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PAWN THEIR WIVES.

Curious Custom Exists in Some Parts of Madras—Authorities Trying to Suppress It.

They have a curious way of utilizing wives and daughters in some parts of Madras, says Golden Penny. If a man wants money he puts these members of his establishment in pawn, and his creditor detains them until the debt is discharged. The custom varies in different localities. In Nellore the Yercalls pledge their daughters to creditors, who may either marry them or give them away, and a man who has to go to jail deposits his wife with another man of his tribe until his return. In North Arcot unmarried daughters are frequently mortgaged, and become the absolute property of the mortgagee until liquidation. In some parts men sell their wives for sums of £5 or so, and have no further claim upon them.

The authorities as far as possible put down these economical expedients, which, we are afraid, would find favor elsewhere were they permissible, and we can fancy the strange aspect of social life which would then be presented. Thus a man would be heard saying to his wife when a heavy bill had to be met: "I am afraid we cannot manage without it, my dear; we must pawn Juliana;" or, supposing him to have deposited his wife, he might say to his little child: "If you are a good girl, my dear, I will give you a treat, and take out your mamma." Under such conditions children would become "pledges of affection" in more senses than one.

Point of View.

"Mr. Brown is outside," said the new office boy. "Shall I show him in?" "Not on your life," exclaimed the junior partner. "I owe him ten dollars." "Show him in," calmly said the senior member of the firm. "He owes me \$25." —Chicago Daily News.

Manufacturing Real Pearls.

The Japanese are making "real" pearls by forcing a grain of sand into oysters and planting them until the pearl is formed by a deposit around the foreign substance of the material from which the shell lining is formed.

The Theatres.

The County Chairman.

"The County Chairman", the Thanksgiving offering at Wallack's Theatre, New York, will hold the stage of that favorite playhouse until after the holiday season is over. George Ade's new and quaint comedy is looked upon as a singularly appropriate selection for this period of the year; partly on account of its prevailing spirit of jollity; and partly also by reason of its wholesome simplicity and fidelity to rural home life and character. Its love interest is wholly charming; its drollery is delicate; and its dramatic episodes are intensely stirring. "The County Chairman" is the first play without music to be presented by Henry W. Savage; but it employs the services of more persons than most opera companies. There are more than a score of speaking characters in the comedy, and in some of the scenes one hundred and fifty men, women and children take part. For these rousing ensembles the great organization has been carefully drilled by George F. Marion to do most effective work, and the action and tableaux are fairly startling in their realism. Individual acting of the very highest quality is contributed by Maelyn Arbuckle, Wilis P. Sweatnam, W. J. Gross, Edward Chapman, Charles Fisher, Miriam Nesbitt, Anna Buckley, Rose Deandet, Grace Fisher, and, in fact, all the members of Mr. Savage's carefully chosen cast.

Proctor's.

The show scheduled for Proctor's Twenty-third Street Theatre next week will be far and away one of the best performances shown at this house this season. Almost every act is a headliner, and by that is meant "feature acts," possessing quality and quantity of merit. Mr. Dan Daly whose pronounced success last week has made him a prime favorite is to be held over for this week. He will be seen in his only original and unique specialty, of impersonations of himself. Mr. Daly last week gave several bits from his various successes. This week he will present new parts from his various plays. His success last week was instantaneous, and his presence at his theatre served to increase the patronage considerably.

At Proctor's Fifth Avenue Theatre next week a sumptuous revival will be made of Bronson Howard's masterpiece "Saratoga." This play has been a success from its initial production. The author, Mr. Howard, needs no extended introduction, as his plays have been produced year after year. The cast will be headed by Miss Florence Reed and Mr. Walter Hodges, the latter having starred in this beautiful comedy on the road. Others portraying the various characters will be Mr. Genald Griffin, Mr. Albert Roberts, Mr. John Westley, Mr. George Friend, Mr. Charles Heumann, Mr. Joseph Eggenton, Miss Rose Stuart, Miss Loretta Healy, Miss Alice Gale, Miss Lorna Elliott, Miss Noel Gordon, Miss Marguerite Kirker, Mr. Sumner Ward, Mr. Julian Reed, and others of the Proctor favorites.

Next week at Proctor's One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street Theatre, a magnificent revival will be made of Henrietta C. Osmond's greatest play, by Richard McDonald, entitled "The Sword of the King." It is a particularly brilliant drama, with a part that affords the leading woman ample opportunity for the flashing, dare-devil style of acting. The play will be produced with all the original scenery and many new effects and embellishments.

"The Funny Mr. Doocy," the new musical farce comedy, begins an engagement at Proctor's Fifty-eighth Street next week. This new production is described as one of the most original and pretentious of the farce comedies set out this season. The title alone suggests an abundance of fun, and has been an inspiration to Frank D. Bryan, its author, to put together the most amusing and original, comedy lines, and interpolation of bright, witty and humorous lines that are cleverly interpreted by a big chorus of pretty girls with well trained voices.

Proctor's Newark Theatre next week will have another big bill. The feature act will be the "Myers vs. Ags," one of the most wonderful of mad-lara illusions. Foy and Clark, in a brand new comedy act, entitled "Oh Fudge," Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Elk, prime favorites in Newark, in a brand new sketch; Louis Dresser, singing comedienne; Bailey and Mahison, knockabout comedians; Jack Norwood, black face comedian; Stelling and Revel, Europe's greatest grotesque comedians; LaMar and Reham, in a pretty little society sketch, and fifteen other star acts will complete a splendid show.

Mosquito Campaign.

The Suez Canal company reports that in consequence of the campaign conducted by Mr. Ross, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the number of cases of malarial fever at Ismailia has decreased in a most marked manner, and that the ordinary mosquitoes have been annihilated almost absolutely, so that even in the worst period of the hot season it has been found possible to dispense with mosquito-netting. Waterways are systematically oiled, and all places where larvae can be hatched are unobtrusively guarded. —London News.

CHRISTMAS CENTURY.

The December Century presents a large variety of seasonable material both in text and in pictures, and is particularly rich in color work. The new cover, presented in the November number, is further embellished by a picture by George H. Halliwell of the coronation of Charlemagne, which took place on Christmas Day, 800 A. D. The colored frontispiece is a "Melba and Child," by Hugo Rubin, and the pictures in color by Maxfield Parrish, among them Edith Wharton's paper on "St. Simeon's Villa." Miss Violet Oakley contributes a novelty in two Christmas pictures in color, entitled "Lig of the World," in a pre-Raphaelite manner, and with a somewhat mystical significance, and there are two pictures in color by Ellen B. Thompson to accompany a paper by Jacob A. Riis, entitled "Children of the People."

Dr. James M. Buckley, author of the paper published a year ago in The Century on "Dowry Analyzed and Classified" writes of "Fanaticism in the United States," in which there is additional reference to "Elijah the Restorer." Franklin Clark describes, with specification, "The Daily Walk of the Working Delegate." There is a variety of poetry and short humorous sketches. Apropos of the Jonathan Edwards celebration the editor writes of "The Growth of Religious Tolerance."

CHRISTMAS METROPOLITAN.

An issue of extraordinary beauty and interest will be the Christmas (December) Metropolitan Magazine. While space will not permit more than a brief mention of the more striking features of this great holiday issue, a sufficient number of items from its contents may be quoted to give some hint of its charm. This number will be in effect a demonstration of the advancement of reproductive methods and the art of printing. It will be profusely illustrated in color. There will be some seventy-five pictures, most of which will be full-page size. No more attractive periodical will be offered the discriminating public during the holiday season than The Christmas Metropolitan.

Stephen Bonsai, the well-known traveler and correspondent, contributes the leading article, which is superbly illustrated in tint. In this article Mr. Bonsai describes with a vivid and sympathetic pen the return to Jerusalem of an aged Hebrew who goes to the Holy Land to die. Incidentally the conditions of today as they exist in the Land of the Bible are graphically told.

Ham in Garland will appear in The Christmas Metropolitan with an appreciation of New York City, viewing the metropolis from the standpoint of the westerner and commenting critically on the big town in a way that has never before been done. Mr. Garland does not denounce nor yet praise. He states plain facts.

The sixth installment of "The Queen's Quair," which is the love story of Mary Queen of Scots, will be one of the fictional features of this special holiday number. The novel is by Maurice Hewlett, whose "Forest Lovers" made him famous, although literary critics are unanimous in declaring "The Queen's Quair" a more masterly work.

SPARROWS AND CARP.

"Assisted" Immigrants Which Are Considered as More Worthless Than Beneficial.

German carp which were put in some of the southern lakes of Wisconsin years ago seem to have done more harm than good in eating the eggs of bass and other fishes, and a plan has been suggested for getting hold of the lazy, almost worthless, creatures in large quantities, shipping them east and ridding the lakes of their undesirable presence. But the east does not want German carp, alive or dead. They are a coarse, rank, unpalatable fish, dwellers in mud. It was a mistake ever to import them, as it was to import English sparrows, says the New York Tribune.

We had an abundance and a variety of excellent food fishes in the new world before well-meaning but misguided ichthyologists brought about the shipping over from Europe of this gross and sluggish mud habitant, the carp. If the United States could get rid of every carp and every English sparrow in every part of its domain, their extirpation would be of general benefit. Don't send carp from Wisconsin to New York! They may be fit for fertilizers, but the states on the Atlantic coast prefer menhaden to carp for the enrichment of the fields.

English sparrows still hold a place on the bills of fare of cheap eating houses under the disguise of "reed birds." But the legislature of this state became so thoroughly convinced that sparrows were not only useless, but injurious, that it passed a law which is now on our statute books making it a misdemeanor to give them food or shelter. The German carp and the English sparrows were "assisted" immigrants which ought never to have been admitted within our borders. They should be banished.

He Knew Right OR.

"Ah," sighed the wretched Mr. Newpop, "what can be more wearing on the nerves than a baby that cries all night long?" "Twins," answered the man who has been through it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The People Starved.

Mrs. Spendcash (the possessor of a new Worth costume)—Did you notice how people stared at us last evening? Husband (meekly)—Yes; I made a mistake and had mended my old dress-coat with white thread.—N. Y. Weekly.

Badly Broken English.

"Give me an illustration of broken English," said the teacher. "The ten commandments," piped a shrill voice from the tail of the class.—Philadelphia Record.

The Ostermoor Patent \$15 Elastic Felt Mattress

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We mean just this: Sleep on it 30 night and if it is not even all you have hoped for if you don't believe it to be the equal in cleanliness, durability and comfort of any \$50 hair mattress ever made, you can get your money back by return mail—"no questions asked." There will be no unpleasantness about it at all.

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