

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Elements of a True Marriage.

Rev. Charles H. Eaton, of New York, in the course of a recent sermon on the subject of "A True Marriage," said that there were three elements that combined to make a true marriage; health, love and sympathetic companionship. No man or woman physically weak should marry, and thus entail suffering on others. Love does not mean passion; it is based on understanding. Men and women should know each other behind the curtain, as it were, before marriage. Unhappy lives often result from imperfect knowledge before marriage of the characteristics of the partner in the contract. Love makes sacrifices; passion never. No husband or wife has ever known true happiness until after the birth of a child. Men and women on the plane of marriage stand equals. There should be sympathetic companionship in the sense that an irreligious person should not marry one who is religiously inclined or an unintelligent person one who is of opposite taste. There should be sympathy and fellowship between husband and wife in all the pursuits of life.

Bolognese Customs.

In the Bolognese territory some curious customs prevail. A young man may have courted a young woman for several years, walking with her home from church, and assisting her in field labors; but he is never allowed to enter her house until he comes for betrothal before the priest. Even after this the girl's father is not supposed to be officially informed of the affair until a week before the marriage is to take place, the bridegroom's father, or some one in his stead, goes to ask for the hand of the bride. Her father "plays the Indian," is astonished and reluctant, but at length bestows his consent, and they all set out together to buy the marriage gifts, which consist of as much garnet jewelry as the bridegroom can afford, besides several rings. The buying of these things is a fete to the family—the amount of bargaining for them and discussion afterward as to whether they could have been got better and cheaper elsewhere, is something incredible to those who have not heard it. When the bride is dressed for the marriage ceremony, wearing her maiden necklace of coral, the bridegroom is introduced with the garnets in his hand, and asks her whether she will exchange her coral for what he brings. Her new ornaments add the finishing strokes to her attire, which is usually a gay flowered dress and embroidered silk or muslin apron, tied with a broad sash, and a white veil. After the ceremony the husband takes her home, and at the door she finds a broom. Her mother-in-law has designedly left the dust thick on a table or on the floor; if the bride does not notice it, it is a sign that she is a bad housekeeper; but she is usually warned of this trap, and falls to sweeping with the convenient broom. It is very necessary that she should appease the presiding genius of the house, for no matter how old the sons may be when they marry, the parents still hold undisputed sway, and as they usually all live together under one roof and at one table, a daughter-in-law's position is by no means an easy one if she is disliked by the heads of the family. She is greatly separated from her own family, in a ceremonial point of view; eight days after marriage she pays them a visit; and then and henceforward she is addressed by them with the formal "you" instead of the tender "thou" to which she has been accustomed.—*Springfield Republican.*

Fashion Notes.

Large bonnets have no strings. Satin has not gone out of vogue. Chenille bonnets are much worn. Stringless bonnets are much worn. The tournure or bustle grows larger. Bonnet strings must be very narrow and double. Alternate chene and plain stripes are in favor. Tailor-made cloth costumes are as popular as ever. A modified Marguerite dress is in favor for young girls. The new buttons are of metal, and are flat and of medium size. Basques with battlement finish at the bottom grow in popularity. Chenille bonnets are trimmed with wens, birds, lace and ribbon. Fanchons and small capotes are the only bonnets that have strings. Dresses are now cut oval shape at the neck, in preference to V-shape. All short wraps are decidedly shorter this season than they were last. The shapes of new bonnets are not materially different from those of last season.

A favorite garniture for evening dresses is pearl and crystal embroideries and pearl and beaded net and lace.

The pepper-pod designs on the new satens come in all stages of coloring assumed by the fruit of this plant, from the green pepper to the full red.

New parasols of black satin, having one or two black Spanish lace flounces, are varied with single or double fringes of gold bullion between the lace falls.

Black tulle and lace dresses elaborately made, and without any white about the neck and arms, bring out the delicate tints of a fair complexion and light hair.

Some very effective satens have the plain colors combined with the same shade ornamented with large hoops. Hoops are a favorite design in all sorts of wash-goods.

The new silks and satins that come in broche patterns show a prevalence of oriental harmonies of color, brightened with flame, orange, and mandarin yellow, in vanishing effects.

Large plush balls suspended by silk cords fill up the spaces between tabs and points that edge overskirts. Bunches of pompons similar to the ball trim the dress in other places.

Bands of green or red velvet are interwoven with gold or silver braid in basket-plaiting to form small capote bonnets. A panache of marabout feathers tipped with silver or gold, and velvet ribbon strings are the trimmings.

Among the practical and most attractive new goods are smooth-finished wool stuffs like tamise cloth, in solid colors of every kind, in plaids, blocks, checks, and stripes to match the plain goods, and intended for combination costumes.

The coverings of dress parasols are of the richest brocaded and foulard silks, with flounces of Spanish lace, white or black. A varicolored bow adorns one panel of the parasol. The sticks are of white ash or ebonized wood, tastefully carved, with a loop handle.

A very fashionable material for dressy home toilets is cream-white serged flannel, trimmed with long loops and ends of white moire or satin ribbon. For young married ladies this fabric is made into tea-gowns and Grecian robes, with trimmings of lace and white silk embroidery or braiding.

Norwegian Breakfasts and Dinners.

The foreigner will be perplexed at first by the appearance of the breakfast table, which is usually covered from end to end, and from side to side, with an infinite variety of small dishes containing slices of tongue, sausage, ham, corned beef, smoked salmon, bear's flesh and other dainties. There are also tins of caviare and of sardines, sprats and other kinds of preserved fish. There is usually a heap of radishes piled around a glass of water, and whatever vacant spaces are left about the table are filled with huge pieces of cheese—Norwegian, Dutch, Swiss and English. In the middle of all these stands a bottle of aqua-vit, or brandy—the white wine of the country, which is a strong spirit flavored with caraway seeds, and distantly resembling kummel. The orthodox fashion is to begin with a slice of bread and butter, covered with flakes of cheese, and with a nip of aqua-vit as appetizer. Those, however, who do not care to breakfast on relishes and the mere accidents of the meal may take refuge in the hot dishes, which are usually served in the shape of fish and meat. Salmon is the staple fare all over Norway. You get it at morning, noon and night, and in all forms. It enables one to understand the stories that are told of the farm servants in Scotland long ago, who stipulated in their engagements that they should not have salmon for dinner oftener than three times a week. The supper table is like the breakfast table and quite as abundant. The beverages in common use at both meals are coffee, Norwegian beer and wine—generally claret.

A Norwegian dinner is very like a dinner at home, but there are some peculiarities on state occasions which are worth noting. For example, the custom of drinking wine with the guests at table—a custom which is almost exploded in this country—is still in full force in Norway. The initiative, however, rests with the host, who drinks wine with every one, but it would be a breach of etiquette for any one to offer to drink wine with him. The guests, however, may drink with one another to their heart's content, clinking glasses in the German fashion, and when in jovial mood vociferating the word "skaal" in token of good fellowship. It is also noticeable that the toasts are given not after the cloth is drawn, but during dinner. The speeches are made between the courses.—*London Times.*

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The extreme life of the hippopotamus is set at thirty years.

Distilled water in the daylight is of a blue color. By gaslight the color is green.

The Mexicans use a strong solution of iodine in potassium iodide for an antidote for rattlesnake poison.

An atmosphere containing fourteen per cent. of carbonic acid has been found to be a reliable guard against explosions of fire damp.

Herr Wagner has found that the application of phosphoric acid to soils already rich is not always desirable; and an excess of the acid may—especially in dry soil—prove actually injurious, probably by hastening the death of the plants' organs of nutrition.

A valuable deposit of the remains of mammals from the diluvial period has lately been discovered on the banks of the Wolga, between Zarizyn and Sarepta, after a flood which cut away some of the land beside the great river. The variety of the specimens is notable.

Tyndall has supposed the color of the sea to be due to a reflection by the water of the blue rays of sunlight, red rays being transmitted. Were this view correct the light which passes through the water must be red, but Mons. Spring, of the Belgian academy, finds that such is not the case, a distinctly blue color being seen through a long tube of pure water.

It is a well-established theory that organs or functions of living creatures gradually disappear if unused. A familiar illustration is furnished by the blind fish of caves, whose eyes, through disuse, have been reduced to a rudimentary and sightless state. It appears, however, that this view does not always hold good, if it be true, as lately stated, that in some European instances mice have been raised in absolute darkness for many generations without appearing to have lost in the slightest degree the sensitiveness of the eye to light.

Salt in the Sea.

In its deepest parts the sea is intensely blue, but where it is shallow it is a bright green color, which prevails until soundings cease to be struck! Some people ascribe the blue to the reflection of the sky, and say that if the green water which is found nearer land were piled up in a basin as deep as that which holds the blue, it would be the same color. But the true cause of the difference between the two is the quantity of salt which the water contains. Some parts of the sea are much saltier than others, and it is these which are the bluest.

That the sea-water is denser in one part than another is the result of evaporation, less rainfall and a smaller importation of fresh water by means of rivers, etc. It is estimated that eight feet of water are annually withdrawn from the Red sea by evaporation only, and it is not surprising that it is saltier than the Baltic, where the evaporation is very small, and where, unlike it, there is an influx of water from various streams and heavy annual rainfalls.

But why is the ocean salt at all? The streams which feed it bring with them the salts of the soil through which they pass. As evaporation is ever going on, one would think that sea water must ever grow more lime-like; but such is not the case. The heavy heated waters of the tropics carry saline matter to be absorbed by the fresher waters, which in their turn rush forth to seek a home in more hospitable regions; and hence it is that the seas from which there is no evaporation, and which receive abundant supplies from rivers, etc., keep up their character and do not become saltless lakes.

So the sea is salt by reason of the earth washings which are poured into it; it has different densities because of evaporation, rainfalls and rivers, as it is prevented from stagnation by a universal system of ocean currents.

Splayed Feet.

A surgeon reports that the number of cases of splayed feet, or flat feet, without any instep, is large and rapidly increasing. "The arches of the instep are broken down by wearing high-heeled shoes. Of course, I am speaking of young girls and misses, and not of grown-up persons of either sex. Now, the misses and young ladies of France wear heels that are even higher than we are accustomed to see in this country. But the heel of the French shoe is placed well forward, almost under the middle of the foot, so that the arch or instep is supported just as the span of a bridge is sustained by a tower or buttment under the middle of the span. Our shoemakers place the heel further back. This lengthens the span and increases the strain. Splayed feet are almost exclusively confined to females, and the weaker the general constitution the more likely is the foot to suffer."

A Foot-Washing Ceremony.

"You never saw a foot-washing?" said the Rev. Joseph Bowen, a Baptist minister from Tennessee, to a St. Louis reporter. "Then you could not have traveled much in the backwoods sections of the South and West. I remember seeing one at Randolph, Tenn., in June, 1877. Randolph is in Tippon county on the Mississippi bluffs. I had to stay there over Sunday, and learning that there was a meeting at Salem church, six miles away, I borrowed a horse and rode to the place. The church, built of logs, with the 'cracks' daubed, sat back about 100 yards from the road in the middle of a grove. Inside, the seats were all pretty well filled, and every head in the church turned as I entered. I shrank into a corner and took a seat as quickly as possible. In front there were a few benches made of unvarnished poplar, but the supply falling short the demand had been met by planks laid on boxes. On one of these I sat down next to a portly lady dressed in a cotton gown with broad yellow checks. The minister had well earned his reputation of being a 'powerful exhorter,' as I found when he commenced his sermon. As he warmed to his work he walked rapidly from side to side of the pulpit, stopping occasionally, as in a thundering voice he warned his unconverted hearers that they were hanging over hell-fire by a single hair, to deal resounding blows to the Bible with his fists by way of emphasis. When he concluded he took a long crash towel and girded it around his waist. At the side of the pulpit was a bucket of water and a 'noggin.' If you don't happen to know what a noggin is I may explain that it is a small tub a size larger than a piggin. This one had been constructed by sawing a whisky keg in half. When the preacher commenced pouring the water into it an old gentleman in the amen corner commenced pulling off his brogans and rolling up the bottoms of his trousers.

"Will some brother raise a hymn?" asked the minister, and the brother, who now had his shoes off and was engaged with his home-knit cotton socks, raised one: "I am a Soldier of the Cross," and as the congregation joined he put both feet in the noggin, which had been set before him. The preacher squatted down in front of him, rubbed his hands around over the feet and up and down his shins half way to the knee. When the brother thought they were washed enough, he held them up out of the water, and the parson wiped them on the crash towel. Then the parson sat down, and, having pulled off his shoes, had his feet washed by the brother to whom he had just ministered. All who wished to join in the ceremony had taken possession of the front seats—the mourners' benches. Among those who had gone up had been the portly sister by whom I sat. The noggin came to her next and she washed the feet of the sister next to her, having her own washed in turn. When all the feet on the front seat had been washed, the water in the noggin was emptied out the back door and a fresh supply brought in from the well near the church. The noggin passed around from brother to brother and from sister to sister for an hour, and in that time I saw more varieties of feet than I have ever seen before or since."

Wonders of the Ocean's Depths.

As to the quantity of light at the bottom of the sea there has been much dispute. Animals dredged from below 700 fathoms either have no eyes, or faint indications of them, or else their eyes are very large and protruding. Crabs' eyes are four or five times as large as those of a crab from surface water, which shows that that light is feeble, and that eyes to be of any use must be very large and sensitive. Another strange thing is that where the creatures in those lower depths have any color it is of orange or red, or reddish orange. Sea anemones, corals, shrimp and crabs have this brilliant color. Sometimes it is pure red or scarlet, and in many specimens it inclines toward purple. Not a green or blue fish is found. The orange red is the fish's protection, for the bluish-green light in the bottom of the ocean makes the orange or red fish appear of a neutral tint and hides it from enemies. Many animals are black, others neutral in color. Some fish are provided with boring tails so that they can burrow in the mud. Finally, the surface of the submarine mountain is covered with shells, like an ordinary sea beach, showing that it is the eating-house of vast schools of carnivorous animals. A codfish takes a whole oyster into its mouth, cracks the shells, digests the meat and spits out the rest. Crabs crack the shells and suck out the meat. In this way come whole mounds of shells that are dredged up.—*Professor Verrill.*

COAL MINERS.

How They Provide for the Widows and Orphans.—Marrying Out of Generosity.

A correspondent writing from Wilkesbarre, Pa., says: Accidents in the collieries of the middle district of the anthracite coal fields, of which this city is the center, made last year nearly one hundred widows and over five hundred orphans. But notwithstanding the frequency of fatal accidents and the absence of any organized charity, the larders of the widowed families are never empty, none go naked, the household fires are not extinguished and the little home is never stripped by a landlord's warrant. Kind hands see that food is provided each day, and the men returning from their work in the mines do not forget to carry to the widow's home a lump of anthracite for the next day's use. Communism in a peculiar sense prevails among the coal miners of Pennsylvania. The lucky divide with the unlucky as readily and as cheerfully as if they belonged to one family. However much all may quarrel on abstract questions of politics or religion, all discussions are dropped at the appeal of charity.

While, as has been said, no organized relief societies exist among the colliers, there is a general system in vogue which does its work well and promptly. Every printing office in this region is visited weekly by persons wanting raffle tickets. These tickets cost one dollar a hundred, and are headed "Raffle for a cooking stove," or clock, bureau, quilt, table, or some other article of domestic use. It is announced that the raffle is for the benefit of a widow or injured miner, and on the "night after pay day." The price of the ticket is generally fifty cents. The raffle is in charge of a committee whose names appear on the ticket. Take the case of a woman, for instance, lately made a widow. She has been left penniless, as miners' widows usually are. Everybody understands this, and the hundred tickets are promptly disposed of among the miners, who pay for them on pay day. On that night the widow gets \$50 cash. The night of the raffle comes, and, possibly, one-fifth of the ticket holders assemble. A fiddler, a keg of beer, and a little "hard stuff" form the elements of the entertainment. The young lads join in a dance with the lasses, the old men sup and smoke their pipes, and the old women recount the virtues of the deceased miner. About midnight the raffle begins. The names of the ticket purchasers are put into a hat and well shaken. Whoever secures the prize at once turns it over to the beneficiary. The company breaks up happy over the good time they have had, and the kind deed they have done. That \$50 goes a long way in keeping the shadows from the little house. It will sometimes pay a whole year's rent, and it only requires one or two more raffles to keep the victor's poor larder stocked, for it must be understood that potatoes, cabbages, and meal, form the staple articles of diet in these humble homes.

A year is a long time for a comely and thrifty woman to remain a widow at the mines, no matter how many children she may have. Jim is killed to-day, and possibly before the summer ends, Jack, who was Jim's best friend, insists upon marrying Jim's widow. Jim's babies become his. And if you go below the surface you will find the foundation of Jack's action to be pure charity. It is a matter of record that when the terrible Avondale disaster occurred so many widows and helpless ones were left that the matter of caring for the former speedily was discussed. It was quickly settled by propositions of marriage, and within a very short time after the calamity the household of every victim was protected. This same spirit exists in every mining community to-day, and is a shield against much distress.

Efforts have been made from time to time to induce the miners to abandon a custom that prevails among them. Whenever a man is killed in a mine while at work, every man in the colliery where the accident occurs stops work. Frequently 1500 employes turn out and remain out for two days. There appears to be a deep superstition that prompts that peculiar exhibition of respect for the dead.

Still Even.

On Montcalm street recently a boy was leading a goat around by a rope, when a pedestrian asked if he wanted to sell the animal. "Course not, we just got him," was the reply. "What did you want of a goat?" "Nothing much. We bought him to get ahead of the Browns, who have a fox, but they've gone and got even again." "How?" "Why, three of the family have been mesmerized, and Johnny has had two teeth filled."—*Detriot Free Press.*

My Ship.

O! though my ship is sailing far out on the wide, wide sea,
The prospect ever dearest still is my own home to me;
And all the time, by night, by day, before me
Faces dear
Come smiling, greeting, cheering, as in fancy
They appear.
O! though my ship is sailing far in distant waters blue,
My heart looks ever homeward to my home-ties, ever true;
I mark each day's departing, for I know it is
One less,
Before I clasp my loving ones, or feel their
Soft caress.
O! though my ship is sailing far, in storm and tempest off,
I still can feel the pressure of warm hands and fingers soft;
I am looking, thinking, longing for the time to come for me,
When I shall meet my children dear and take them on my knee.
O! though my ship is sailing far, 'twill soon be
"Homeward bound!"
On land or sea was never heard, by man, a sweeter sound;
With sail all set and bounding o'er the rolling, billowy sea,
Each hour is bringing nearer all my darling ones to me.
O! then swift winds, from out the skies come blowing strong and free;
Blow for me homeward breezes, hasten home my ship and me;
All my loved ones there are waiting, waiting, looking o'er the sea;
And in patience sweet are watching, O! my ship for thee and me.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Medical query—Was the eye-lash designed for brow-beating?
Flattery is called "taffy" because it makes a man feel awfully "stuck up."
There is a marked difference between getting up with the lark and staying up to have one.
When the hen with chickens attacked the small boy in his mother's yard, the hen informed him she had been laying for him for some time.
A note made on Sunday is void; which may account for men sleeping all through church service, and making no note of what the preacher says.
A young child in Oregon died from the effects of swallowing the leaves of an almanac. We always held that dates should be eaten in small quantities.
When a certain bachelor was married in Philadelphia, members of the Bachelor club broke him up by sending him as a wedding present a copy of "Paradise Lost."
It is a glorious thing to have been born a man. One doesn't have to bother himself for a month over the plans and specifications of a new spring bonnet. He simply has to foot the bill when the thing is bought.
A little bright-eyed boy, upon hearing his father read the story of Joan of Arc, was greatly moved by her sad trials; but when the part was reached where she was about to be burned to death at the stake, the poor little fellow could not contain himself any longer, but sobbingly clutched his parent's arm, and, with big tears running down his plump little cheeks, cried, "But,—papa, wh—e—re were the police!"

Henry Clay Quoting Shakespeare.

Henry Clay, who left a seat in the Senate for one in the House, but after many years' service at the other end of the capitol returned to the Senate chamber, exercised a powerful control over the politics of the republic. Idolized by the Whig party, his wonderful powers of personal magnetism, and his rich, manly voice, would enable him to hold an audience for hours. He made but little preparation, and used but few notes in speaking; but when he wrote out his remarks for the press, his manuscript was remarkably neat, without interlineations or blots. He seldom indulged in classical allusions, and his occasional attempts to make quotations of English poetry were generally failures. On one occasion, he used the well-known phrase from Hamlet, "Let the galled jade wince, our withers are unwrung," but misquoted the last syllable, calling it "unstrung." The gentlemen who sat on either side of him noticed the error, and simultaneously whispered "unwrung." This double prompting confused "Young Harry of the West," who straightened himself, and with stronger emphasis repeated "unhung." This raised a general laugh, at the close of which Clay, who had meanwhile ascertained his mistake, shook his head, and said with one of his inimitable smiles: "Ah! murder was in! Unwrung's the word." The fascination which he exercised over all with whom he had personal intercourse, even his political adversaries, was remarkable; but he was imperious and domineering, exacting unconditional and unqualified support as the price of his friendship.—*Ben Perley Poore in the Century.*