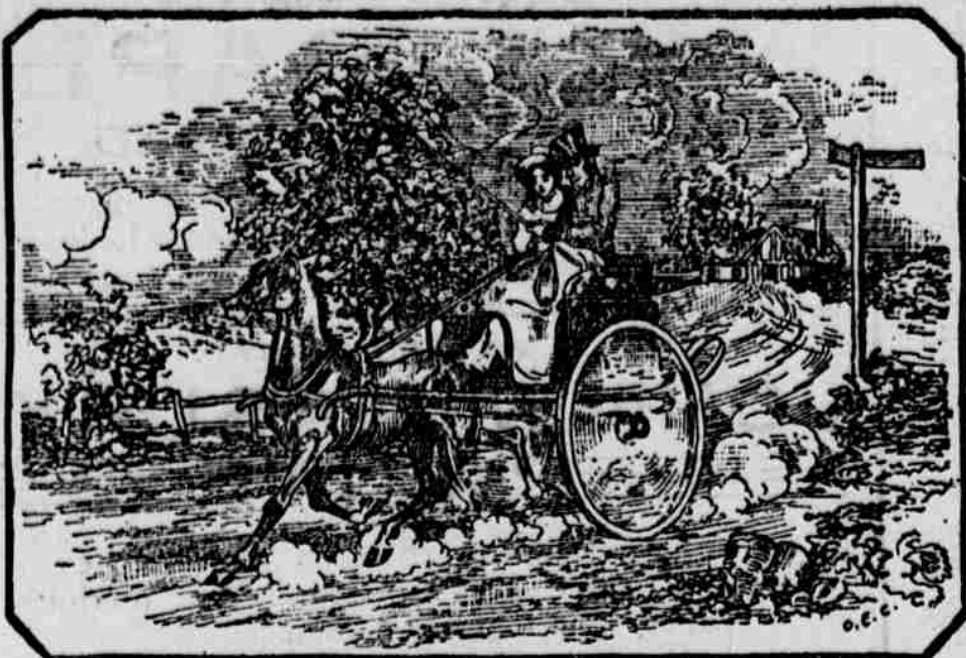


The Last of Gretna Green.



A Scene That Was Common Enough a Century Ago, When Elopement Sought the Aid of the Gretna Green Blacksmith in Joining Them in Matrimony.

With Mrs. Margaret Parker of Clifton Hall, Westmoreland, who died a few weeks ago at the age of 88, the last of all the hundreds of brides who were wooed and carried away across the border to Gretna Green disappeared, and one of the most romantic chapters in Cupid's history was finally closed.

It is just sixty-one years ago since Mrs. Parker was carried borderwards swift as an impatient lover and horses' feet could take her, and for more than forty years she led an ideally happy life with her romantic husband. Mr. Parker, it is interesting to note, was no novice at runaway weddings, for he had made one previous trip to Gretna Green with the daughter of Col. Youngson of Bowscar, who was just on the eve of being sent to India to be married to a young army officer. On this first adventure the irate father, in true fiction style, gave hot chase and arrived at the scene of the bridal a few minutes too late to disappoint his son-in-law.

Another interesting survival of the romantic days of elopements was Caroline Margaret, dowager marchioness of Queensberry, who died quite recently at the age of 83. The marchioness was the youngest and prettiest daughter of Gen. Sir William Clayton, bart., who objected strongly to Lord Drimlanrig's ardent wooing of his 19-year-old child. What could the young lovers do in face of such implacable opposition but hurry away across the border, where obdurate parents could safely be defied?

So one night in early June 1840, Miss Caroline and her lordly wooer mounted their horses and never rested until the obliging blacksmith at Gretna Green had made them one.

The marchioness always retained her romantic notions. Years after her own runaway match her maid ran off with the coachman, also on a matrimonial errand. The coachman borrowed the marquis' favorite hunter for the journey and unfortunately lamed him, with the result that Lord Queensberry in his wrath dismissed them both. Whereupon the marchioness interceded—and successfully—on behalf of the young couple, reminding her lord that "you would not have minded how many horses you lamed when you eloped with me."

At Gretna Green every facility was offered for the invading lovers. Impromptu parsons were plentiful; and if the blacksmith was by chance engaged, the ferryman, the tollkeeper and landlord of the village hostelry were all ready and eager to assume the priestly role and pocket a welcome fee. Indeed, the tollkeeper—the first "priest" an eloping couple would be likely to encounter—did the best business of them all, uniting, so it is said, as many as 200 couples in a single year, a record which made the blacksmith, who has had too much of the credit, green with envy.

It is said that half the British peer-

age derives its origin from one or other of these border unions; and, although this is doubtless an exaggeration, there are scores of aristocrats today who would have been nonexistent but for the temptation Gretna Green offered to their headstrong ancestors. Many an embryo peer of the realm has stood before the improvised altar in the blacksmith's shop or tollhouse and left in a happy man. The houses of Villiers, Coventry, Paget, Fane, Beauchamp and many another noble and historic name have had their destinies shaped in the Dumfriesshire village.

One of the most historic and romantic of all elopements was that of John Fane, tenth earl of Westmoreland, with pretty Sarah Child, the only daughter and heiress of "Old Child," the wealthy banker of Osterley Park. It was the daughter of this union, Lady Sarah Fane, who brought the Child money bags to the noble house of Jersey, and in many another case has Gretna Green introduced new blood and wealth into England's great families.

Powerful New Poisonous Drug.

Lascellus Scott of England has recently published some startling facts about cyanid of cacodyl. It is a white powder, melting at 33 degrees and boiling at 140 degrees, which, when exposed to air, gives off a slight vapor, to inhale which is death. Its effect is so powerful that Mr. Scott states that he has seen the one-millionth part of a grain of the drug instantly kill four dogs when they were introduced into an airtight cage with it. While but little known, it was made many years ago by a noted French chemist, Cadet. He combined potassium acetate with white arsenic, producing a fuming liquid, oxid of cacodyl. This, when combined with cyanogen, a radical of prussic acid, produces cyanid of cacodyl, thousands of times more poisonous than the pure prussic acid.—Albany Medical Annals.

Good Scheme of Colored Women.

It has remained for colored women in Los Angeles to devise a new form of philanthropy. They have proceeded to organize the Southern California home association and floral investment company. The object is to provide a pleasant home for aged negroes and orphans of the colored race.

The support of the home is to be derived from the sale of carnations and other flowers. The old people and the children, not being strong physically, could not be expected to perform hard labor, but the growing of flowers for the market will supply them with light and profitable occupation and they will find themselves amid pleasant surroundings and with comforts.

Name Gun for Kaiser.

One of the twelve-inch guns of the Italian warship Brul is to be named "Wilhelm II," after the kaiser. It is the first compliment of the kind paid to anybody outside of Italy.

SINGS HIS NATIVE SONGS.

Maori Chieftain Has Become the Rage in London.

Here is a rather striking photograph of London's latest fad in the artistic way—the simon pure Maori chieftain, who, clad in the costume shown in the picture, is singing native songs of his own composition in fashionable drawing rooms in London, and is planning a descent on the United States later on.

Ranglula, as the Maori calls himself,



LONDON'S LATEST ARTISTIC NOVELTY

RANGIULA, THE MAORI CHIEFTAIN WHO, ARRAYED IN HIS NATIVE COSTUME IS SINGING THE SONGS OF HIS NATION IN ENGLISH DRAWING-ROOMS.

was "commanded" to entertain the Prince and Princess of Wales on May 15, and renew an acquaintance begun some time ago in New Zealand under decidedly different circumstances. Then he led a war dance for the amusement of their Royal Highnesses. Ranglula's good fortune is being summoned to court has resulted in a bombardment of applications for open time, and the singer already has closed enough engagements to keep him busy through most of the coming season. Then he wants to visit the United States.

Given His Preference.

Senator Proctor has his own ideas about apprenticeship in government office. When a young man approached him as to ways and means of getting into the senate, he advised him first to become a good citizen.

"You might study your ward," he said, "then your assembly district, and finally state and national affairs."

"But," replied the young man, "will it take as long a time as all that implies. I thought politicians grow in a night."

"Some kind do," answered the Senator, "and so does the mushroom. It's a question for you to answer whether you want to be a toadstool or a Daniel Webster!"—New York Times.

Ponies of Small Size.

The two smallest ponies in the world were recently exhibited in Hamburg. They are so small a man can carry both of them at once.

SAW REAL SEA SERPENT.

French Sailors Declare They Met Genuine Ocean Monster.

The commander of the French gunboat Decidée reports to his admiral in the far east that he and his officers and crew have seen a genuine sea serpent in the Bay of Along, near Haiphong, in Tonkin. About 300 yards beyond the vessel, and on the port side, a large, round, black mass was suddenly observed, and those on board the gunboat took it for a rock. Later on the supposed rock moved, and was taken to be a colossal turtle. Then the mass stretched out in vertical undulations, and what appeared to be a flattened serpent thirty meters, or ninety-eight feet, long, was plainly visible. The serpent dived twice before the eyes of all on board. Once it went right under the gunboat, and came up so near that the doctor, the boatswain, and several others, were able, by bending over the gunwale, to get a good view of the monster. It was seen that the head and neck were turtle-like and that the skin was dark brown, with rings or patches of yellow. It emitted jets of vapory water and afterward disappeared in the distance.

Syrian Patriarch.

On Christmas Day a large congregation assembled in Bethlehem to worship on the spot, or what is supposed



to be the spot, where Christ was born. The place is now marked by a temple, while the exact spot where the manger once stood is marked by an altar. One of the features of the ceremony which is elaborate, is the benediction which is pronounced by a venerable Syrian patriarch. The blessing has been uttered in exactly the same way and from the same position for many centuries.—New York Herald.

Weatherwise Birds and Fish.

The seagull makes a splendid living barometer. I. a covey of seagulls fly seawards early in the morning sailors and fishermen know that the day will be fine and the wind fair, but if the birds keep inland—though there be no haze hanging out towards the sea to denote unpleasant weather—interested folk know that the elements will be unfavorable. Of all weatherwise fish the dolphin is the most remarkable. During a fierce gale or a storm at sea the mariner knows that the end of it is near if he can see a dolphin, or a number of that fish, sporting on the high sea waves.

Butterfly's Light Diet.

A butterfly which a Chicago woman kept all winter and has recently died, ate one drop of honey in every three days.