

Items of Greater or Lesser Importance Over the State.

The county assessment of Douglas county totals \$32,793,424.

Corn brought more money on the Omaha market Saturday morning, says an Omaha paper, than in Chicago—for the first time in the history of the Omaha market, according to grain dealers. On the floor of the exchange J. B. Swearingen sold eight carloads to the Transmississippi Grain company for 75 cents per bushel. It was No. 3 corn and a few minutes after the sale was closed Mr. Swearingen was offered 75 1/4 cents for 8,000 bushels. The highest price in Chicago was 74 cents.

Mrs. Amelia Barr of Plattsmouth received a telegram saying that her youngest son, aged 16 years, was drowned Sunday in Pennsylvania.

William Walter, blacksmith of Burress, a village seven miles south of Exeter, was accidentally shot with a 22-caliber rifle in the hands of his 10-year-old son, the ball passing entirely through the thickest part of his thigh, causing considerable hemorrhage and pain.

Rev. F. M. Sturdevant, for the last four years pastor of the Tecumseh Baptist church, has resigned, asking that his resignation take effect October 1. There is no discord between the pastor and the church members, rather quite the contrary. However, Rev. Mr. Sturdevant desires to make a change.

Sheriff T. W. Carroll came to Republican City from Alma and arrested Oscar Kent on a peace warrant sworn out by his wife. Kent was taken before County Judge Shelburne and placed under \$300 bonds. Kent, it is alleged, has been abusive to his wife, on more than one occasion has struck her and threatened to take her life.

While putting up hay on his father's farm near Fullerton, George N. Carter, aged 20, was overcome by the heat. When Dr. Barber arrived he found the young man's eyes set and body rapidly growing cold. He brought him to the Carter home in town and after much work was rejoiced to see a change for the better in Carter's condition.

At Ravenna the "fats" played the "Jeans" a game of baseball and won by a score of 9-8. The proceeds of the game, nearly \$100.00 were donated to the "good roads fund." A club of fifty members has been raised and much more will be secured from time to time, as the road question is the most serious one Ravenna business men have to contend with.

A freight train No. 76, eastbound, on the Burlington ran over and killed August Crumroy of Culbertson, three-quarters of a mile east of that place. Crumroy was walking in the middle of the track and was practically ground to pieces by the engine and cars. The man was evidently very hard of hearing, as he paid no attention to repeated whistling by the locomotive.

Albert H. Evans, a liveryman of Wray, Colo., was tried before Justice of the Peace H. H. Berry of McCook charged with adultery, and was held to appear at the next term of the district court; his appearance bond being fixed at \$300. A Mrs. Brady of near Wray is the woman in the case, and the crime is alleged to have been committed at McCook, May 23, 1908.

Boston dispatch: Arthur O. Kelley of Franklin, N. H., expects to assume this fall the position of professor of biology at Doane college, Neb. Mr. Kelley is a graduate of Dartmouth, with the degrees of A. B. and A. M., and last year was an instructor in biology in that institution. Mr. Kelley comes of New Hampshire stock and is one of the most brilliant young men in that state.

The greater per cent of the wheat crop in Johnson county has been cut. Most farmers seem to think the crop will be a fair one. Corn on the hills where it has been dry enough to work is being freed from the weeds and, after a week of dry weather, the lowland corn can be worked. Some farmers who have lands on the extreme lowlands have lost their crops as a result of floods.

That Merrick county is to have a drainage ditch, constructed on scientific principles and extending the whole length of the county and reclaiming 100,000 acres of land which during every wet season like the present one are more or less useless for agricultural purposes, seems quite probable of realization if the recommendations of the government experts, who are there going over the proposed route of the ditch, are heeded.

New York dispatch: Forty-three school teachers, forty-one of them from Nebraska and thirty-nine of them women, went to Ellis Island and saw how immigrants are received. They are stopping at the Cosmopolitan hotel. I. A. Downey, state inspector of normal training in high schools in Nebraska, is in charge of the party and Mrs. Sarah Brindley is chaperon. The teachers were selected from various towns in Nebraska by school boards. They are studying pedagogy and psychology in the various places they visit.

An incident of the big flood in Wheeler county was the destruction of the dam which C. A. Stitzer was building at Ericson.

The Central City boys' band, an organization under the direction of Father Delfosse, for several years in succession a feature at the Ak-Sar-Ben festivities in Omaha, has been re-organized. After the departure of Father Delfosse for Robinson, Ill., last fall the organization of the band was dropped for a while. Now Prof. Fritz W. A. Paul, who comes from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., has been secured as leader.

# BRIDES of all NATIONS

BY Albert Edward Ullman  
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**T**HERE may be special months or seasons favored by brides to be in different climates for the ringing of wedding bells; but any old time is a good time. From China to America and from Iceland to Patagonia the whole earth is perpetually smiling with brides. Think of the rousseaus that are being prepared, from the red silk veil of the orient to the white tulle of the girls that are being given, of the odd, strange ceremonies that are being performed, of the 'tles and feasting! Indeed it is a wonderful time; and a time when all should be happy. And, in general, we may suppose that all brides are happy, but—

In the land of the Joss the little Chinese maid who is about to be married doesn't seem to look forward to the venture with anything like the enthusiasm of her American sister. It is a time of wailing and lamenting with her. She is looked upon from her very birth—if, indeed, she is not smothered as a babe—as something despicable. A girl baby finds no favor in the eyes of the gods of the Flowery Kingdom; all honor goes to the male child over there. Hence when the girl baby grows up there is small wonder that she is disposed of lightly to some man who, instead of looking upon her as a wife, views her as a servant, and a profitable one, too, inasmuch as he doesn't have to pay her anything for her services. And this is even shown in the marriage service; for at the conclusion of the rites she is received by the austere groom as he sits upon a high stool, indicating his superiority, and is made to prostrate herself at his feet! The women of the east, it must be observed, are far more abject and dependent than the women of the west.

In Japan, the dear little island of cherry blossoms, the woman is treated with respect; inasmuch as this modern country is rapidly taking on the customs and manners of Europe, their treatment of the fair sex is considerably "fairer," and this is shown in many ways. The young girl is given the opportunity of refusing her suitor if she doesn't want him, a privilege that is frequently denied the Chinese bride. In Nippon the wooer comes and places a sprig of shrubbery on the house of the maid he would like to marry; if this shrub is neglected, it shows him that he is rejected. If it is taken into the house and placed upon the wall, it means the young lady "has no objections." Then she, to show him that she returns his affectionate regard, blackens her teeth. After they are married she plucks out her eyebrows, and then the husband and wife are allowed to talk together; for, you must know, the young men are not often allowed to talk to the girls over in the mikado's realm.

In Korea, close at hand, men of all ages take up the benedict's life. It frequently happens that young boys, scarce 12 years old, are married to girls of the same age. The price of a wife is a bullock, and, needless to say, a good bullock is regarded over there as a thing of much more value than a mere woman. The photograph shows a bridegroom on his way to the wedding; it is taken at Seoul, in the southern part of the island, where the sun is hot, and a servant is seen protecting the speeding groom from the rays of the sun with a large umbrella. A curious custom in connection with Korean weddings is that concerning the bridegroom's hair. Before his marriage it is left long and braided down his back; but afterward it is coiled on top of his head, much as the American woman coils up her hair, and is surrounded by a wire apparatus not unlike a bird cage or a mouse trap and left that way as a sign; doubtless to all scheming widows that he is already "took" and is not to be tampered with.

In Norway the crown is on the woman's head, as can be seen by a reference to the photograph. It is a magnificent affair, but it is rather cumbersome and unwieldy and, while no doubt it is considered quite a luxury, the mere fact that the bride has to wear it night and day for a week would make it a decided-

ly unpopular custom in this country. The methods of the suitor are unique, as is the case in almost every foreign country. If a man and a maid happen to eat off of the same piece of bread it is taken for granted that they are sure to fall in love, then, after the marriage, the bride runs away the next day and hides. She is sought out by the whole village and, when found, is brought back, set up in her new home, and made to dispense liquor to the villagers. A week is generally given over to the bridal festivities.

The "match-maker" is always a prominent institution among foreign brides and bridegrooms; he (or she, as the case may be) is a sort of bride-merchant, a middleman, who sorts out a likely husband for an anxious wife, and vice versa. Generally it is the other way; generally the wife has to be sought, and sought with care. The matter of the dowry has to be arranged, and the match-maker has to be paid by the wife's parents. In the United States we frequently hear, among the Ghetto tribes, of the "shaetchen," which is the same thing as the old world "match-maker." Greece, Palestine, Persia, India, practically all the eastern countries have this sort of traffic; and these wily wife-merchants make a very good living, indeed.

In Greece the "match-makers" practically arrange all the marriage among the lower classes. There, too, are orange blossoms used, one of the few countries besides our own in which this flower has some especial significance. There also the best man has a rather delicate job which probably would not be popular in this country. The groom presents his bride with a pair of shoes and it is part of the best man's duties, during the ceremony, to get down and put these shoes upon her dainty feet. In the photograph here given the Grecian woman has arrayed herself in a splendid costume and is standing in mock simplicity (the usual Grecian custom) while a part of the ceremony is being performed. It is this traditional affectation of hers which has given rise to the Greek saying, "as affected as a young bride."

In India there is a curious way of "getting rid of the women," if it may be said in that brutal phrase. There a young bachelor is apt



A GRECIAN PEASANT BRIDE

THE WELLS CEREMONY

MANCHU GROOM AND HIS BRIDE

NORDFJORD BRIDE AND GROOM

A KOREAN BRIDE GROOM

to wait a long time before purchasing a bride, because the cost is too great. Widows, however, are cheap! What does the wily father of the rapidly aging daughter do, in order to make her readily marriageable? He marries her to a bouquet of flowers and then throws the flowers in a well! This makes her technically a widow and as such, very cheap, on the market. After that, the process of wedlock is easy. A wife is a decidedly handy thing to have around the premises. She can work equally as well as the man and, in time of debt, she is accepted by the creditor as so much cash.

We are apt to gather from the Rubayat of Omar Khayyam and from other Persian poets that the Persian is a very poetical man, yet here is the burden of one of his wedding songs:

"Ah, Lalla, Lalla, you have made roast meat of my heart!"

But to tell all the customs of all the tribes of the universe in regard to weddings, betrothals, and married life would fill a big book; indeed, it has been written about extensively enough to fill two volumes.

The thing that is of most interest to American women, naturally enough, is the American proposal and the American marriage. How many of our love songs have been written around this enduring topic? How many of the very greatest love poems have breathed this sentiment? Under a moonlit sky, by the ocean side, on the western plains, on the European-bound steamer, in the silence of the parlor with the gas turned low (as in our picture)—every conceivable place has marked the setting of a love affair and a proposal. "Faint heart ne'er won fair lady," and the brave-hearted have not balked to propose even in a motor car going at the rate of 50 miles an hour! Such is America. Then, after the proposal, comes the solemnization of the new life before the two young people—the wedding ceremony itself. More and more in the United States is this function becoming a "home affair," as is shown in the picture. Then follows the period of congratulation—the wedding supper or breakfast, with smiling friends and happy faces around the festive board. And last of all, the sweet, silent moment when the bride and groom are clasped in each other's arms, the moment of highest consummation. Alone at last!

The Dauphine maiden is past mistress in the art of encouraging or discouraging a lover's attentions besides saying in so many words that he is welcome or had better be gone. When a swain's visits are pleasing to her, she makes his soup thick with grated cheese; if the contrary, he will find a handful of oats in his pocket. Should he persist she will turn

the blackened ends of the firebrands towards him, a sign there is no mistaking. The peasant girl admits a favored lover to a parlor which corresponds to a consent to "keep company," as we say in this country. The swain is now allowed to dance with and call upon her, and to make himself useful in a thousand little ways. Should no better suitor come forward, the two will probably become man and wife.

But with the better classes in France there is little opportunity for courtship. In Paris young unmarried girls go out occasionally into society; in the provinces this is not allowed. When a young man resolves on matrimony, and hears of a young lady whose family and circumstances are in every way suitable, he makes informal inquiries, through a priest or some lady of her circle, about the girl's domestic qualities—and amount of dowry. This last particular is of the highest importance. It is rare for a dowryless girl to marry in France, though the portions which wives, even of the comfortable middle-class, bring their husbands only consist of a sum of three or four figures. On receiving satisfactory information the suitor who wishes to do the thing in a decorous manner commits the affair to some elderly woman, perhaps his mother or aunt. This good lady hastens to acquaint the girl's family with the offer, and in her turn informs them of the suitor's unimpeachable character and good circumstances.

Marriage is more difficult of accomplishment in England from the fact that there is so much red-tape attached to it. Most of our customs have come from England, though born of earlier times. The "best man" dates back to the days of marriage by capture, as he helped the bridegroom to catch his bride. Nor is this the only relic of the most ancient of human institutions; for what was the honeymoon? It was not merely a pleasure trip as now, but a rapid and hurried flight of bride and bridegroom, rendered necessary by the anger of an outraged father.

Presents to the bridesmaids form another interesting link with primeval days. They were originally a form of toll which the couple were glad to pay in order to be alone. By the act of uniformity only one method of marriage can be used, but the state allows certain indulgences to the wealthy, who may be married privately by a special license; or by a license, given upon the oath of the man that he knows no legal obstruction to his union; or by the publication of banns used among the poorer classes. As in other countries, so in England, there is much joyous feasting on the occasion of a wedding. This is clearly shown by the very word "bridal," which is simply another form of "bride-ale," or "bride-feast." Originally it meant only the carousal, or drinking in honor of the bride.