



# EDITORIALS



OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

## NEED OF UNIFORM MARRIAGE LAWS.



It is a long time since anything has happened to indicate the need of uniform marriage laws more clearly than the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court on the validity in New York of a Connecticut divorce.

A husband deserted his New York wife, went to Connecticut, secured a divorce from her there and married again. Many years later the New York wife sued the man whom she had married, for support, and the New York court to which she applied ordered the man to pay her an annuity.

He thereupon appealed to the United States Supreme Court against the New York decree, alleging that under the constitution New York was bound to recognize the validity of the decree of the Connecticut court—that he was no longer the woman's husband, and not bound to support her.

The Supreme Court has decided against the husband. If the husband's contention were allowed, the court holds, "Any person who was married in one State and who wished to violate the marital obligations would be able to go into the State where the laws were the most lax, and there avail of them for the severance of the marriage tie and the destruction of the rights of the other party to the marriage contract, to the overthrow of the laws and public policy of the other States."

Hundreds of husbands and wives have attempted to do just this thing by going into States where the laws are lax and securing divorces on frivolous grounds, in order that they may marry again. This decision, while protecting the rights of the husband or wife who has been put away in this manner, throws a shadow upon the relations of those persons who have married after such divorces, affects the title of all property transferred by a husband after such a divorce, and puts in doubt the right of offspring of such doubtful marriages to inherit the property of their parents.

Such complications will continue to arise as long as the marriage and divorce laws of the States differ so radically as at present.—Youth's Companion.

## THE EARTHQUAKE CURE.



SAN FRANCISCO reports that a number of persons who suffered from various ailments previously to the earthquake and fire in that city find themselves completely cured. One paralytic, who for fifteen years had been crippled by his disease, is now "entirely cured," and numerous other recoveries have been recorded. These are interesting by-products of the catastrophe, such, for example, as the case of the young girl whose vocal organs would not work after the shock, but who recovered her voice when overcome by emotion at the sight of her mother.

Travelers in lands subject to frequent seismic disturbances have recorded many curious incidents of the effect produced by shocks on human beings. During the war between Japan and Russia, a party of foreigners gave a dinner to one of their number in a Japanese city. The feast was not of food alone, and when it had been in progress some time the diners allowed themselves to act in a manner less dignified and reserved than is customary among grown men. The dinner was ended by an earthquake. The effect of the tremor was to reduce every person present from the gayety produced by good wines to his normal condition of sobriety. One distinguished European military officer of middle life found himself stand-

ing on a table howling a famous drinking song. Another man of equal dignity was dancing to illustrate a story he had just told. Their confusion was most apparent and the party broke up immediately. If earthquakes counteract the effect of alcoholic beverages, the experiment of confining dipsomaniacs in territories subject to shocks might be worth trying.

There is no mystery about the cures reported from California. It does not need an earthquake to demonstrate the power of fright, or any strong emotion or shock to overcome physical maladies. A farmer so crippled by rheumatism as to be unable to do more than hobble along with the aid of crutches has been known to develop amazing agility in the presence of an angry bull. Medical histories are filled with similar cases. The fact that they are common does not detract from their interest.—New York Sun.

## THE RUN FOR SUCCESS.



HE excuses some people make for their stolidity and failure are like the old woman's excuse for her idle clock. She said that as long as it wasn't running it was right twice in a twenty-four hours, while if she started it going it might never be right. People may be right once in a while by standing still. But it is no credit to them. Better to make a run for it, even though there be many missteps.

The failures, who have never honestly tried, always have a lot to say about bad luck. They forget that those who have tried and succeeded might also have sat down and summoned a horde of hindrances, but had something better to think about, and stepped boldly out and marched ahead. The unsuccessful person is he who has said: "The way is dark, and I have no light; mountains are to be climbed, and there is no path; rivers to be crossed, and no bridges. No, I will not attempt the journey. I am safe where I am."

The successful one has said, "Well, I'll try; here goes!" and, saving his breath and energy for better purposes than melancholy croakings, gets there. Often when defeat seems to be crushing us some slight adjustment reverses the entire situation. Hindrances that we surmount become helps, because surmounting strengthens.—Kansas City World.

## THE COST OF WAR.



THE United States every year expends about \$140,000,000 in pensions for wars that are past, and somewhere between \$180,000,000 and \$200,000,000 in being prepared against wars of the future. In the last fiscal year there was paid out for the naval establishment \$122,000,000; for the support of the army and the Military Academy, \$77,000,000. Taken altogether, pensions, the navy and the fleet called for \$240,000,000. A comparison between the cost of the arts of war and the arts borne by the government is afforded by the fact that the agricultural appropriation for the last fiscal year was \$5,942,040. The comparison is made even more striking when we realize that from 1839 to the present day, counting the present proposed appropriation, the aggregate appropriations for the Department of Agriculture are \$65,737,272.12, or \$12,000,000 less than was expended on the army last year. Yet we are a peaceful nation, depending largely on agriculture for our prosperity.—Boston Transcript.

## LEGAL INFORMATION.

As we understand the law of South Dakota, any personal property, which includes growing crops, is exempt to the head of a family to the amount of \$750; and personal property to the amount of \$350 is exempt to any other person.

The constitution of Minnesota provides that a homestead shall be liable to seizure and sale for debts incurred for work or material in the repair or improvement of such homestead. The proper way to enforce such a claim is to sue upon it, get judgment, and then get out an execution and sell the property.

A rents his land to B without reserving any right to go upon the land to ditch his sloughs. Now A wants to ditch; can he legally do this? Ans.—He cannot, unless the right to ditch is reserved, or unless the renter consents; the owner of the land cannot go upon the land to ditch or in any other way interfere with the renter's right of possession.

The rule of law is well settled that if there be doubt or uncertainty, or a dispute as to the true location of a boundary line, the parties may by agreement fix a line which will, at least when followed by possession with reference to the boundary line as fixed, be conclusive upon them, although the possession may not have been for the full period of fifteen years. Definite settlement of the boundary is a sufficient consideration for the agreement.

One may provide in his will that after his death his wife shall hold all of his property in trust for the use and benefit of his children during her lifetime; and he may provide further that if his wife marry before the children are of age the trusteeship shall pass to a third party. There is no legal objection to such a will; but the statute gives the wife an absolute right to one-third of the husband's real estate after his death; and if the wife chooses she can refuse to take under the will of her husband, and can insist upon taking what the statute provides she shall have.

The Postmaster General rules that mail carriers have the right of way on all country roads, and other travelers must give carriers the whole road. The new code of Minnesota says that when meeting on the highway each party must turn to the right. Can the Postmaster General repeal a State law? Ans.—We have not the text of the ruling referred to, but we think the Postmaster General does not empower mail carriers to disregard the common courtesies of highway travel, nor to break any State's law. "Right of way" means, we think, that no one shall unnecessarily obstruct or delay carriers when on their official business. Mail carriers should be as courteous as less excited mortals; and as a rule we think they are.

## SOME TALES OF HORROR.

Stories of the Uncanny Skulls of Murdered Men and Women.

There is a skull, said to be that of a negro murdered by his master, a Roman Catholic priest, at Rittiscombe house, near Bridport, in Dorsetshire, says Notes and Queries. Several attempts, it is said, have been made to bury or otherwise dispose of this skull, with the invariable results of dreadful screams proceeding from the grave, unaccountable disturbances about the house, and other equally unpleasant occurrences. An account of the house and skull, on the authority of Dr. Richard Garnett, will be found in Ingram's "Haunted Homes and Family Legends." In the same volume is a notice of another haunted house, Burton Agnes Hall, near Bridlington. Here the skull is that of a woman of the Boynton family, who was attacked and murdered by two ruffianly mendicants in the sixteenth century. Before she expired she implored her sisters to preserve her skull in the family mansion, which was then being built. This was not done at first, but finally the sisters were compelled to comply with the strange request by the noises, resembling claps of thunder, which resounded through the house every night until the skull was taken from the grave. Several attempts have been made to bury it, with the same results as at Bettiscombe. At page 257 is a rather unsatisfactory account of a skull, said to be that of a murdered heiress, kept at Tunstead farm house, near Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire.

"The Skull House" is the title of one of Roby's "Traditions of Lancashire." The house referred to is Worsley, or, as it is sometimes called Wardley hall, an ancient building about seven miles west from Manchester. It was an old seat of the Downes family, of which a member who lived in the seventeenth century appears to have been in the habit of first getting more wine into his skull than was good for him and then brawling with his brother sons of Bellal in the London streets. In one of these nocturnal rambles he was killed and

his head was sent to his sisters as an announcement of his fate. They in vain tried to bury it, and were only able to secure respite from the hauntings by placing it in a niche on the staircase of the hall.

The peculiarly horrible disturbances at Tinton Sumner manor house in 1779 have been narrated in more than one collection of ghost stories. The fullest account is to be found in the Gentleman's Magazine for November and December, 1872. It is there mentioned that when the house was being taken down—in 1797—"there was found by the workmen under the floor of one of the rooms a small skull, said to be that of a monkey; but the matter was never brought forward by any regular inquiry or professional opinion resorted to as to the real nature of the skull."

## TREASURE OF KING JOHN.

Hiding Place Has Never Been Revealed—Royal Regalia of Scotland.

It would be highly interesting and romantic if, after all the centuries which have elapsed, King John's treasure should now be discovered. Not long ago they ploughed up in an Irish field the regalia of some dead kings of savage days; why not, then, the treasure of the king from whom the charter was wrung? Quite as strange things have happened. The Koh-i-Nur was lost for six weeks, and turned up in an old cigar-box; the English crown jewels have been stolen, and sixty years ago were only saved from total destruction by fire by the heroism of a little band of police and firemen at the Tower. They hauled up the Great Seal in a fisherman's net from the Thames, and a treasure hunt or two at the Tower and Westminster Abbey may have been attended by more profitable result than those participating were prepared to admit, says the St. James Gazette.

Who does not know the romantic story of the royal regalia of Scotland? It would make the fortune of a novel or drama. When in the troubled days of the Stuart dynasty, it was feared that the advance of the English army into Scotland would be followed by the seizure of the Scottish regalia, the latter was secretly carried to Dunottar castle, a strong baronial fortress built upon an insulated rock, projecting into the German ocean. And there George Ogilvie, a faithful soldier, kept watch and ward over the treasure.

The castle was besieged and the garrison repeatedly summoned to surrender. Ogilvie stoutly held out, and made repeated efforts to get his treasure carried overseas. This was rendered impossible owing to the closeness with which the castle was blockaded. Fate seemed on the side of the big battalions, and the crown jewels destined to fall into the hands of the enemy.

Came a woman to the rescue. Christian Fletcher, wife of the minister of Kineff, obtained permission from the English general to visit the wife of the governor. Her maid accompanied her, and when they came out from the cttadel they bore with them the crowd, the sword and scepter, hidden in bundles of material which they said were to be spun into thread. The English general himself helped the lady to her horse as she rode away from the castle, he little suspecting what her bundle contained. When eventually the castle was carried, it was represented that the regalia had been smuggled away to the continent. Imprisonment and torture of the persons implicated failed to extort a variation of this story. As a fact, the treasures had been buried beneath the pulpit of Kineff church, and there lay concealed until the restoration. Afterward they were locked up in a great chest in the crown room of Edinburgh castle and lost for over a century. The story of their reappearance Scott has made well known.

## PAPER KERCHIEF TO STAY.

Unlike the Pulp Collar, It Has a Good Reason for Existing.

"The paper handkerchief," unlike the paper collar, is here to stay," said a physician. "It has a good reason for remaining, and that is what the paper collar never had.

"The paper handkerchief comes to us from Japan, where for centuries it has been in use. It is soft and thick and strong, and it looks like silk. It costs a cent—less than the cost of laundering a linen handkerchief.

"The linen handkerchief, physician agree, is the most dangerous article in the human wardrobe. It swarms with billions of germs of consumption and grip and pneumonia, and hence, instead of being laundered it should be destroyed. But it can't be destroyed; it is too expensive.

"The paper handkerchief is destroyed. It is thrown into the fire. "The rarity of consumption in Japan is attributed, with some show of justice, to the exclusive use of paper handkerchiefs by the Japanese.—New York Press.

## Possible Cause.

"I see there was a slight eruption felt down on the Isthmus of Panama?" "Is Poultney Bigelow down there again?"—Milwaukee Sentinel.

This is a rather sure rule: If a man has accumulated money he is smart.

## RIDING THE "HORSESHOE."

The announcement that the railroad which owns the famous "Horseshoe" curve, five miles west of Altoona, Pa., is about to tunnel under the mountain there and abandon the old line over it, will be received with pleasure by many railroad men, especially by the brakemen who, in winter and summer, in rain, snow, sleet and sunshine, have had to ride on the roofs of freight cars, braving heavy trains down this tremendous grade. The curve lies down a mountainside, into and out of an immense "cove" in the mountains, with a deep chasm yawning at the brink of the outer of four tracks. Coal, coke and iron from the Pittsburg district go east that way, and often come down the curve at terrific speed. The brakemen run along the tops of the swaying cars with stout sticks, which they twist in the brake wheels for additional leverage. The bulk of the traffic is within the State, so that the air-brake law does not greatly affect it.

In snowy weather the dangers for the brakeman are increased many fold, and give rise to many thrilling escapades—and some failures to escape. A Chicago party traveling east on the limited train were helpless witnesses to what fortunately was merely thrilling. The limited was speeding eastward on the second track from the edge of the chasm. The day was snowy and windy, and the platform of the observation car at the end of the train was full of heavy snow. Nevertheless, the prospect of the ride down the Horseshoe tempted the party outside, where they stood sheltered by the projecting wall of the car.

Almost at the summit they overtook a freight train on the outer track which shut off their view. The freight was soon running as fast as the express. The tops of the cars were covered with snow, and the train was swaying frightfully, so that it seemed every moment as if it must leave the track.

Along the top of that swaying train came a brakeman running, stick in hand, to set the brakes. How he kept his footing a moment was a mystery to them as they watched him in expectation of seeing him dashed to death; yet for a time by wonderful skill he ran along each car, jumped from one to the other, and kept to the running-board. But at last he slipped, missed his footing, threw up his hands, and shot suddenly, horribly, feet first, toward the chasm on the other side.

The men on the passenger train were sick at heart, but they could do nothing. They thought the man was gone. Then suddenly they saw his stick yawning in the air over the roof of the car; and one, climbing to the rail, discovered that in falling he had caught the running-board with one hand, and was hanging over the chasm thus supported.

It did not seem possible for a man so to hang for more than a moment. Far less did it look as if he could possibly climb back. Yet while they watched absolutely powerless to aid him, the hand which held the stick waved uncertainly in the air for a minute longer, then turned until the stick caught under the running-board. The brakeman pulled himself with that leverage until he could catch that hand, too, on the board, and soon up he scrambled to the roof, his face scratched, his cap gone, but the whole man there.

He gave a single white-faced glance down into the chasm he had escaped, shook himself, felt of his arms, stooped down and poked up his stick, and then with a glance along the roof, sped to the next car, and began again the task of setting brakes, for which there was evidently the most urgent need.

When the foot of the curve was reached the Chingoes went back into their car weak with the strain of witnessing the incident, with a last glimpse of the brakeman sitting on a wheel and knotting a bandanna handkerchief for a cap.

## Kaiser's Living Banner.

Kaiser Wilhelm may not have obtained entire diplomatic satisfaction in

Morocco, but he got something he wanted there, Mohammed ben Assan, an indispensable element in the Kaiser's color scheme. Prussia's colors are black and white, and the Kaiser hired Mohammed, who is black, to march in a white uniform, a living regimental banner. Mohammed tried it for a time, but found Prussian military discipline not to his taste. He was overtaken by illness—possibly of the diplomatic kind—and obtained leave to revisit his native land in November last, giving a solemn promise to return by March 15. When the early days of March were passed without news of him, the government began to make inquiries, only to learn that Mohammed had left Tangier for Fez in a hurry. But the mailed fist has a long reach, and now the Moroccan government has consented to hand him over to the Kaiser again. So that Berlin may look forward to seeing the living banner once more marching at the head of the Kaiser's guards.

## Druggists and Borrowing.

New York druggists are frequent borrowers. Only the most complete pharmacies are constantly supplied with all the drugs required in compounding medicines. When a druggist is asked to fill a short notice prescription calling for some drug that he does not happen to have on hand, he does not take time to telephone to a wholesale house for the missing ingredient, but sends around to the nearest drug store and tries to borrow it. It is a peculiar feature of the situation that druggists seldom buy anything outright from each other. They merely borrow, then, after having replenished their stock from the wholesale houses they pay back the loan.—New York Post.

## Is Compelled To.

Editorial Writer—You can't imagine how tired it makes a man to write all this stuff day after day, year after year.

Proofreader—Ah, yes, I can. I read it.—Somerville Journal.

All the letters a married man gets are short ones, if he is a perfectly proper man.

Fe har with \$8,000 insur contain \$3,500 small building