

Marriage and Divorce.

On Sunday afternoon the Rev. C. B. Smyth delivered a lengthy address at Cooper Institute, New York, entitled "Lessons for the Clergy on Marriage and Divorce."

The Reverend gentleman said that the subject on which he was about to speak was suggested to him by the exceedingly large number of divorce cases that have been recently reported.

The sixth verse of the nineteenth chapter of the book of St. Matthew was selected as the text:

"Whoever they are no more than, but one flesh; what therefore God hath joined together let not man put asunder."

Reviewing the world in the order of its creation, the speaker claimed that God capped the climax when he made Eve. That was the finishing touch. Ever since then we have had the two sexes and they were made for each other. The union of man and woman, is by covenant, and the consummation of the covenant constitutes what is termed marriage. The violation of this covenant by law; and the separation of the man from the woman is called divorce. The clergy as a class are utterly ignorant as to the nature of the marriage. When we look into the law books we find marriage defined as a civil contract. The legal profession have so much to do with contracts and bargains that but few, even of the more intelligent of that class, allow it to rise higher than that. We are astonished to find that the clergy are satisfied with that definition. The civil contract is unquestionably implied in marriage; but that is not the whole. Hence it is found that when an action is brought against a person for simply failing to perform the covenant, it is not called an action for divorce, but an action for breach of promise of marriage. Although Rebecca had been promised to Isaac and regarded as his wife, the marriage did not take place until she was brought to him, which was long after the covenant had been made. The same was the case of David and Bethsabee, who, through their covenant, were regarded as husband and wife, though they were not joined in wedlock until several years had elapsed. Let the clergy learn from this the nature of marriage, that it is not merely a civil contract, but something higher.

As to divorce, there are two kinds known to our modern courts: a *mensa et thoro*, or "from bed and board," which is merely a mutual separation, and a *vinculo matrimonii*, or "from the bonds of matrimony," which is the absolute parting of man and wife forever. The Bible recognizes but one kind—a *mensa et thoro*. This is set forth in the 24th chapter of Deuteronomy, first and second verses; also, in the 31st chapter of St. Matthew, 31 and 32 verses.

Divorce is spoken of in the Bible, and the real estate of the case as between Moses and the Jews was that during the time intervening the promise and the time for the marriage, if either party discovered ground for breaking the contract, it was done. This is what Moses speaks of—where the party has gone no further than the promise. After betrothal the man could put the woman aside, but he had to give her a writing which was called a divorce.

According to the Hebrew laws, if any one took liberties with another's wife, the law was satisfied with nothing short of his death. The Jews were very strict on this point. The divorce that the woman received for the dissolution of the marriage agreement was no more than an act of justice. But this was only given before the consummation of the marriage and not after it.

When marriage is once entered into, no act of Parliament, no pope's bull, no act of the Legislature, or no judge's decision can undo it. You cannot dissolve the relation existing between parent and child, sister and brother. So it is with husband and wife. It is not like principal and agent, partner and copartner; but the twin is one and inseparable. Theirs is a union for life and only made separable by death, for the husband and wife are bound together by their contract as long as they live. Upon his death, the husband's power over his wife ceases, and then she can take another husband.

Remedies should be created according to the evils. A great and desperate evil must have a desperate cure. Now what are the evils for which divorce is sought? The statutes of nearly all the United States grant divorces for adultery by either the husband or wife; some go even so far as to give divorces for incompatibility of temper and other frivolous pretenses. The law of God does not permit it, but it will allow a separation, though not an absolute divorce.

The only remedy for adultery is death—it is equitable. You will see it so laid down in both Deuteronomy and Leviticus. I ask you whether it is not a proper remedy now in modern times? And if it is carried out, the one who has been aggrieved can then be married again. When we hear of one shot down for committing adultery, we are ready to forgive him who takes the life of the evil doer. To the credit and glory of the people of the United States, when the unfortunate man who avenges his honor with the blood of the destroyer of his peace, is brought into court and comes before a jury of his countrymen, he is acquitted.

Who would think of hanging a man who shot the offender? It would be well for society, for our nation and for the church if the old Jewish law was still in force. Then the offender would be shot down and no responsibility attached to the act. I hope it will come.

Marriage is God's crowning act. Woman is man's chief blessing, and wedlock redounds more to the glory of God than any other of his works. It peoples empires and fills heaven. It is this type between God and the Church which charges them to love and honor each other. Let the clergy teach that adultery is the worst crime which a man can commit against another. It is cruelty—it is robbery—worse than robbery. It is actually in the eye of God's law worse than murder itself. Adultery is practically the sum of all villainies. Let the clergy teach that any State Legislature which adopts a loose divorce law is committing a deed worse than adultery.

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"Those whom God hath joined, let no man put asunder." This is a great novel question rising above all political questions.

Hints for Amateurs and Others.

A good many are disappointed, when they open the boxes or packages of plants they have ordered from nurserymen. I do not now mean disappointed on account of the nurseryman's not having sent what was ordered, or his having sent what is worthless. The disappointment I refer to, is that in finding the plants in a bad state, viz., dry, branches broken, and the roots sometimes in the nurserymen—they don't pack well enough; sometimes with the expressmen and the U. S. Mail carriers, they forget to "handle with care" sometimes both are faultless, and the damage is caused by the far distance the plants have to be sent.

Disappointment is an evil, and the hints I offer will, in many cases, remedy the evil.

Your strawberries you find "pretty dry" don't despair! don't throw them away; don't plant them immediately, but take them to a shady place, and plunge them in water. Let them lie a good while, and you will soon see them all, or most of them fresh; then you may plant them.

This will apply also to other plants, roses, geraniums, &c. &c. but some plants will require more time to lie in water. You must then wait a little longer. I once received from a friend, living at a great distance, a very rare plant. The friend did not think of packing very carefully. He put a little earth around the roots, and wrapped it in paper, and mailed it. Well, when he packed it, the earth was wet enough. But the mail! When I opened the package, I found a good deal of dust and a few black things, that seemed to have been plants at a former time. I did not despair; I got a tumbler of water, and put the whole mass therein. The next day I saw by means of a microscope, something green, but very small. I waited a while and then planted, giving plenty of water.

I have just read, in a horticultural paper of the old world of two cases, which, I hope, your readers will find very interesting. They are narrated by a highly educated gardener. In a part of his garden where—in the month of April—roses had been planted, he found, after two months, one plant that had been forgotten, to be planted out, and therefore was quite dry. He put it in water, in a shady place. Six weeks having elapsed, he found new white roots and green sprouts. In the month of July, the crown of a high-growing Renonant rose was broken off by the wind. It was, when found, quite dry, having been exposed to the sun and wind during six weeks. He put the crown, which had thirty or forty flowers, in water. After three weeks he found life, whereupon he cut it in pieces, both the old and the young wood, and planted them in an old hot-bed. Most all of them grew.

PERITY OF CHARACTER.—Over the beauty of the plum and apricot there grows a bloom and beauty more exquisite than the first fruit itself—a soft delicate flush that overspreads the cheek. Now, if you strike your hand over that, it is once gone forever, for it never grows but once. The flower that hangs in the morning, impoisoned with dew—arrayed as no queenly woman ever was arrayed with jewels—once shake it, so that the heads roll off, and you may sprinkle water over it as you please, yet it can never be made again what it was when the dew fell silently upon it from heaven! On a frosty morning, you may see the panes of glass covered with landscapes, mountains, lakes and trees, blended in a beautiful fantastic picture. Now lay your hand upon the glass, and by the scratch of a finger, or by the warmth of the palm, all the delicate tracery will be obliterated. So there is in youth a beauty and purity of character which when once touched and defiled can never be restored, a fringe more delicate than frost-work, and which when torn and broken, will never be re-embroidered. A man who has spotted and spoiled his garments in youth, though he may seek to make them white again, can never wholly do it, even were he to wash them with his tears. When a young man leaves his father's house, with the blessings of his mother's tears still wet upon his forehead, if he once loses that purity of character, it is a loss that he can never make whole again. Such is the consequence of crime. Its effects cannot be eradicated—it can only be forgiven.

HEAVY DAMAGES.—One Miss Mary L. Sebell, of San Francisco, has sued General H. M. Naglee, late of the Federal Army, for breach of promise of marriage, and claims the modest sum of \$100,000, with which to petty up her damaged and too susceptible affections. In his answer, the son of Mars mildly asserts his objections to paying this sum by denying that he ever promised to marry her, and that, since the alleged promise was given, he has discovered that the lady is of a notoriously profligate character, and that her conduct with several parties in San Francisco lately has been such as to fully relieve him from any legal obligation such as the alleged promise might have imposed upon him.

"Glory to God," shouted a Bangor deacon when a mob destroyed the Democrat newspaper office there.

High Price of Living.

"Very little business doing," is the general report from the wholesale and retail dealers throughout the country. It was expected that, on the return from the country, to which (or to the watering places) so many persons migrated for the summer and early autumn months, there would be the great expenditure of former years. Not so, however; the price of mere living has so much advanced that people look, not twice, but a dozen times at a five-dollar greenback before they change it. Food, in all its varieties, is sufficiently abundant. The harvest, after some misgivings on that score, turns out to be a most successful one. But the parties who speculate in provisions of all kinds, and the retailers who are loath to surrender the great profits which they received during the war, still press heavy prices upon the community, and, though wages have risen, keep their customers—and especially their working classes—poorer than they were at any previous time. What between the high prices on one hand, and heavy and unequal taxation on the other, it is harder to live in this great land than it ever was before; and, as the last straw to break the camel's back, rents have nearly doubled. The Irish clamor for "tenant rights" we have as just grounds here to complain. When \$800 to \$900 per annum is exacted for a house which let for \$400 five years ago, and was high-priced at even that, it is clear there is cause to murmur. Property owners may protest that they "cannot help the rise"; but, saying so, they insist on it, and pocket the money. One might as well be plundered on the highway as robbed in this manner—for downright robbery it is—the money being lost, at any rate.

When necessary articles ran up in retail price, we protested against it. The price of butcher's meat was trebled during the war, owing to the demand for it to feed the army; but the war ended nearly two years since, and the great army was disbanded; nevertheless, the price of meat has not slightly gone down, and that within the last ten days. Why should we pay seventeen to eighteen dollars for a barrel of flour, which was considered dear, six years ago, at seven to eight dollars? On what ground can the charge of seventy cents for a pound of butter (Philadelphia market price on Saturday) be exacted by the farmers or forestallers who buy up the produce? Milk, which used to be four cents a quart in Philadelphia, now is sold for ten—including the water used to dilute it, the chalk to whiten and the calves' brains to thicken the dilution—and will probably go higher, seeing that in New York the price has just been raised to twelve cents a quart for a miserable thin fluid. In the same way, vegetables are nearly three as costly as they used to be, and as they ought to be. The result is, whoever has to market for a household finds that it takes twelve to fifteen dollars, at present prices of food, and that the plainest, to buy what could formerly be obtained for five dollars. Who income has doubled in proportion?

A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

The Louisville Journal, in the present aspect of affairs, makes the following confession of the Democratic faith: "We heartily endorse, so far as we have seen, every platform laid down by the Democracy in the North, Middle, Western and Northwestern States. We are for the obliteration of the Freedmen's Bureau Bill everywhere; we are for the cessation of all military law, and for the universal restoration of the great writ of freedom; we are for the annulment of all confiscations; we are for the equal powers and rights and privileges of the whole people of the old Union; we are for the unconditional pardon of all paroled Confederates who have kept their faith; we are for the immediate unlocking of the prison-doors of all prisoners held in captivity upon the charge of treason; and we are for the establishment of the Republic upon the plan which our noble President has recommended and is exerting all his energies to carry out. It to be in favor of all these things is to be a Democrat, then we are a Democrat, an earnest and zealous Democrat, all the time a Democrat, and ready to co-operate with all who are ready to co-operate with us."

THE PATH TO GREATNESS.—There are but two ways which lead to great aims and achievements—energy and perseverance. Energy is a rare gift—it provokes opposition, hatred, and reaction. But perseverance lies within the reach of every one; its powers increase with its progress, and it is rarely that it misses its aim. Where perseverance is out of the question, where we cannot exert a protracted influence, we had better not attempt to exert any influence at all, we should only disturb the organic development of affairs, and paralyze the natural remedies which they contain, without any guarantee for a more favorable result.

HUMAN LOVE.—Consciousness of being loved gives confidence and strength, and makes trials and God a real, living feeling that influences the daily life. If there is no love about us, if all men turn glances of dislike upon us, and close their hands against us, then our hearts grow hard, and we find it difficult to raise at once, without the aid of human steps, above earthly pain and desolation to love and confidence in God; all has a tendency to become dark above as it is around; whereas love and kindness keep our hearts open; dear, loving people are to us witnesses of the love and tenderness of God—are his angels whom he sends to show us that he has not forgotten us.

A MILLIONAIRE'S WIFE'S EXPENSES.

Wealthy families sometimes have trouble, get into lawsuits, and expose their secrets to the world. In New York, in a divorce case that is pending, it appears in the evidence that the wife, who claims maintenance in the same style in which she had been living besides the use of a furnished house, is accustomed to spend \$100 a day. Thirty-six thousand five hundred dollars is a neat little sum for a lady's "pin money," when she has besides a house to live in, her larder supplied, and all the furniture necessary to the most luxurious ease.

The Gubernatorial Contest from 1790 to 1866.

It will be observed that from the first Governor elected in this State, to the late contest, the Democrats have steadily adhered to their name, while the energy has assumed six different characters. If an individual would act thus, he would be kicked out of the community.

Gov. Shulze administered the death blow to Federalism. Gov. Porter spoiled anti-Masonry, and Gov. Bigler killed Whiggery, since which time we have had about as many issues as candidates, and an awful time we have had the past twelve years. Those of us who saved our lives, have had our little property, neatly confiscated for taxes and stamps.

THE GUBERNATORIAL CONTEST FROM 1790 TO 1866.

Table listing gubernatorial contests from 1790 to 1866, including names of candidates and their respective parties and vote counts.

GETTING A CALL.

"We had the following article in the Lutheran, descriptive of the qualifications of a 'star preacher,' and explaining the modes of procuring a call." We are sure our readers will admire the candor of it, and coincide, with us, that there is more truth than poetry perceptible. After numerous trials and disappointments, a former Book fortunately fell in with a "star preacher."

Next we despatched committee, by two and three, to urge the labors for a Sabbath of the day. Blatant Whiggery, however, was thwarted, and so wonderful his style, followed the arching of his brows as he presided the aisle.

MEMORIES.

The heart has memories that can never die; the rough usage of the world cannot obliterate them. Feeble age, trembling on the brink of the grave, has them when every thing else has fled away and been forgotten. They are the memories of home, early home; the house where we were born, the yard with its wreath of roses and flowering vines, the lilac bushes where the robins made their nests spring after spring, paying their rent in song such as we dream of, but never hear afterward; the old elm and swing where the children used to play all the while the mother sat by the low front windows, her face beaming out occasionally through the folds of the dainty muslin curtain; the same old house with its pointed gables, quaint cornices, and antique windows; the frescoed chamber where we used to dream of all the great, glad world had in store for us.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Who was Jonah's star? The whale who brought him up. Ten thousand negroes have been buried in Natchez since 1850. Gen. Sherman visited Wall street last week and escaped unharmed. The Mobile Gazette, edited by Captain Sumner, has suspended publication. A colored clergyman of Brooklyn has been arrested for carrying a sword cane. Hiram Woodruff has a horse in training which has made a quarter of a mile in 33 seconds. Hanging by the neck until they are dead" is now the penalty for horse-stealing in Kansas. Dan Rice has been worsted in a conflict with his sacred cow. She threw him over a fence. An Indiana newspaper nominates Schuyler Colfax for President. Colfax approves of the nomination. The Richmond widows and maidens are in search of husbands—the widows seem to have the advantage. Gentlemen, don't part your hair behind, for hair parted in that way reveals a soft plane in the head. France has declared war against the Island of Corsica. Hold on Napoleon! Hit a boy of your size! A vein of emerald thirty feet thick, and superior to Italian in fineness, has been opened near Zanesville, O. Unsocial old Snarl says that love is a combination of diseases—an affection of the heart and an inflammation of the brain. Ex-Mayor Wood, of New York, denies that he is either in favor of negro suffrage or the constitutional amendment. A man in New York, who had lost both hands by a circular saw, committed suicide the other day by taking poison. It was with great difficulty that a clergyman in Detroit basked by immersion the other day a young lady with crinoline on. James Hopper, a returned Idaho miner lost, \$9,000 in Chicago the other night while out through the city hunting the "elephant." Horace Greeley is spoken of for United States Senator from New York, in the place of Ira Harris, whose term expires this winter. Jefferson Davis expresses great gratification at the recent action of the Government in removing all surveillance over him. A mulatto woman who rides on horse-back splendidly and plays the piano marvellously, is among the latest sensations of Paris. A burly negro in the employ of Dr. Hall, of Concord, N. H., has been arrested for an outrage upon an adopted daughter of his employer. Among the items of last year's expenses at the Buffalo poorhouse were \$3,000 for tea, \$500 for oysters, \$900 for whiskey and cigars. RAILROAD BRIDGE.—Two heavily loaded railroad cars and locomotives were moved on the new bridge at Havre-de-Grace, a few days since, to test it. The New Orleans Tribune nominates Gen. B. F. Butler for President in 1868.—Exchange. The editor of that paper is either a negro, or he has no spines. At Richmond, Ky., the other day, more than twenty men and boys engaged in a street fight, and were all blazing away with pistols at once. A lively town! A devout member of the Methodist Church at Waterville lately dug potatoes in his field all day Sunday; without even once thinking that it was not Saturday. Mrs. Guthrie, the woman who last week attempted to kill her children and herself at Des Moines, Iowa, now refuses to eat, and says she will starve herself to death. A young organist in a fashionable church at Chicago, received a check for \$5,000 to collect for a friend, got it cashed, gambled away the money, and has been arrested. The Fenian organization in Ireland has increased fifty fold during the last three months. The hanging of a Priest and a Reporter at Toronto, will not check it much either. The Legislature of Vermont has passed a bill making habitual drunkenness for a period of two years, a sufficient cause for divorce. At a recent reform demonstration in Nottingham, England, a large banner was carried in the procession bearing this significant motto: "Manhood suffrage or a Republic." A Boston Court, on the 5th instant, sentenced Jim Brown, a negro, to be hung on the 15th of March, next. The next day a negro was elected to the Legislature from the same city. "Bobby, why don't you go home and have your mother sew up that hole in your trousers?" "Oh! I go along old woman, our folks are at the sewing circle, working for the health-——" An old bachelor being laughed at by a party of pretty girls, told them: "You are 'small potatoes.'" "We may be small potatoes," cried one of them, "but we are sweet ones." The bachelor sloped. A British spy accustomed to peep through key holes to watch the movements of Fenians in England has become blind of the right eye. It is a wonder some fellows didn't get so in this country during the war. One of the editors of the Louisville Courier has been to Brazil, got naturalized, but is back home again. He says the "South, poor ruined, and desolate as she is, is worth a hundred Brazils yet." Sensible at last. OLD FELLOWS AND LOTTERIES.—During the recent session of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in Baltimore, a resolution was adopted to the effect that no Lodge or Encampment, or any of the members thereof shall, in the name of the Order, resort to any scheme of raffles, lotteries or gift enterprises, or schemes, or hazards or chances of any kind, as a means to raise funds for any purpose of relief or assistance to such subordinates, or to individual members. George Wilkins Kendall, writing from Paris to the New Orleans Picayune, says that numerous American agents are on that side of the water, picking up the best theatrical and equestrian talent for the United States that money can procure.