## WHAT THE LAWS WAY SAY.

The Bowry and the Proposal by Prexy Still Prevail Gifts Are Many, Beginning with the Jewels From the Bride-

groom I nuarried Women's Dress. father

"I have been obedient: I have effaced their dowries myself; I have kept my eyes on the I am entitled to a husband, gossips have precise data. Find me one "

since her birth has been to fit themselves told Marcelle that with \$10,000 dot] her

"Patience, you shall have your little rising politician."

WEDDING CUSTOMS IN FRANCE to a husband is her parents' right to a son-in-law. Naturally they court the most charming in person and situation. LITTLE CHANGE, NO MATTER The plain girl profits wonderfully. (Young men who could not make long love to that plain face and ugly disposition may plunge in a single act of heroism and say "Yes!" to the girl's father.

In France, where prudent marriage and prudent living have raised up a wonderfully numerous class of small but The French young girl says to her sufficient incomes from investments, girls are tagged with the exact figures of

It is the family sinking fund, and the

She puts on airs because Suzanne? And the life work of father and mother her father has refused the doctor. mother says that they ought to get a



"THE GAUDY SWISS IN HIS RED COAT TELLS THE PARTY WHAT TO DO KNEEL, RISE, TAKE THE CANDLE, ADVANCE TO THE ALTAR."

husband. We are giving \$20,000 dot with you. dear child, and have a right to be particular as to the person. Patience; we notary who bought the Vasseur practice

are occupied with your affair. The new French marriage law, due to therefore he should marry \$20,000 dot."

that modern St. Valentine the Abbe Lemire, has been in force over a year.

"Her father courts the new young But what will you? It cost him \$16,000, "Berthe's dot is only \$15,000."

"Don't fear, the match will come off Legally it throws down the bars of Berthe is their only child, and they will parental authority after the age of 21 sacrifice themselves to bring a rising man into the family."



\*MAY PLUNGE IN A SINGLE ACT OF HEROISM AND SAY 'YES' TO THE

PLAIN GIRL'S FATHER."

Practically it has done nothing. At There are, however, lovely creatures the council refused Napoleon almost he does not go and say, "I love you!" granted to parents in his Code; and the It would be dishonorable; it might make

the Council of Trent, 350 years ago, the capable of turning young men's heads, French prelates sought, though vainly, and lots of just nice girls with money. to make the consent of parents essential When, as happens even in France, a even to the validity of marriage. What young man falls in love with one of these

freedom which the Lerure law proposes her faint; he does not get the chanceto middle class and upper class young even the new marriage law of 1907 cannot

people is a freedom which all their sur-roundings prevent them from exercising. He tells his mother. His mother tells To-day, as yesterday, the girl's right his father. His father tells his business



"NOW HE HAS A RIGHT TO MAKE A CALL, ON WHOM? ON HIS FUTURE "IT IS THE FRENCH ORDER OF THE GARTER. HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y MOTHER-IN-LAW, OF COURSE."



'A LONG DRAWN OUT CEREMONY WITH CARPETS, CANDLES, FLOWERS, principle of "Marry first and court her ORCHESTRA AND SWISS IN THEIR KNEE BREECHES AND COCKED HATS POUNDING THE CHURCH FLOOR WITH THEIR HALBERDS.".

of the girl's parents

ppropriateness exists that they meet

Who meet? The parents, naturally! The young folks may possibly know ach other. Of late growing liberality has allowed those "of the same world" to meet at dancing classes, golf and tennis and at watering places. It is conceivaole that the youth may have written billets doux and stammered a formal brase like "May I ask for you?" But he does not. His father or elder

prother asks. Of whom? Of the girl's father naturally He puts on his frock coat and silk hat and sustained by a male relative makes a formal proposal

The girl's father must give an imm diate reply. Questions of fortune are dissussed more in detail, and notes are made for the final marriage contract.

Immediately he has been accepted

partner and together they call on a friend pation. Each morning he must send of those daily white bouquets! The cor They have a talk and go away. The with a florist for the job-not to have it Goethe put it into the jewel scene of riend has a talk with the parents of the on his mind. The French courts have "Faust. girl and goes away. If all is well, notes decided that such florist bills are re- The engagement ring began it. It are exchanged by the same intermediary. coverable later on, out of the girl's dot, is a thing never chanced; some girls

t is only after making sure that real even under the separate property regime. fear pearls for telling tears. For the



MADEMOISELLE, IF YOU PLEASE, THEY HAVE NOT PASSED BY THE CHURCH YET.

he young man makes a call. On whom? until they are betrothed it is improper rings with real stones. now for them to meet. The betrothal

He has brought the engagement ring him its trustee, not for his wife only,

The mornings are for the trousseau. On his future mother-in-law naturally, the afternoons are for the bridegroom, He ought to thank her warmly for a good and it is unbecoming that he should even quarter of an hour. He should make hear the trousseau mentioned. The himself very agreeable. Then, just be- corbeille is his personal gift to the girl, hairdresser, and send in their new made fore taking his departure, he may ask often representing a little fortune in husbands to purchase the desired object. following. Then they had the religious to see the girl. It is a rare kindness; jewels, always at least a couple of nice It is a long standing grievance of the service very private.

now for them to meet. Ine betrothal

Ine dot is dominonly misuadersood by the control of them to meet. In the dot is dominonly misuadersood by the control of the control o nothing of his own. French law makes is a sign of independence.



THE YOUTH MAY HAVE WRITTEN BILLETS DOUX AND STAMMERED A FORMAL PHRASE, AS 'MAY I ASK FOR YOU?' BUT HE DOES NOT."

your courting afterward. daughter be kissed on the cheek before parents a place in his household if they she has signed her marriage contract. demand it or else find them a home. Now the young man has daily occu- If he refuses they can sue him. His

and he must put it on the girl's finger. not for himself, but for the two of them The mother cannot always take her place. considered as one person, and it gives Generally it is after lunch, when the the wife a mortgage on all his property young folks are allowed to talk together In the case of divorce or her dying withwithout being overheard. Alone? Dear out children, the dot question become no. In France you marry first and do awkward for the husband. Really, on the ground of sentiment, the French Does he not kiss her? Yes, when he husband might be pitied. He gets a puts the betrothal ring on her finger he dot with a string tied to it and finds may kiss her hand. That is all. Show his wife's family tied to the other end, me the French mother who will let her for he is bound always to give his wife's



PENSE!"

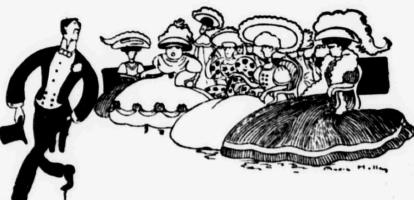
only solace is the thought that should he need it he can sue his mother-in-law

All this and more may be read between the lines of the marriage contract It is a blithe morning. Many guests are present. The notary reads the contract. but the young man ought not to listen Good taste demands that he should whisper gayly to the girl to show disinterested-

The notary has finished reading. The mother of the girl should turn to the oblivious lovers with a tender and indulgent smile. The young man should step forward, briskly grab the pen, sign hastily—and kiss the girl, smack, on the cheek. At last! He has put in six months between the kiss on the hand and the kiss And the kiss on the lips? When they

are married! There are tens of thousands of married men in France who never kissed their wives upon the lips until their wedding day. Yet the old French afterward" does not say "Marry first and love her afterward."

You see, they have the wisdom of old custom to constrain them to love. Think the girl a white bouquet. He arranges beille too goes far to win a girl's heart.



"PATIENCE, DAUGHTER, WE ARE OCCUPIED WITH YOUR AFFAIR."

corbeille also he asks the girl what ewels she wants, and the jewel scene The "first parure" is always diamonds, the second is of pearls or colors. Even in the middle class families where the girl's dot does not exceed \$20,000, the jewels will cost the youth at east \$3,000

Gifts, gifts! The family give mously, friends give enormously. The institution of godfather and godmother is a great thing for young housekeepers. They are strong on weddings, their gifts running into Government securities, building lots, silver services and valuable

It helps to love to be full stocked for life. The young couple, giggling, sympathize like two successful thieves. The two families together buy the furniture. but it is the peculiar province of the girl to bring all linen.

I say linen with intention, for this is the land that disdains cotton, and the quantities of sheets, counterpanes, table cloths, handkerchiefs, napkins and pillow cases which young French girls bring to their husbands is astounding.

As to her own personal lingerie, here is a curious fact. During years before er marriage the French girl has been cumulating fine things which she ever puts on. While a young girl she rears coarse linea things without test decoration.

If you should ask a hundred young French matrons what was the first favor they asked of their husbands after mar

riage ninety-five of them would answer: "I sent him out to buy crimping irons." Most French brides on the trip back from church stop the carriage in front of a The dot is commonly misunderstood by not let her put hot irons to her hair. "Your carpets, candles, flowers and "Swiss" in

not tailormade

state and ability

girl-back to her parents.

the necessities, of life according to his

Follow the "usual questions," and the

ing of papers. The young man leaves \$20 for the poor of the ward and takes the

"GIRLS TAGGED WITH THE EXACT FIGURE OF THEIR DOT."

See the wisdom of generations of French the mother of the bride is accompanied by fall; behind the waterfall is a path, and mothers to make their choice of a husband the father of the bridegroom, while the in the path there is a tiny pool. The

The bridal party leads briskly. Houp-It is a long standing grievance of the service very private.

It is a long standing grievance of the service very private.

It is a long drawn out ceremony with to them, the traffic stops for them, old women snivel on the sidewalk, hardened business men wink tears! It is the Bene-

ter, the baidegroom leads his own mother: for their daughters palatable! Experi-ence must commend it, because each Bach's "Prelude."

Houp-la! The procession rolls into the Bois de Boulogne, the park of parks.

At the end of a forest avenue is a waterprocession stops. The guests file out; the bridal party leads the way.

"Oh, look out!" The bride is now behind the waterfall. The young man helds her tight, she must not slip. The others follow. Smack! Smack! Every one is

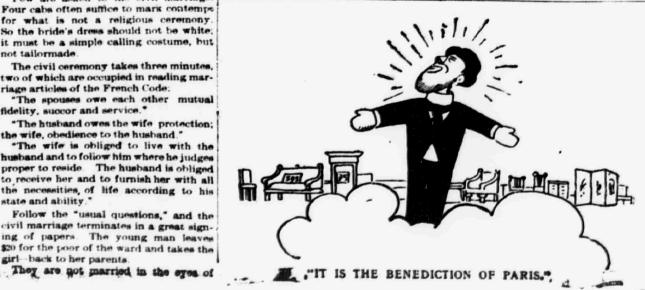
kissing every one else while the bride. courageously hunts the pool with her white slippered foot. She dips her foot into the pool-thus the marriage will be Five hundred years Archbishop of Paris tried to stop the practice as super-

stitious. To-day he encourages it as part of that respect for old convention that helps to safeguard even a people's religion.

Beside the cascade there is a restaurant, there are restaurants all over Paris. Some job wedding breakfasts for the poor. Others furnish wedding banquets for the wealthy. In each case the party is hilarious. Conversation sparkles before the champagne and explodes after it.

The poet of the family reads his verses. every one must make a speech or sing a song even the bride, who like a girl of spirit lifts her glass and trills out bravely. Corks pop, a pandemonium of happines blushes! Until a small boy instructed for the office stealthily crawls underneath the

table and attacks the bride's left leg. The small boy is hunting for her garter small boy gets the garter it is taken from







"I SENT HIM OUT TO BUY A CRIMPING IRON."

o grow indignant when the guests at the with her mother.

lunch addressed her, "Madame."

"Mademoiselle, if you please!" snapped

ociety. I have known a girl's mother music, the bride is in the sacristy weeping

the mother, "they have not passed by gaged for the entire afternoon, and I will the church yet!" In another case the tell you why. Truly fashionable folks

girl's father died on the eve of the re- have given up the practice, but Paristan

ligious ceremony. The 'girl was in a avenues in summer time are none the less strange position during the two days gay by thousands of such processions.

What are all those carriages? They

are wedding carriages, of course, but en-