

# New York In Fact and Fancy

Matrimony No Longer Regarded as Good Form—An Effort to Stimulate a Declining Industry.

[From Our New York Correspondent.]



FROM the viewpoint of a middle aged celibate who does not regret his condition, but is a fearless advocate of the matrimony that is as it is, and is designed to be, one of the most regrettable things about the life of Gotham is the growing distaste for marriage among the socially prominent. Some one with a predilection for statistics has made the discovery that there is a falling off of 20 per cent in the number of New Yorkers who made the leap during 1908. This is not only flying in the face of Providence, who, according to all reliable records, has planned otherwise, but it is a direct metropolitan slap in the face for Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, who is at one with his Creator on that point and is not afraid to say so.

It is an American habit to seek for a cause of this decline in one of our most promising industries. The statistician referred to is of the opinion that financial depression had much to do with it. That is exquisitely absurd. Financial depression, on the contrary, is the very thing which constrains the typical Knickerbocker to embrace matrimony in spite of its possible sequences. Some other reason must be found for this increasing aloofness from matrimony.

Ordinarily one would not expect to be made wise in this matter by Jacobus Damm, who makes no denial that in some way a little Knickerbocker blood has got into his system, but the other evening at the tuberculosis show I put it to him squarely. While I am at it I may as well confess that I did so in the hope of putting an end to his sotto voce remarks about bacteria. I do not believe too firmly in the existence of these mysterious organisms myself, but I do not avow my disbelief in the very presence of their scientific promoters.

"Tell me why it is that marriages in this town are becoming fewer among the smart set," I broke in. When Jacobus had convinced himself that he was not being victimized he replied: "Because it's no longer considered good form to marry. About the only way a man can be exclusive nowadays is by remaining single."

That this decline in society matrimony is attracting the attention of those who have more than a statistical interest in the matter is made evident by the vigorous effort of certain individuals to stimulate the industry. One of the most notable attempts of this nature has been made by George C. Boldt, presiding genius at the Waldorf-Astoria. What this astute boniface has done is to provide a bridal apartment consisting of four rooms en suite, with walls and ceilings of plate glass.

"Now, if that doesn't clip the wings of this nonmarrying bug I'll lie awake and invent something that will," Mr. Boldt declares to those who have been permitted to inspect this novelty, which is on the second floor, adjoining the royal apartments. The suit is so arranged that the waiters who serve the newly wed need not be seen by the honeymooners as they enter and depart. So far it is not quite clear whether this latter provision inures most to the benefit of the servants or to that of the served. Matrimony is a novelty and an experiment, and Mr. Boldt's plate glass apartment does not make it less so. It may do its part in the revival of a declining industry, but I hope that no one will be tempted to commit matrimony just for the opportunity to occupy it. As an extra inducement it is promised that the identity of those who are lodged in this plate glass apartment shall never, never be revealed. I do not see how that is going to be managed, but modern ingenuity is equal to it, I suppose.

A bright young clergyman who was waiting for something to turn up, which it did within a year or less,

ending series of house to house visits in the nearby tenement district, from which much of the congregation was recruited. In the discharge of this important duty the newly made dominie had many experiences, some of them amusing and some of them otherwise. At the time he was uncertain as to which class the following belonged:

It was near the close of a long summer afternoon devoted to numerous parochial visits. Although foot weary and almost stifled by the heat, the young curate determined to make one more call before ending the day's labor. The object of his ministerial solicitude was a big German woman who lived at the very top of a tenement house, and by the time the clergyman had climbed the five flights between her abode and terra firma he was fit only for an armchair and a palm leaf fan. But neither of these aids to his physical resuscitation was forthcoming. Instead the door was opened cautiously on the jar, and through the aperture came a whisper that must have been heard in the street below:

"S-sh! Mine husband is here! Come tomorrow!"

For a moment the exhausted man lost sight of his honorable intention and felt like the guilty creature he knew he was not. Then he made his way to the earth. Some time afterward he found out that he had escaped something which might have been exceedingly disagreeable. His parishioner's husband was not only at home, but was in that stage of inebriety which rendered him no respecter of persons.

Until recently I had been skeptical as to the sincerity of the theatrical managers in the crusade against the ticket speculators. Although the sidewalk nuisance has been abolished by ordinance, there has never been any legal provision to make collusion between the box office and the sidewalk an impossibility. On the evening when the new municipal fulmination against the speculators became operative I was a believer for almost five minutes in the efficacy of the new ordinance. Leaving my companion in a secluded corner of the vestibule, I proceeded to the box office window and asked for two tickets.

"How many?" inquired the polite seller.

"Two," I repeated very distinctly.

"But I see only one of you," he returned smilingly.

"Why need you see more than that?" I demanded severely.

"Pardon me," he replied, with admirable staidity. "We are obliged to take every precaution against the tricks of the speculators."

"Is there anything about my person to suggest that I am other than I should be?" I demanded rather positively.

When I rejoined my companion I observed, "I guess they've got the speculators on the run this time."

"Stuy," said my friend, "you are really almost too easy. Just as you left that window I saw a speculator I know walk up and buy a bunch of tickets without a question."

"But he took me for a speculator," I interposed.

"Not at all," laughed my companion. "He sized you up as a possible 'spotter.' If you had been a speculator there would have been no questions."

The "door privilege" is a courtesy extended by theatrical and operatic managers to accredited members of the press and admits the latter to the floor of the theater or opera house at any time during the performance. It does not provide a seat, but it is a privilege highly esteemed by journalists because it may be made to include the admission of one or two friends. The abuse of this latter feature has recently been the cause of the withdrawal of the privilege in one instance by the management of one of Gotham's big opera houses. A journalist to whom it had been extended delegated it to his sister, a young woman of highly specialized musical and social capacity. This bright young person saw in it an opportunity to square herself socially with her friends, and one day an even dozen of them received the following invitation:

Just for a lark I am giving a stand up opera party at the Saturday matinee at the Opera House. We are to rendezvous at Mark Down's parlor and all go over together. Don't fail to put in an appearance if you love me.

It was a Melba afternoon, and the first thing that confronted the leader of the enterprise as the party entered the vestibule was a placard bearing the crushing legend, "Free List Suspended!"

She tried to argue the matter with the doorkeeper and was referred politely to the business office. It did not work. Thirteen imbroittered young women boarded a cabbotown car, and twelve of them made occasional remarks. The thirteenth was silent. Next day that "door privilege" was abolished.

STUYVESANT BROWN.

# The Head of Taft's Cabinet.

Philander Chase Knox, Who Will Succeed Root as Secretary of State. His Home and Family.

IN the choice of Philander Chase Knox as the head of his cabinet President Elect William H. Taft has conferred an honor upon one of his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination. It is understood that Judge Taft is especially desirous of surrounding himself with men who are recognized to be of signal ability in their several fields so that his administration may have the counsel of men who individually and collectively can be of the greatest possible assistance to him in the satisfactory solution of the problems to be met. The office of secretary of state has come to be regarded as one of high honor, second only in many respects to that of the presidency. It has been held often by men of presidential size, among them Sherman, Blaine, Hay, Olney, Root and Seward, Lincoln's secretary of foreign affairs, not to mention Thomas Jefferson, who occupied the post under Washington.

Judge Taft gave unusual thought to the selection of an incumbent of the post of secretary of state not only because he wanted in it a good foreign affairs secretary, but also because he desired that the head of his cabinet should be a man capable of advising him on matters outside of that department calling for serious consideration.

As attorney general in the cabinets of President McKinley and President Roosevelt, Mr. Knox became famous as a public man several years ago. As the occupant of that position he initiated some of President Roosevelt's



SENATOR PHILANDER CHASE KNOX.

most noteworthy suits against the trusts. He began his cabinet career under President McKinley shortly before the latter was assassinated, having been appointed to fill the place of John William Griggs of New Jersey, resigned. With the accession of President Roosevelt to the White House he was chosen to continue in the cabinet. He resigned the attorney generalship June 30, 1904, to accept his Pennsylvania senatorship appointment, which was tendered by Governor Pennington. He took his seat in the senate Dec. 6, 1904, and is at present serving a term which expires in 1911.

Senator Knox was born at Brownsville, Pa., May 6, 1853. He graduated from Mount Union college, Ohio, in 1872 and subsequently took the degree of LL. D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1905 and at Yale in 1907. His career at the bar began in 1875. He became assistant United States district attorney for the western district of Pennsylvania in 1876 and held the post for a year. He then entered the practice of law.

Senator Knox acquired a fortune through his law practice. He owns a beautiful home in Washington and has a fine summer place at Valley Forge, Pa. On his farm there he breeds trotting horses and gets a great deal of pleasure out of speeding them himself over his half mile track. He is also an automobile enthusiast and owns several large and powerful cars. There is an especial bond of sympathy between him and Mr. Taft in their mutual fondness for golf.

The wife of the future secretary of state is a daughter of one of the pioneer iron manufacturers of Pittsburg, Andrew G. Smith. She is a very ac-



MRS. KNOX AND A VIEW OF THE KNOX COUNTRY HOME AT VALLEY FORGE.

complished woman and has retained in an unusual degree her youthfulness and comeliness. Three sons and a daughter have been born to the distinguished couple, and there is now a little grandson in the household.

# THE GRANGE

Conducted by J. W. DARRROW, Chatham, N. Y., Press Correspondent New York State Grange

STATE LECTURERS' WORK. Model System in Vogue in Massachusetts State Grange.

The advantages of putting grange work upon a thoroughly systematic basis, so that exactly what is being done can be positively known and definitely recorded, is shown in Massachusetts, where the state lecturer, Charles M. Gardner of Westfield, has so systematized the work done during the lecture hour that at the end of the year a complete total can be drawn off exactly as the large business concern draws off its annual balance sheet for the inspection of its stockholders.

This result is made possible by a carefully prepared report system whereby every subordinate and Pomona lecturer in the state sends to the state lecturer once in three months a complete summary of all lecture hour work in that grange, how many people helped do it and how many persons attended the meetings. At the end of the year the entire work of each grange in the state is summarized and shown on a large chart that is exhibited at the annual state meeting. By this system the astounding fact was brought out of last year's work that over 40,000 persons had contributed something to the lecture hour programmes in Massachusetts and that the total grange audience of the year was 245,000 persons.

This system affords more than a mere record of results. It provides the means of comparison one year with another; it furnishes every three months a correct idea of how each grange is getting along, whether holding its own or not; it also gives the local lecturer added reason for urging his members to do their best in order that that grange shall make the best possible showing on the year's chart at the state meeting. A record is also kept of the leading topics discussed during the year, and this also is presented to the state meeting to show along what lines grange thought is being especially directed, while the distinct grange efforts in behalf of town improvement, good citizenship, better schools and other matters of civic betterment are carefully recorded.

Few people realize the power of the grange organization or the influence that it is exerting along such a variety of important lines every year. Such a system as that in vogue in Massachusetts, which puts into actual and easily understood figures the total work done in a state during a year, aids greatly in bringing a realization of the magnitude of the work and influence of the Order not merely to those not identified with it, but even to its own members who do not always appreciate the scope and power of the Order of which they are a part.

## GRANGE CO-OPERATION.

A Profitable Business Enterprise at Vineland, N. J. Vineland grange of New Jersey, in connection with the Farmers' Club and Fruit Growers' union, formed an association about six years ago under the name of the Grange Co-operative society. Nine directors were chosen as a board of managers. Persons became members by buying stock at \$5 per share, but two-thirds of the members must be Patrons. In July, 1904, a grange store was opened, which carried a full line of groceries, feed, etc. The co-operative plan provided for the payment of 5 per cent on each stockholder's interest in the concern at the end of the year; also such a percentage on all goods he had purchased as his sales would allow after paying the expenses. All sales must be for cash. The business amounts now to over \$30,000 a year. Last April the store building was burned, and a new one is now being erected. This will contain a grange hall with all modern improvements. The membership of this flourishing grange is 364. It has become one of the most popular societies in Vineland.

Connecticut Patrons Helped Celebrate. The Patrons of Connecticut took a prominent part in the bridge celebration at Hartford. The grange features of the parade were a touring car containing the officers in full regalia and a float representing colonial agriculture drawn by three yoke of oxen, followed by floats representing Flora, Pomona and Ceres. A big automobile farm truck loaded with farm machinery of the latest pattern was last in the grange procession. The animals drawing these various floats were blanketed and marked "Connecticut State Grange P. of H."

Pushing the Work. The work of organizing new granges will be pushed with vigor after the election is over. State Master Godfrey of New York state will put out one or two special organizing deputies in the field. State Master Pierce of Vermont has also secured the services of two organizers for like work.

A Novel Meeting. The grange located at Swansey, N. H., recently had a novel meeting. The admission was 7 cents, and every seventh person was admitted free. Seven "old ladies from Lavender town" sang seven old time songs. There were tableaux and recitations.

Nearly every grange in New Hampshire has purchased a flag for its hall, as a vote passed at the last annual session of the state grange requested.

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