

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."
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AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JERFORD.

By Masser & Eisely.

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Love and Logic.

BY FRANCIS SARGENT OSGOOD.

The gods one day vent Reason out,
To look for Love,—their thumt boy!
They bade her seek him all about,
And lure him home with tempting toy!
She found him in a wood-lad's fold,
She begged him to be back in season;
But still the boy the maiden mocked;
For—"Love will never list to Reason!"
The goddess held a jewel up,
With brightest glory flashing thro' it;—
"Nay! see my Rose's bli'g' cup!"
Said Love,—"Your gem is nothing to it!"
"For shame; false boy! must force be tried!
Is't thus you waste this precious season!
"Take care! I've known this boy," he cried!
"Ah!—Love's foot has conquered Reason!"
"I see your aim!—your rhetoric speeds
On proud Olympus ill without me!
But happy Love no reason needs!
Begone! and when they ask about me,
Sneer tell them, in my Rose's heart,
I've found no dear, so pure a treasure,
I grieve from not Minerva's art.
Or laughing Hebe's cup of pleasure!"
The maid had not a word to say,—
She knew the gods were talking treason;—
But back to Ida sent her way,
For Love can better plead than Reason.

PENNY WEDDINGS IN SCOTLAND.

It may be right to mention, for the information of American readers, that penny weddings used to be quite common in the Highland districts of the north of Scotland, though latterly they have been gradually becoming less frequent. They are called penny weddings, because the parties present pay for the pleasures of the evening. The bride and bridegroom personally invite their own respective acquaintances to the wedding several days before the time appointed for the performance of the marriage ceremony; but any person who wishes it, and is willing to pay the stipulated sum, is always a welcome guest. That sum is usually regulated by the current price of whiskey—whiskey being the only spirits drunk on the occasion—and varies from three shillings and sixpence to four shillings for each person. On some occasions as many as 200 persons have been present at one of these penny weddings; and the profits to the bride and bridegroom, after paying all expenses, have in some cases amounted from twenty to thirty pounds. With the profits of their wedding the author has known several instances in which the "newly-married couple," as the newspaper advertisements say, have made a beginning in the world, and afterwards become opulent persons.

It may be known to many of our readers, that in Scotland all marriages take place at the house of the parents of the bride, or of those relations with whom she may chance at the time to be staying. If in the humbler ranks of life, and she has been a faithful and obliging servant, it is quite common for the bride to be married in the house of her mistress. In any case, a marriage in a church or chapel is not.

As the clergyman is concerned, is performed at the house of the bride's parents, if she has any; and if not, at the house of some relative or friend. But the festive part of the occasion is reserved until she is brought home to the house of her husband. Marriage in Scotland usually takes place about five in the afternoon; and when the wedding is a penny one, only a few persons, and these, for the most part, near relations, are present at the clerical part of the ceremony. The party afterwards sit down to tea, which is followed by a glass of genuine whiskey, and a few biscuits. If the bridegroom's house be not far off, the newly-married pair, with their friends, at once adjourn to it, where the evening is spent in feasting and hilarity. But in rural districts—and in these only are penny weddings heard of—the bride, in the great majority of cases, either resides, or is in service, at a distance of some miles. In these cases, the common practice is, to be married at her locality on a Thursday—the guests being all invited to the latter place.

Persons residing in populous towns can have no idea of the sensation created in a particular district in Scotland, for six or seven miles around, when it becomes known that a wedding is in contemplation. The bride and bridegroom are in everybody's mouth. For weeks before the event comes off, nothing else is talked of in the whole country side. Every little incident in the history of either party is raked up from oblivion, and discussed and commented on with a freedom and boldness which would satisfy the most devoted friend to liberty of speech.

The interest in the coming marriage continues to grow as the period at which it is appointed to take place approaches. Formerly the custom used to be—a custom then required by law—that the banns should be published,

or, as they say in Scotland, the parties be "cried," two Sundays before the ceremony took place. After the parties had been thus asked in church, neither of them ventured out oftener than necessity required, because of the banding to which they were sure to be subjected by all the unmarried portion of the community. In the part of Scotland where penny weddings were wont to be more frequent, there used to be a superstitious belief that, if an unmarried person only rubbed shoulder with either a bride or bridegroom—which the parties are considered to do from the time of their being asked or "cried" in church—the individual fortunate enough to get sufficiently near for the gentle collision, was sure to be married soon afterwards. Hence all the young women in the place literally persecuted the bride, in their anxiety to rub shoulders with her. This was a source of annoyance, and still is, in some cases, to a "published" bride. Then there is that feeling of modesty which prevails to so great an extent among young women in the rural districts of Scotland, when allusion is made to their approaching nuptials—a feeling which almost makes them blush to be seen by their former acquaintances. The extent to which this feeling is carried in the north of Scotland, would appear incredible to the English reader. Thus, between one circumstance or other, the period which intervenes between the first announcement in the church of an intended marriage, and the period at which it takes place, is, to the bride, one of a trying nature, apart from all private considerations connected with the new relationship into which she is about to enter.

Earnestly does she pant for the arrival of her wedding-day, in order that her embarrassing situation may approach its end. It comes in due course, though she deems the interval from the first publication of the banns until the wedding is over, a little age. To both bride and bridegroom the wedding-day is, in more senses than one, an important day. Most arduous are the duties of both; but those of the bride are peculiarly so. She is expected to talk perpetually to all around her, during the eating and drinking part of the business. Great things are expected from her in the way of pressing her friends to partake of the good cheer provided for the occasion. And then, when the dancing begins, which it does about seven or eight in the evening, she is expected to dance with everybody who chooses to ask her. On the floor she must toil away, though scarcely able perhaps to move a limb. But by far the most singular duty of the bride at a penny wedding is, that of advancing to all the male persons present, and kissing them in succession. Where this has to be done in 150 or 160 cases, without so much as a moment's breathing time between the salutes, it will readily be believed that the bride has rather a arduous task to perform. The accuracy of this statement may be questioned by those unacquainted with the usages which prevail in some more remote parts of Scotland. It is, nevertheless, strictly true. For its truth the writer, indeed, pledges himself; as he speaks on the point from what he has witnessed with his own eyes.

As no ordinary-sized house would contain the half of the guests who are present at a penny wedding, they usually sit down to dinner in the largest barn, or other out-house, in the neighborhood. Tables or chairs in sufficient numbers are out of the question; but an apology for tables, it made by means of a certain number of deals of timber, adjusted as they best may; and forms are found to answer for chairs. With regard, again, to knives and forks, as these are articles rarely used in those localities where penny weddings are most frequent, every guest is expected to take his own knife and fork with him; if not, there is no alternative for him but to use his fingers. And when a guest, unprovided with knife and fork, is reduced to necessity, you generally see him trying to keep himself in countenance, and to silence those who, being themselves better provided, may betray a disposition to be witty at his expense, by saying—"Ah never mind! Fingers were made before knives and forks." The position is one of undoubted orthodoxy; no one ventures to dispute it, because nobody can.

Candlesticks and snuffers are equally scarce commodities at these penny weddings. For the former, as we had once occasion to remark in a previous work, large turnips, with a hole cut out by a knife, are found to be very passable substitutes; while the fingers of the nearest guest are expected to be available for the work which, in our more refined regions, is usually assigned to a pair of snuffers.

Dinner over dancing begins; and at penny weddings people do dance. You see none of those insipid, formal, sleepy movements which are called dancing at ball-rooms in this country. There they dance with a spirit and energy which show that they are in earnest. They cheer each other on by cries peculiar to the rural districts of Scotland, and of which, as all depends on the singular manner in which they

are uttered, no idea can be given by description. And with these indistinguishable vocal sounds, are mingled the loud snappings of fingers, the clappings of hands, and the beating of feet. And then to see the countenances of those who are the occupants of the floor! There is a language in their looks which cannot be mistaken. They have for the most unreservedly resigned themselves to the pleasure of the occasion; and their enjoyment is as visible in their countenance as the sun is in the firmament. As the evening advances, the company, aided by the inspiration of copious draughts of "mountain dew," increase in the vivacity of their spirits, and in the energy with which they perform the physical evolutions characteristic of Scottish dancing. The four or five fiddles struck up in some corner of the place, and made more musical by the agency of whiskey, participate in the excitement of those whose feet are responding to their soul-inspired strains. By and by the hilarity becomes so uncontrollable, and withal so general, that all regard for regularity, either in the music of the fiddlers, or the movements of the dancers, vanishes entirely. The Apollos continue to produce sounds, but they have ceased to discourse music. The parties occupying the floor continue to move about, but they no longer dance. All is now confusion; the place has the appearance of a mob without any definite object in view. The sound of the violin has died away; the fiddlers are asleep. The more orderly of the company begin to take their departure for their respective homes; or others follow without knowing why. It is now three or four, or it may be five in the morning; and the only remains of the late company are a young man who has sprained his ankle in the dance, laying in a corner, until a friend brings a horse, from a house at some distance, to take him home; and a fiddler in the opposite corner, who, having resolutely declined to be awakened by either the shaking or pricking of friends, has been left to sleep away to his heart's content. Judging from the desperate energy with which he is snoring, and the rapidity with which the nasal sounds succeed each other, you are justified in concluding that there is no prospect of an immediate termination to his slumbers.

If the weather be fine, the guests at penny wedding usually adjourn when they become a little excited, from the barn or other out-house in which the dancing commenced, in the open air. There, on the green sward, with no other covering than the sky, do they "trip the light fantastic toe," until the moon and stars have sunk into invisibility before the splendors of the rising sun. The penny wedding at which the writer of this article was present, afforded an instance of this. It was on a fine summer's eve that he proceeded to the spot at which the wedding was to take place; and as beautiful a summer's morn' as ever dawned on our meridian, succeeded that beautiful eve. The dancing on the occasion was kept up till a later hour than had ever been known. Probably the reason was that, having taken the green sward and the open air earlier than usual, and there being consequently fewer facilities for quaffing potations of whiskey, the guests were better able to protract the merriment on the occasion. But whatever may have been the cause, the dancing was continued until half-past five in the morning—the lovely warblings of the lark mingling with, and almost drowning, the faint and feeble sounds sent forth by the exhausted fiddlers.

It ought to be mentioned, that a penny wedding requires the most active preparation for it, during the previous eight days. Nor do the duties of the occasion cease with the wedding day—which, as before stated, is almost invariably on a Thursday. On the two following days the happy pair are expected to keep open house for such of their friends as may be pleased to call on them. The fragments that remained after the marriage-feast, constitute excellent materials for treating their friends who honor the married couple with a call. Then comes Sunday, and with it the churching—which is a very different matter in the rural districts of Scotland, from what it is elsewhere. As in thinly peopled districts, all persons are known to each other, the circumstance, especially in the case of the bride, of being exposed for nearly two hours to the gaze of every one in the church, just as if the married people were a pair of wild beasts—is one of a very trying kind. Perhaps it is to her the most trying ordeal she has to go through in connection with her marriage. What, however, cheers her up during the immunity, is the consideration that it is the last incident of the scene; and that after it is over, she will settle down in her new relation of a married woman.

Penny weddings are looked forward to with the deepest interest by all the unmarried young women in the district. They are usually productive of attachments which terminate in marriage. At these weddings—the lasses appear to the best advantage. For weeks before the wedding-day, all is bustle in preparing their

dresses for the occasion; and, when the day arrives, they not only put on their best apparel, but also their best looks. They regard a penny wedding as one of the most desirable opportunities which can occur of making conquests. Hence—and surely no one will be so ungallant as to blame them—they do all they can, by the smartness of their dress and the fascination of their manner, to entangle some of the swains who are present, in the meshes of a love sufficiently ardent to justify the expectation that it will ripen, in due time, into a matrimonial proposal.

It must, however, be mentioned in conclusion, that penny weddings promise, ere long, to become matters of history. They are, as we have already remarked, rapidly going out of use. Twenty, or twenty-five years ago, nearly all weddings among the humbler classes in certain districts of the north of Scotland, were penny weddings. Now it may be doubted whether there be one penny wedding for twenty weddings of the ordinary kind.

EQUESTRIANISM IN MEXICO.—Kendall relates that while he and his comrades were on their march in Mexico, as prisoners of war, they one morning met a female, driving a little, half-starved packass. Upon the back of this donkey, he adds, "with his head turned towards the animal's tail, a large and extremely fat live hog was riding—the first of the swinish race I had ever seen mounted. His four large legs were confined, two on either side of the animal which was bearing him along; and the hog was ever and anon changing the position of head from one side to the other, in order to take the greatest possible comfort under the circumstances. I cannot say that this equestrian performance was altogether as graceful as some I have seen, nor that he had that dauntless bearing which gives to feats of horsemanship their greatest charm; but he certainly manifested a resignation and stoical indifference which could hardly have been expected, and we laughing outright at the scrubby-looking animal, with his singular rider as he trotted past us. I have often heard of a 'hog in armor,' but never expected to see a hog on horseback."

A WESTERN MAN.—They raise some pretty large men, as well as pigs, in Ohio, as will be seen by the following paragraph from the Cincinnati Gazette.

Our attention was arrested at H. S. Edmand's Park House, by one of the largest specimens of Western men that we have seen for many a day. He was unloading a splendid lot of hogs, and we thought at once of the jocose remark of Dr. Johnson.

"Who slays fat oxen should himself be fat."
He said his name was Crispin, from Highland County, and that "none of his family were ashamed to have the world know their ages or weights." He weighed 396 pounds, his sister 376, and his four boys 952 pounds, making an aggregate of 1724 pounds for the six, averaging 287 1/3 pounds each. We did not stop to take the weight of his hogs.

Old John Elwes, the famous English miser, used to teach economy and domestic philosophy as follows:—"If you want your work well done, keep one servant; if muddling, keep two; but by all means, if you wish to do it yourself hire a third."

POETRY OF MOTION.—Miss Mary Ann Lee is kicking up her heels to the immense satisfaction of the people of New Orleans and "Tanus top's heads while turning pirouettes."
One "Spasms" howls his tender sorrows in the New Orleans Picayune, as melodiously as a monkey practising on the German flute. He has found out with Sawney that

Love, love, love
Is a kind of dizziness
And wins let a pair bodie
Gang about his buzzies.

He thus addresses the "demition" little black-eyed charmer who has enslaved him:
Merry Miss Mary! you moschi wana fare!
With your twinkling feet! and your twidling ary;
Think as one pleases, or do as you wan,
You keep one from sleeping—*you do Mary Ann!*

Tom Moore's songs have been parodied oftener than the productions of almost any other poet—a good proof of their excellence and popularity. But what would the great "Little" Moore say to the following, on "This would be a floating show?"

The business of all a floating show
For a man's blason is you;
The bags of loan, the sacks of law,
Are won to null the "float show"
They're all at it by Heaven!

A paper down east has this motto over the head of the editorial columns:
We'll gaily chase dull care away,
And banish every sorrow,
Suscipiensis pay your debts to-day,
And we'll pay ours to-morrow.

"Mr. Swipes, I've just kicked your William out of the store."
"Well, Swingle, it's the first Bill you've fisted this many a day."

PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion,	\$0 50
1 do 2 do	0 75
1 do 3 do	1 00
Every subsequent insertion,	0 25
Yearly Advertisements: one column, \$26; half column, \$18, three squares, \$12; two squares, \$8; one square, \$5. Half-yearly: one column, \$18; half column, \$12; three squares, \$8; two squares, \$5; one square, \$3 50.	

Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

G. Sixteen lines make a square.

it was at the top of a very steep precipice, and could not be got to without some difficulty and danger.

The dropping of the water, both from the top and sides of the cavern, now became very profuse, and the roaring, as if of water above them, became very loud. Now fear was first felt in the stout hearts of our adventurers. They felt that they were under a stream of some kind perhaps under one of the falls of the Antietam, and perhaps that glimmering light was that little cave near Millborough. They turned and retraced their steps as quick as possible. The linen marks answered every purpose—the dogs were no more heard—and the roaring died away in the distance. Now we came to the rivulet again—it was a welcome mark, and added fresh vigor to their wearied frames. They were very soon up in this sunny world, glad, and in no wise sorry for their rash undertaking. They found their horses impatient to carry them home, to relate their discovery to their friends. They must have penetrated this cavern about a mile and a half, which is certainly, one of the most daring acts ever heard of.

Gentlemen of courage should join, and provide themselves with the requisites to explore this cavern, as it will certainly prove one of nature's greatest wonders. Those noble animals, the dogs, I omitted to state, returned in about 4 hours after entrance.

THE RIDDLER. CHARADES

I.
My first is durable;
My second always;
My whole without end.

My first marks time; my second spends it; and my whole tells it.

ENIGMA.

A lady in prison received an animal as a present from her niece, which signified to her "Make your escape;" in reply she sent back a fruit which imparted "It is impossible to escape." What was the animal, and what was the fruit?

CONUNDRUMS.

1. Why is a witch riding on a mouse like one and the same thing?
2. Why is a pair of trousers, too big every way, like two populous towns in France?
3. What word in the English language expresses the following question,—"Are you a reserved man?"
4. Why is a waiter like a race-horse?
5. Why is a dandy like a haunch of venison?
6. Tom went out, and his dog with him, he went not before, behind, not on one side of him;—then where did he go?—*Phil. Saturday Museum.*

During the war between Poland and Russia it was not unimportant to find women in command of the forces. Major Tochman, the Polish exile says that in one instance a lady was first lieutenant of a troop in which her husband held a second lieutenantcy.

Women of the present day are frequently to be seen in arms, and the Boston Bee asserts that many a man is second lieutenant to his wife even now.

A MATHEMATICAL QUESTION.—The Portland Bulletin asks:—"If a ball flies at the rate of four hundred and forty-eight miles a minute, when first discharged from the mouth of a cannon, how fast will a maddling sized dog run with a tin kettle, weighing one pound ten ounces, tied to his tail?"

The Boston Bee says, that a fellow out west had a basin of ditch water thrown in his face, for feeding his cow from his wife's bustle, mistaking it, as the scamp said, for the bran bag.

A GOOD REFERENCE.—"Do you know Mr. —?" asked one friend to another, referring to an old gentleman, who was famous for his fondness for the extract of hop.

"Yes sir, I know him very well!"
"What kind of a man is he?"
"A beer barrel, and in the evening, when he goes to bed, he is a barrel of beer."

"We had an awful storm once when I was out to sea on the Ohio canal—captain told us to take in all sail!"

"Take in all sail on a canal boat! How did you do that, sir?"
"Jump ashore, and knocked the horse down."

Almost every amiable woman is pretty. If a wife will always look amiable, she will look pretty to her husband.

"Measure for measure," as the two clerks said when they were fighting with yard sticks.

"Brass at both ends," said a lady pointing to a Broadway dandy with brass heels on his boots.

Do you pay for your paper, or do you play the sneak, and borrow it?