and hunting excursions and to

ness and revel in mere existence. She was tender and sympathetic and laughter and tears were equally near to her blue eyes.

Thornton and Eva La Sharpe met casually and were mutually attracted. She had heard whispers of his dreary home life and when she saw the shadows in his eyes, her own shone with sympathy. And sympathy is a dangerous emotion for a beautiful woman to feel for a handsome man.

She was destined by her ambitious mamma to be the bride of Herman Skinner, fifty, bald-headed, thin-lipped, small-eyed and president of the Sixteenth National bank. She wept at the very idea.

Given this situation there could be but one ending. This is best told by a letter from Thornton to his wife:

New York, June 4.

Dear Madam: When this reaches you I will be on the ocean outward



They were growing apart very rapidly.

bound from the shores I shall never see again. Eva La Sharpe goes with me. We will establish ourselves in a modest way in some village in southern Europe, there to find that love which seemed to be denied us in the more conventional life which we leave.

I am very sorry to bring upon you and Alice this disgrace and can only say in extenuation that I am sure in your case the blow will be felt only by your pride and not your heart. God knows I loved you dearly, and my love would have kept alive on crumbs of encouragement, but you killed it deliberately and intentionally and are rearing your daughter, I fear, to break some other man's heart.

I wish you all the success and happiness in the world and have arranged our financial affairs in a manner that will meet your approval. My Birge will call on you on that phase of the matter.

As for me, I am going to live again. God, the joy of holding in my arms a woman with a pulsating heart and gladness and sympathy and love in her eyes. She gives up more than I, for I can never give her nor her children a name unless you should find it in your heart to obtain a divorce. That is wholly in your hands. Good-by, forever, and God bless and keep you and Alice."

Opinion was divided as whether he was all to blame or whether Helen should share a portion of the fault. Everybody agreed, however, that there were no extenuating circumstances regarding Eva La Sharpe. This is the habit of the world.

### The Tramp Ready for Any Job.

The gay cat applies for a job where he hears men are wanted, he knows not for what. "Can you drive four?" asks the boss. "I may be the hobo doesn't know whether it is four nails or four tent stakes he is to drive, but he confidently answers, "Sure thing! Had a job driving four last month at—" (any one of the ten thousand places he has been to, so he can answer questions if the boss is inclined to put them), and the next morning, finding the "four" he is to drive are horses, he confidentially approaches a fellow-employee with, "Say, Bud, show me how to put the harness on the plugs, will you?" Asked if he knew how to make watches or dynamite cartridges he would doubtless say he did; he might fail at either, but he would not weakly deny himself an opportunity to try. This is not true of all, but it is a distinctive trait, born of necessity in men that seek employment in many and various fields.—Leslie's Monthly.

### Fatal Improvements.

An up-town physician tells of a German friend, a poor journeyman baker, who sent his wife to a local hospital when she fell ill. The physician always asked with interest after the condition of the sick woman when he met the German, and was told in reply: "Well, doctor, they say at the hospital there's improvement." This reply did not vary from day to day for a month or more, and was always spoken by the German very stolidly, as though he really did not see in the report any grounds for hope. Then one morning, meeting the physician and being asked the usual question, he said:

"Oh, she's dead; doctor."

"Dead?" repeated the physician. "What do they say she died of?"

"They didn't say—they didn't have to," answered the German. "I knew. She died of too many improvements."

A skeleton measures one inch less than the height of a living man.

## THE FEAR OF LIGHTNING

Weather Bureau Statistics Show That There Is Little Real Cause for Alarm

How unreasoning the fear of lightning felt by so many timid people may be seen from a compilation of statistics made by the weather bureau.

The figures, which have been gathered during the past decade relative to the deaths by lightning in the United States, are certainly of considerable interest. The old question used to be how to protect buildings against lightning—lightning rods—or none, solid rods or hollow rods—and on the latter point men like Faraday and Sir William Snow Harris took opposite sides and waxed wroth, each telling the other he knew nothing about the subject. Today little or no attention is given to this matter and it is generally realized that as regards where lightning will strike we must take our chances, which, according to the statistics referred to, are about one in 100,000 of being struck. The old idea that lightning will never strike twice in the same place has been pretty well exploded by the actual facts, and there is reason to assume that if lightning strikes a given point once it may be expected to strike there again, rather than at some other contiguous place.

The theory of lightning is now fairly well established. It is supposed to be due to the rapid condensation of the minute drops of moisture in the

air, each of which, under certain conditions, contains a small electric charge. As these minute drops coalesce the electric potential is increased, due to the fact that the total superficial area of the condensed drop is less than twice that when they existed singly, and, as the electric capacity is proportional to this area, the electric charge of the two drops is now confined within an area of less capacity than before, with the result that the electric pressure is increased. In this way, long before the drops have attained a size to be precipitated as rain, an electro-motive force amounting to millions of volts is developed.

While there is no certain immunity from lightning when it prevails, attention is called to the great desirability of persevering in efforts to re-educate those who have been rendered insensible by lightning strokes, as recoveries have repeatedly been made of persons supposed to be dead, after more than an hour's efforts. The statistics also show that there is no immunity from lightning in a feather bed, in a house, or in a closet, and that knives and the like do not attract lightning. For those who are inherently dreadful of lightning the only comforting suggestion that can be offered is to remember that if one lives to see the flash he is safe for that time.

## RUSSIANS ARE FAILURES AS RAILROAD BUILDERS

When George Stephenson devised the locomotive and railroads began, it was as open to Russia as to any other country to develop railroads in the empire, but now, nearly three-quarters of a century after Stephenson's day, Russia with more than 8,000,000 square miles of territory, has barely 35,000 miles of railway, while the United States, with 3,000,000 square miles of territory, excluding Alaska, has 200,000 miles. It would be difficult to find a stronger expression of the comparative economic energy of two great nations than is conveyed by this single and striking example. One sees constantly in the magazine articles, especially by English writers, expressing the most profound admiration at the completion of the Siberian Railway, and yet nothing could be more convincing of the very low economic force of Russia than that same railway. That it is an important work, that it will help Russia in the East, both economically and for military purposes, cannot be questioned, and yet to wonder at the building of the Trans-Siberian Rail-

road is only possible if we fail to look below the surface. Russia has been occupied for more than ten years in building 6,000 miles of railway over a very easy country for the most part and that railway is not yet completed. The turn around Lake Baikal, which involves serious difficulties, is not yet made, and will not be for some years. The Manchurian branch is not yet complete. But assume that we may call the railway completed, what do we find? It has taken Russia ten years to build 6,000 miles of railroad. The annual construction of railroads in the United States has twice reached 6,000 miles. The Russian road has cost in the easiest part \$30,000 a mile, and in Siberia it has probably cost, with the equipment, \$50,000 a mile. Yet, despite this enormous and wasteful expenditure, they have only got a single track laid with rails so light that they must relay it from one end to the other. It is as yet a complete failure commercially. It is not paying its expenses.—From "Some Impressions of Russia," by Senator H. C. Lodge, in Scribner's.

## WEALTH OF THE CITIES

New York's Far in Excess of That of Any Other American Community

The total assessed value of real estate and personal property in the city of New York, uncorrected, is \$4,000,000,000.

Each county of the state adopts its own rate of valuation as compared with the actual value of real estate. Thus Chautauque fixes 90 per cent as the assessable value, Oneida \$85, Steuben, 80, Tioga, 75, Saratoga, 70, and Nassau, 65—the lowest of all.

In New York county the percentage is 67, in Kings 68, in Queens 80 and in Richmond 60. Practically, real estate in the five boroughs of the Great City of New York is assessed at about two-thirds of its probable selling value. Personal estate in New York is not all assessed.

Inclusive of state, national and municipal property and of all property exempt from taxation, New York city represents in tangible real and personal estate \$10,000,000,000, and

this enormous total quite overshadows all other American cities and many foreign countries as well.

Chicago represents \$500,000,000 worth of real and personal property; Boston, \$1,200,000,000; Philadelphia, \$1,000,000,000; St. Louis, \$450,000,000; San Francisco, \$450,000,000; Baltimore, \$450,000,000; Pittsburgh, \$350,000,000; Washington, \$150,000,000; Cleveland, \$250,000,000 and Providence, \$200,000,000.

The greater wealth of Eastern cities, when compared with the more populous places of more recent growth in the West, is due to the large accumulations of invested capital, much of which finds employment in other places. Peoria, Ill., and New Bedford, Mass., have substantially the same population, but while the assessed value of taxable property in Peoria is less than \$10,000,000, in New Bedford it is more than \$60,000,000.

### ALL LIFE'S JOYS AT AN END.

Young Woman Had Paid a Sorrowful Farewell to Happiness.

The young woman sat by the window looking out into the air dreamily, when her reverie was disturbed by an elderly woman coming in.

"Oh," said the visitor, "excuse me, I didn't know you were absorbed."

"Come in," responded the dreamer, extending her hand. "I am glad to see you."

"But why are you so pensive? You look as if your best friend had died. What is the matter?"

The young woman drew her handkerchief hastily across her eyes. "Ah," she sighed, "Tom and I—"

The older woman dropped her hands in her lap in a helpless, despairing fashion. "Don't tell me," she interrupted, "that you and Tom have quarreled?"

"The girl sighed again. "The end has come," she said, "to all our moonlight drives, to the tender whisperings beneath the magnolia trees, to the boxes of caramels, and the baskets of flowers, to the sweet nothings in the conservatory as the dancers whirl in the ballroom, to the verses he wrote me, to the rivalries and jealousies of sweetheart days, to the—"

"Say no more!" exclaimed the older

woman, determined to set matters right. "What have you two done? Tell me everything."

The young girl came forward and laid her head on the older woman's shoulder.

"We were married this morning at 10 o'clock," she whispered. "And the older woman's hands fell helpless once more. Judge."

### Speaking of Royalty.

Dumoules had been invited to dine with the king of Syracuse. Upon taking his seat he instantly saw the sword hanging by a hair above his head.

"I suppose," he said to the king, "you call that hair apparent?" Dionysius, pretending to see no humor in the remark, replied: "I don't know about that, my boy, but if it falls upon your head it will make some crow's prints."

This shows that the ancients were not averse to joking, even under trying circumstances.—New York Times.

Years and sins are always more than owned.

It is a fortunate thing for mankind that a dog laughs with his tail, otherwise when he has occasion to show his teeth his merriment might be misunderstood.

## Finds Valuable Bible

Volume Will Establish Claims of Heirs to Estate of Many Millions

Unearthed among rubbish in the loft of an old barn in Huron county, Ohio, where it had been hidden from view for many years, an ancient Bible bids fair to establish the claims of many heirs to an estate of many millions.

According to the statement of M. J. Dunham of Middletown, N. Y., who has just returned from a two-months' trip through the west and northwest, in an effort to locate the descendants of Absolam Case, the "vast estate" of the late Leonard Case of Cleveland, Ohio, will eventually enrich hundreds of his descendants, owing to the discovery of the old Bible.

Leonard Case, Sr., died in Cleveland in 1864, leaving one heir to his millions, a son, Leonard Case, Jr. The latter, a bachelor, died in 1880, leaving no will, but property in the heart of Cleveland valued at \$8,000,000, to be divided among the 100 descendants of his father's brothers and sisters, covering five generations.

Two years ago Mr. Dunham, who is a descendant of Absolam Case and a

half brother of Leonard Case, Sr., quietly began the work of tracing and locating the heirs. The estate consists chiefly of real estate in the business center of Cleveland, taking in the First National bank, the gas light plant, the offices and yards of the Cleveland & Pittsburg Railroad Co., the Case School of Applied Science and narrowly skips the residence of John D. Rockefeller. It includes some fifteen or twenty of the largest manufacturing establishments in the city.

Ever since the death of Leonard Case, Jr., the estate has been the theme of legal investigations, but no satisfactory results could be obtained because of the fact that the old family Bible, containing certain records, could not be found. As it contained the names of all the Cases its discovery was decidedly essential to the location of the heirs.

In the old barn loft Sarah Sears, residing in Huron county, Ohio, it was discovered, and according to Mr. Dunham, it is the key to the establishment of the heirs' claims.

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## Mystery of Pompeii

Max Nordau Unable to Understand What Became of the Inhabitants

Max Nordau raises a question concerning Pompeii, which is of double interest now in view of the disasters of St. Martinique and St. Vincent. He writes as follows to the Neue Freie Presse (Vienna): "One thing has always been a puzzle to me: Here was a flourishing city of about 30,000 inhabitants, most of whom evidently were well-to-do. A few hundred feet at most, lost their lives in the destruction of the city; the rest escaped. The eruption of Vesuvius continued only a few days, after which the district returned to its usual placid condition. In many places the deposit of ashes and lava was only a yard thick, and it was not more than three yards thick at any point yet excavated.

"How did it happen that these thirty thousand homeless persons showed no desire to return to their beautiful houses, so well built that

they still stand to this day, and which could have been restored, at the time with very little labor? Why did they not make the slightest attempt to regain their valuable property in land and buildings, furniture, bronze, marble, gold, silver and jewels? Did the men of that time have so little love of home that they could leave it without a backward glance at the first unpleasantness? Were the Pompeians so rich that the loss of their perfectly appointed homes appeared trivial to them, so that they preferred settling elsewhere to restoring their city? Or did superstition prevent the attempt? This indifferent renunciation of their patrimony by a whole city is to me an insoluble enigma which forces itself the more strongly upon my attention now as I walk along the finely paved streets between houses, which need only new roofs to make them again habitable."

### FISH FORM ACQUAINTANCES.

Peculiarities of Social Life in the Tanks of an Aquarium.

It is a more or less familiar fact that fish of a kind flock together. Fishes know their own kind and seek their company, says the New York Sun.

Put a number of each of two or three kinds of fishes in an aquarium tank and the fishes of each kind will recognize one another perfectly, and the fishes of the several kinds bunch together and travel around together. Apparently fishes may also know one another individually.

It not infrequently happens that among fishes of the same kind in a tank one will harry and drive about the rest, or perhaps select one fish as the object of its attacks, or it might be that in the case of two fishes of the same kind in one tank one would bully and persistently harry the other, as though besides having a nattering nature it had against the other fish a personal animosity.

In such a case as that last described, it is sometimes necessary to take the harried fish out of the tank to save its life. If another fish of the same kind is then put in the tank in the place of the one taken out, the scrapper and nagger lets it alone. He may not ignore it altogether, but he doesn't harry it as he did the other.

But take the second fish out after awhile and put back the first one and the scrapper fish goes to bustling it right away; to all appearances the fighter recognizes the other, individually. It may seem strange, but such is the fact, as observed at the New York aquarium.

### BEAUTY OF COLLEGE SPIRIT.

Makes Educational Institutions a Power in the Community.

Among the stories told by Dean Briggs at the dinner of the Water Academy alumni the other evening was one intended to show how the spirit of the academy survives in its pupils long after they have passed from their alma mater. "There has then," said the dean, "a Harvard senior, but was on what proved to be his death bed.

"The people at the hospital had never seen any one bear as much pain with such fortitude as he did. Through it all," as was said by a medical visitor from the university, he was such a gentleman. Just before his death one of the attendants asked him if he felt some local pain.

"I did not," he said, "until you gave me that medicine." Then instantly he thought of the other man and said, "I beg your pardon. The medicine may have had nothing to do with it."

"New, nobody in that hospital who saw that boy die witnessed the scene without a stronger faith than they had before in the school whose name he bore. When men from a college or school show such a spirit as that, it means that they are capable of intense loyalty to their friends." And it is that loyalty, attainable neither by money nor by age, which makes a school or college a power in the community, and is as the breath of life to it.—Boston Herald.

Throughout the world blind men outnumber blind women two to one. The punch of a peacock is large enough to contain seven quarts of water.



He certainly adored her.

spend less and less time at home. Helen appeared relieved rather than otherwise and pursued her triumphant career.

Then came the other woman. She was inevitable in the nature of things, Thornton was handsome, entertaining and lovable. He was unharmed for love. Into his life drifted Eva La Sharpe, with baby-blue eyes that made Helen's look like tempered steel, light brown hair through which the sun had thrown a ray of its very own light, dimpled and fresh and petite and ingenuous. She had no theories about platonic affection, the perfect control of the passions, the value of self denial to increase spirituality or any of the others. She was conscious only that she was full of life and glad-