

VARIEITY.

Marriage in Different Nations.

In Ceylon, one of the principle ceremonies consists in tying together the clothes of the bridegroom and bride, to signify that they are bound together for life. The ceremony is performed in the presence of their friends and with such festivities as the means of the parties will admit.

In Java there are three kinds of marriages. The first and more common is where the parties are of equal condition; the second is where the bridegroom is much richer than that of the husband; and the third is a kind of a half marriage, the offspring of which are not admitted to an equality with other children.

In Sumatra the Batta has as many wives as they please, generally five or six, who all live in the same apartment with their common husband, but each has a separate place. Husbands purchase their wives of their father-in-law, and gamble them away, or sell them whenever they please.

Among the Batakans, another tribe, besides the purchase of wives, a man is sometimes adopted by the father-in-law as a son-in-law, and both a subject to the parent and there is another marriage, where both man and woman are of equal rank, and are of equal rank.

In Borneo no man is allowed to solicit a damsel in marriage until he has cut off the head of the enemy. When this condition is fulfilled, the lover makes presents to his mistress; if they are accepted, an entertainment is given by her parents, after that the bridegroom is conducted home to the house of the bride. At the door friend sprinkles him with the blood of a cock, and her with the blood of a hen; and the parties then give each other their bloody hands, and from that time they live together. If a man loses his wife he cannot marry a second until he cuts off the head of another enemy.

In Ceylon a husband receives no other dowry with him than the presents he obtains before the ceremony. As soon as the young couple is married, they are shut up in an apartment by themselves for three days; a servant brings them the necessary food, while their friends are entertained with great merriment by the bride's father. At the end of this time they are liberated, receive the congratulations of their friends, and are conducted home.

The marriage customs of the natives of New Holland are rather more curious than elsewhere. Before a girl is given to her husband, her two front teeth are knocked out. The husband then throws a kangaroo skin over her shoulder, spits in her face several times, marks her with painted stripes of different colors, and orders her to march to his hut with his provision bag; if she does not walk in a hut with her companions, she receives a few kicks by the way. These savages generally steal wives from the tribe with which she is at enmity. As soon as they perceive a girl without any protector they rush upon her, and drag her through the woods with the utmost violence. Her bride relatives by merely committing a similar outrage. There is no violence among these savages.

The Moors marry at a very early age; wives are always purchased; and the bride of the girl cannot refuse an offer, unless there is some stain upon the young man's character. The bride is adorned with a small white flag, and the bridegroom's bow is encircled with a fillet of the same color. The bride is conducted to the tent of her parents, where the lover presents her with garments and jewels, according to his wealth. A grand entertainment is given, and the women dance all night to the sound of musical instruments, while the spectators regulate their motions by clapping their hands. These dances are not very decorous. The marriages among the negro tribes are conducted with but very little ceremony, except an abundance of pastime and dancing.

Among the Jerees, when the lover secured the consent of relations, he summoned his bride to assist him in carrying off his bride, who shuts herself up in a hut with her companions, where they maintain an obstinate siege before they conclude to surrender.

In Brambuk the bride comes to the hut of her husband with a calabash of water with which she washes his feet and wipes them with her mantle.

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