AMERICAN HUSBAND SLAVE TO WIFE'S CAPRICE, SOBS ONE DISILLUSIONED FRENCH WAR BRIDE

Pretty Reine Pugnoud Says Lieutenant Beekman, U. S. A., Ceased to Be Hero After She Married Him. Blames Custom More Than Man

GLAMOUR OF WOOING WORE OFF SOON AFTER STRANGE SCENES AND FACES CAME

Frenchman Beats Wife, Then Heals Bruise With Kiss, but American Only Offers Money to Solace Wounded Heart

MERICAN husbands are vastly inferior as a genus to their French

Duped by their wives, exploited by their families, indifferent to the best and holiest things in married life, they fall immeasurably below the standard of connubial excellence which obtains in France.

Studied cynicism? No. Bitterness? Perhaps. The disillusion of experience? Most certainly yes.

For this conclusion, drawn from the brimming cup of life of a young French girl-this sweeping indictment of the manners and customs of our country today, is the fruit of an experience which has had its all too common parallel in the tragic pages of international marriage.

> But Stuck to Husband "I had made up my mind. I did not

Figures in Divorce Suit

ant in her husband's suit for that di-

Charges have been brought by Beek-

treet, well known to sweethearts. Mr. Beekman's mother, in an affi-

nothing more than good friends to me.

"M. Petit, in the first place, is ever

"He was about to leave for his yearly

and her daughter-in-law.

threadbare carpet.

by connivance.

The status of the social order in America, and particularly that aspect which deals with the relations of man and wife, has stood at the bar of judgment in the mind of this girl, pleaded its case with the magnitude of magnetic states and stepped alone upon its alien soil, without knowledge of more than one word of its tongue. That one word was "Dear."

"Always he called me that in those first days," she explained.

girl, pleaded its case with the magnificent insolence of indifference and has been condemned.

Four years ago Mme. Reine Marguerite Pugnoud Beekman was a seventeen-year-old schoolgirl in her seventeen bear of the sevente seventeen-year-old schoolgirl in her native town of St. Jean d'Angely, in the Department of Charente, France.

Today she sits in a dingy hall bed
Today she sits in a dingy hall bed
Today she sits in a dingy hall bedroom in New York, plying her needle bands came home to their wives. It to earn her daily bread and looking was a very happy time-for everybody out, as she has done for two hard, else weary years, upon the ever-changing Admits Love Had Fled pageant of American civilization.

Life Has Been Darkened By Shattered Romance

love him, but I would—what is it?— stick to him, and do right. Oh, he was so different from when I first met It has been a seamy, sordid picture that she has seen, darkened by the shadow of her own life, framed in the black panels of despair, distorted by the glass of circumstance. She has looked upon it with the memory of a first love quickly blighted, of the bitterness and lone-liness of her first years in a strange land, alone in the midst of many, lead to be a good wife to the struck me, and tive times he bit me. I was so unhappy I thought at some times I would kill myself. We moved to the Bronx, and liness of her first years in a strange land, alone in the midst of many, lead to keep house with me, or in the midst of many, lines he struck me, and tive times he bit me. I was so unhappy I thought at some times I would kill myself. We moved to the Bronx, and then—"

I the wanted to keep house with me, or in the midst of keep house with me, or in the midst of keep house with me, or in the him to an apartment at 1046 East Fourteenth street, Brooklyn. Always I tried to be a good wife to him, for French girls are taught to be good wives. But it was no use; there was trouble all the time.

"Many times he struck me, and tive times he bit me. I was so unhappy I thought at some times I would kill myself. We moved to the Bronx, and then—"

I thought at some times I would kill myself. We moved to the Bronx, and then—"

Her eyes were dry and bright, but limit to an apartment at 1046 East Fourteenth street, Brooklyn. One, which, it is claimed, she wrote on the ever of her departure from the Bronx apartment December 24, 1920, reads:

"Dudley—I am gone and never shall come back. If you want a divorce or separation I am ready. If you want to myself, and changed it this way and then with the eve of her departure from the Bronx apartment December 24, 1920, reads:

"But it is not. It is the same old dress, and drevery time my friends say: "But it is not. It is not. It is not apartment December 24, 1920, reads:

"But it is not. It is not apartment of the wind, was apartment December 24, 1920, reads:

"But it is not. It is not apartmen voice as she continued: thought, separated from the one to whom she had given her life.

ing brown hair, surrounding a pretty oval face which glowed with an animation which even the interminable mation which even the interminable in New York—French people whom I had met. He paid me \$10 every week horror of the war could not efface. for my support. It was too little, of course, so I had to try some way to

"I laughed then," is the way she support myself.
"When I was a girl"—there was pression in her dark eyes which was skillful in making my own frocks. would almost preclude the thought that a smile had ever sparkled there.

"The school was not going, of myself in that way."

"The school was not going, of myself in that way."

"The school was not going, of course," she said, with her inimitable New York "Lovers' Lane" Gaelic slurrings and soft sibilants, "so the girls of the better families occupied themselves with doing what history of her romance is about to be they could for the poor 'blesses' in unfolded. She has become the defendthe Base Hospital, No. 6, at

"Those were terrible days, just before the end. The wounded friendship with Henri L. Petit, a respoured in, some of them so horribly taurateur, together with improper conhurt-oh! it was terrible-I can Dumaine, which is alleged to have

It was here, just before the cessa-

First Days of Romance Still Linger in Memory

"Oh. but I was in love then." she said, with a said half-smile. "It did not last long, but—yes, I was very happy then. He made love to me, and believed everything he said. I don't know-perhaps he was sincere then. Armistice, and we both were very, very happy for a little while, because the
war was over and we were if love."
She stopped suddenly looking She stopped suddenly, looking who are two fine, honorable men and through the narrow window at the nothing more than good friends to me. script clothing and bedding hung limp so much older than I, and I have seen him only once or twice in the last two years. And as for M. Dumaine, and inert in the hot city air. Her lips trembled for an instant, but quickly framed themselves in their accustomed I will tell about that.

visit to France, and he asked me to she continued hesitantly. "I had never have dinner with him before he sailed known any men, except the few who I accepted gladly. It was a very, very



land, alone in the midst of many, Her eyes were dry and bright, but I hold no grudge against you. Guard on very few dollars each week, that I a good remembrance of me."

"He was tired of me, and he wanted The shadow of the war still lay heavy on France when Reine Pugnoud first met the man whom she later married. She was a small, slender girl, with a wealth of curling brown hair, surrounding a pretty.

I divorce. Many, many times he told me that.

"I would not give him his divorce that he wanted. No. no! I could not. He asked me to give him his divorce always, and always. I refused.

"I would not give him his divorce that he wanted. No. no! I could not. He asked me to give him his divorce always, and always. I refused.

"I would not give him his divorce that he wanted. No. no! I could not. He asked me back. Listen, my Dudley, dear, take me back. Listen, my Dudley, dear, take back happy I am since I left you. I cried for you all the days, but too proud, I did not want to come back. I have no more courage to suffer any longer, and I want to come back. I wish by me love.

We separated two years ago. I want to come back. I wish by me love. been received some time later: and my fidelity to make you forget an the bad I did you."

Words Used in Letters Not in Her Vocabulary

torrent of explosive French:

"Lies! Lies! Lies!" she stormed.

"How can they do such things? I never wrote such letters; they are not such letters as I would write. This word 'fi — fidelity': I do not know that the it dress, but it is—what shall I call it?—artificial.

"Unconsciously her fingers sought her to patronize the most expensive shops, where a great deal of money will go a very little way, do get smartness as to their dress, but it is—what shall I call it?—artificial.

"Unconsciously her fingers sought her upper arm.

"A woman does not mind a bruise now and then from the man she loves," she went on, "if he is kind and considerate to her most of the time. She will put up with that. Some women—

Now the final chapter in the dark not marry again-my husband or any one else. I have learned the lesson. Husbands are to be avoided, especially American husbands. Not all, for I vorce which she says he failed to get know some that are good and kind and considerate of their wives.
"But the American husband usually

is driven by his wife until he becomes the slave. He must buy her what she man accusing her of an undue degree of wants, give her everything, humor her duct on an automobile ride with Aime always. The wife marries to get what Dumaine, which is alleged to have she can out of her husband, and the still see them. I can never forget taken place at Inspiration Point, a husband marries so that there will be are rich American wives in this counstill see them. I can never forget taken place at Inspiration Point, a husband marries so that there will be try.

Spot on Riverside Drive, near 172d one woman who is his. It is terrible, try.

That is why the styles come from terrible, these American marriages.
Paris. And when they do come they band are late! The styles in America do not to the

> It was not until these charges were mentioned to Mme. Beekman that she displayed any unusual degree of emo-But when she spoke of these allegations against her she straightened. her black eyes flashed with anger and she stamped her small foot on the threadbare carpet.
>
> "Oh, it is an outrage!" she cried.
>
> "It is terrible that they should say such things about me, but it is far worse that they should drag in the names of M. Petit and M. Dumaine, who are two fine honorable men and

Thrifty French Woman

Apalled by U. S. Waste "Would the French husband permit that the wife should make a fool of him like the American husband? No. he would not be robbed and driven by his own family. He would not permit that there should be waste and extravagance in his house, nor would a good French wife give him the chance that he

that I could die. I could not forget how happy I had been—and what a fool.

"He asked me to go to America to live here with his mother. I did not care, I went. I did not love him any mere; I beliesed that he had never loved me. C'etait egal."

"I cannot understand how they can is to be blamed for her—what is it?—extrava-extravagance, but not so much as the man who lets it go on."

She strode quickly to a small wash-stand, where the cracked china bowl is limmered with a pool of violet liquid. I would be plaintiff as restimony against her, both purporting to be communications.

have to live on.
"But the American wife, does she

Different is the letter alleged to have dye her dresses? Not if she can get

I want to come back. I wish by my love and my fidelity to make you forget an "I have said that the American men are slaves of their wives?" she began. Eh bien, the wives are the slaves of fashion and desire. They want to be well dressed and they will not permit

tion of the great struggle, that she met davit filed recently, stated that she and a friend, in the roles of detectives, the thousands brought there for treat-the thousands brought there for treat-the thousands brought there for treat-the traced the car of Mr. Dumaine to the spot in question, and there witnessed french husbands care for their wives.

Afr. Beekman s mother, in an animal file france it is different. Hus-sare late! The styles in America do not begin to take hold before they are fading away in Paris in place of another. Only the most expensive shops and one or two of the best modistes keep page with but it is wonderful, the way those the most expensive shops and one or married. French husbands care for their wives.

I know it, and I know who it is that he loves. Her name is Madeleine. I know, but he thinks I do not • • • Alors, we shall see!

Thrifty French Woman

of tints they shall wear. 'And I shall blame the American husband for this lack of taste also, for it ing her eyes and her hands upward in has lived, with all her troubles. The is true that the American women, and a quick, expressive gesture, "are never French work always, and from what all women elsewhere, dress to please the in their homes. Always it is that they

Are Too Matter of Fact

more courage to suffer any longer, and her own opinion of the degree of success

these letters in her hand, pointed a small pink forefinger at them and gave vent to her overwrought feelings in a smart? The answer to that is—a very

"It is not for them to worry. I would Says American Woman Are Not Innately Chic

"The American wife can go into a good shop with a roll of bills and buy a certain amount of chic by buying clothes of real distinction, but only her husband should become indifferent.

with a true instinct for dress than there turn to him for this love. are rich American wives in this coun- great hurt if he is cold to her.

choice as to what color or combination

were introduced in our home, for French girls, you know, are kept far for in seclusion than American girls.

"So, when he told me that I was—beautiful, and that he loved me so freatly, oh, it was there married just after Christmas in 1918. Soon after that I knew—it was a terrible thing—that I could

"We were married just after Christmas in 1918. Soon after that I knew—it was a terrible thing—that I could

"And the few who in troduced in our home, for some time, in full view, and that he loved me so free in section and the the was not half so much money is should complain.

"But how is it in America? If the hus should complain.

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"But how is it in America? If the hus should complain.

"But how is it in America? If the suggested that we drive over to the the view and that he same how much money is wasted in the house or by the wife. But let us say that he care, with many others, facing the triver, in the bright light. We sat there and parked the water. We went there and parked to the water. We went there and parked to the water. We went there are son have the wives to dress hould complain.

"The French husband is a man of taste. He has something of the artist in him, as all Frenchmen do. He will not often. The French husband and that there was not half so much money is was to the the triver. In the orthone. What there is a visit to a restaurant and the the orthones. The the orthone was not half so much money in better? It is very simple.

"The French wisband is a man of taste. He has something of the artist in him, as all Frenchmen do. He will not permit that is we'll not better? It is very simple.

"The French wise of the street in their house.

"The French wise of the street is a visit to a restaurant and met will not permit

"But the French husband is better

in this way also, that he gives his wife all those little attentions which are so up to pay attention to her house. She money, he makes trouble for her. small in themselves but mean so much must go to the modiste, and the hair-



French brides arriving in America

they are so matter-of-fact. They think that when they have given their wives plenty of money they have done everydescribes this comparatively carefree period of her girlhood. Today
she does not laugh; there is an exwife referred to her lost girlhood—"I

pression in how dark even their was skillful in making and the lost girlhood—"I

Make Beckman, standing in the center of her tiny room, with copies of these letters in her hand, pointed a small pink forelinger at them and gave

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Make Beckman, standing in the center of her tiny room, with copies of the distance of the pink for making should prevent. It is the greatest pain that they behold a woman who is better dressed than they.

"But do they dress well? Does the intervention of making in the center of her tiny room, with copies of the greatest pain that they behold a woman who is better dressed than they have done every
Make Beckman, standing in the center of her tiny room, with copies of the copies of the pink for making should prevent. It is the greatest pain that they behold a woman who is better dressed than they have done every
Make Beckman, standing lations with women."

will put up with that. Some women-I think all women at heart—have some of the old-time cave woman in them. Secretly they enjoy to be "The American wife can go into a treated by their husbands, if there is

rarely it is that she has the instinct for chic herself, so that she could select the same garments from a pile of others.

A woman remains in love longer than 'In France there are more grisettes wife, who is true to her husband, her husband; it is true, that. A good

"That is where the American hus-The American wife, she is lucky if the husband brings her some flowers, perhaps, on their wedding an- on the day that it was that they were first

question, and there witnessed over-making between the latter daughter-in-law.

In our until these charges were not until these charges in Paris."

She shuddered with mock horror.

"And the colors! Oh, what terrible the beats his wife sometimes. Tiens! "As to the children, it is too often the colors and the colors."

"Here in America what is it?" she colors and the colors! None of colors and thoughtful for her. As to maids. I am surprised that the wives the real way to life; they are the teachers as well as the mates.

"Here in America what is it?" she asked. "The husband is not interested in his wife; he has always some other woman who holds his attention. Do I work know? It is so with my own hus
"And the colors! Oh, what terrible is be beats any wife some than the colors are raw of the colors are raw only in the colors. The essentially characteristic American husband, he beats the should should should should be a color at all.

She to color at all in the colors are raw only in the color at all in the None It is forgotten tomorrow, when he is so that they are brought up by nurse-

when this black takes from them all Too Much Gadding About Bad for Home Life

"These Americans," she said, casthusbands and those who may become must go somewheres, out from the husbands. N'est-ce-pas? Then if these husbands have not the taste to demand better clothes to be worn by their wives.

"In France it is different. People gave it to the Government, and surprised they whole world, which there is the world which the earth of the world which the earth of the world which the earth of the world with the world which the earth of the world with the world with the earth of the world with the earth of the world with the world what reason have the wives to dress live in their homes, not in the theatres.

it was a terrible thing—that I could never no longer love him again. For days I wished love him again. For days I wished to the love him again. For days I wished that I could not forget that I could it is that the French wife does not herself run the house. "But in America, the wife does not

a woman.

"American husbands do not do that; movies, and to-what do you call



of their husbands.
"In short, when a French woman was called upon to live in Texas, or the Middle West, she found herself hope-

International Cupid Cut

Much Official Red Tape Official regulations were smoothed out and a rapidity of negotiation developed which violated all the classic traditions of French marriage. The publishing of the banns was all but eliminated, and t often happened that the whole matter was consummated in forty-eight hours, at an outlay not in excess of 100

Cupid found an able lieutenant in the person of Charles M. Loeb, a former Philadelphia lawyer, who published a pamphlet in Paris, setting forth the modus operandi for enamored swains, served as a Baedeker for thousands who trod the broad avenue to In America a young man may take a

girl to the moving-picture show or redrug store without thought of love on either side. But in France such ameniterpretation. Such nonchalant attenthe Americans in their leisure moments, were taken to signify affection and matrimonial intent, and many a war romance had its beginning in this way. Faced with an appalling diminution in man power and haunted by the specter of race suicide, the French Govern-ment made every effort to encourage these marriages. Legal impediments were swept away, and the matter became so far simplified that a soldier needed only make an affidavit before the nearest military judge advocate, stating his circumstances and affairs, and countersigned by his commanding order to proceed at once with the cere-

This pleasing co-operation with Hymen was not forthcoming on the part of the United States Army authorities, how-ever. Particularly after the armistice, efforts were made to dissuade the men from their matrimonial projects, orders being issued by General Pershing that the fiancees of all military candidates for communial bliss be investigated by company commanders in order to ascertain their fitness for the married state.



More brides-this time from England

them !- lectures, and all those things, the mind of this French bride, who at It was also ordered that the pasts of "As to the children, it is too often should know their parents." She took up her needle and a nebulous creation of black silk which lay in

"See," she said, "I am uncomfortable when I am not doing something, but it is not the same as with these American women. With the French wife, when she feels that she must be active. she goes to work. The American wife

goes to a bridge party. "That is the secret of how France prised the whole world, which thought

Into Her Scheme of Life "But the French husband is happy

with a little wine and a little for 'Always the French husband is bet-

Such is the conviction implanted in

At the age at which most women are just embarking upon the great and mysterious voyage of married life, she has already passed through the terrible ordeal of the most devastating war in history, followed by the profound shock of a shattered romance and four the state of the the s shock of a shattered romance and four years of misery and personal hard-

Nor is the least significant aspect or her case the fact that its fruits of un-happiness and disappointment have had their counterpart again and again among the 10,000 such alliances that resulted from the war. It has been estimated by General Robert Georges Nivelle that not more than 10 per cem of these marriages have been success-

For this General Nivelle blames both French Brides Taught earties to the contract, saying that brench girls gained the mistaken impression during the war that all Ameri-

"While American hospitality charms the traveler," remarked the hero of Verdun, "American life is not generally pleasing to French women. Our young women who married American soldiers who accumulated there in the course of enforced although temporary separations from their bushning. women who married American solders had the idea that all Americans are rich. So a French girl was much disappointed when her husband, out of similar to those of Mme. Beekman,

twenty-one has lived a life fraught with the accumulated experiences of years be determined whether or not the prosof ordinary marriage, together with many that find no place in the gamut of ordinary marrimonial victssitude.

It was also ordered that the pasts of twenty-one has lived and that it both parties be scrutinized and that it both parties be scrutinized and that it was also ordered that the pasts of the parties be scrutinized and that it both parties be scrutinized and that it was also ordered that the pasts of the prospective bridgeroom could support a wife.

It is reported by those who know that this move followed hard upon the return

His attitude at that time is said to have favored a complete embargo on the

importation of these brides with their usbands, but it was pointed out that husbands, but it was pointed out that such a course would leave many French brides stranded at embarkation points, penniless, friendless and hundreds of miles from their home towns, to say nothing of the plight of the husbands, would be thus deprived of their who would be thus deprived of their wives and subjected to the necessity of returning to France at some later date

Something of U. S. Ways

cans are rich, while the Americans ob-ject to their wive's innate habit of all points of embarkation, even without

khaki, turned to modest employment or separated from their husbands, returned to the farm. "Moreover, the French brides did not realize the necessity of knowing English and because of this lack they feel them-