

## An Up to Date Matrimonial Method

By OSCAR COX

"Well, I declare!" exclaimed Kate Goodwin.

"What is it?" asked her friend, Clara Beall.

"If that isn't the most monumental piece of impudence I ever heard of!"

"Tell me what it is."

"You know that red headed, freckled, loose jointed Alf Woodbridge?"

"Yes."

"Well, he's sent me a printed circular stating that he's in the market for a wife. He says he's up for competition, a prize. Just think of it! He'll marry the girl who passes the best examination in those things that are requisite in a wife."

"Do you mean to say that he has had the assurance to do such a thing?"

"I do."

"He hasn't sent me one of his circulars. If he did I'd send it right back to him."

"I'm! Better wait till you get one of 'em. He says that only a few of the most desirable young ladies of the town will be invited to compete."

"Worse and worse. I wonder that he hasn't died of conceit before this."

"Conceited persons never die of that disease; they seem to thrive on it."

"Of course you won't take any notice of his circular."

"Certainly not, but there's one thing I'd like to know—that is, if any of the girls so deems herself as to fall in with his idea, which one of them will get the—"

"Prize. Just think of that fellow offering himself as a prize!"

"I'll tell you what I have a mind to do."

"What?"

"I've a mind to fill in his questions just to see what comes of it."

"Can't you find that out without pandering to his silly conceit?"

"No; he says that no information will be given any girl who has not been invited to compete and does not enter the race."

"Race—oh heavens! Don't you know that the girl who wins will let it be known even if she submits to the indignity for fun or to punish him?"

"Well, I'm going to pretend to be a candidate, and if I win I shall just tell him what I think of him."

"That's a good idea. I believe I'll do so too."

There were a dozen eligible girls in the town, and six received the circular. The six who were left out were furious. Every one of them pronounced Woodbridge's impudence unbearable. The six who were invited seemed to have various opinions of Woodbridge's act. Some considered it unparliamentary, some pronounced it very funny, and one or two girls with advanced views considered it a very practical way of getting a wife. They said they had a mind to select husbands in the same way.

One morning Mr. Woodbridge was surprised at receiving through the mail a note inclosing a list of printed questions filed in in writing. The note said that the sender considered his competitive examination for a wife "perfectly brutal," but that underneath it all was a basis of common sense.

"I'll cowhide those fellows," remarked Mr. Woodbridge, red as a beet. "I didn't suppose when they threatened to perpetrate that joke on me that they would have the hardihood to do it."

The next morning Woodbridge received another set of examination papers and a set in the afternoon. Each girl who responded had an especial excuse for doing so.

"This is getting interesting," remarked Woodbridge to himself. "What excellent reason these girls have for competing! After all, what's wrong in the idea? Marriages are made in all sorts of ways. Why not by competitive examination? In this age of marriages, experimental marriages, in which both husband and wife are to be boss, marriages without ceremony and marriage till the contracting parties are tired of each other, why not go a step further and have marriages on examination?"

In the last set of examination papers Mr. Woodbridge received all the questions were scratched and new ones inserted. The new ones were so worded as to constitute a virtual examination of the man. The lady inclosed the paper in a note stating that she considered the plan admirable, but the questions were all wrong. If Mr. Woodbridge considered his examination satisfactory she would be happy to marry him at once. She had a brand new idea of the marriage ceremony. The couple were to be photographed standing beside each other holding hands. She objected to anything being said on the occasion since matrimonial promises, all the world knew, did not mean anything.

Woodbridge burst into a laugh at this form of marriage. He wrote a reply to each one of the young ladies who had sent in papers stating that there had been a reaction toward modesty in him. He would do a bit of courting with the winner, and if she accepted him the result of the examination would be known by the announcement of his engagement with her.

This set the girls agog till one day it was announced that Alfred Woodbridge was engaged to be married to Miss Kate Goodwin.

Woodbridge gave his friends who had perpetrated the joke upon him a supper as an acknowledgment of his gratitude for being instrumental in his securing so much happiness.

## Dufferin's Odd Right Eye.

Sir Thomas Barclay in "Thirty Years Anglo-French Reminiscences" tells how Lord Lytton once asked Lord Dufferin what he thought was the source of his success in conducting intercourse with eastern princes. "My glass eye," said he. "When I had anything serious to negotiate I fixed them with the glass eye and watched them with the other." He may, of course, have meant his monocle, adds Sir Thomas, who also describes the effect of Lord Dufferin's odd right eye upon himself:

"When he spoke to you he dropped his monocle and fixed you with a steady gaze which made you feel as if you were giving yourself away to one whom no human sympathy would move. When you had finished what you were saying he would go on watching you with the same steadiness as if he were listening now to what you were thinking. You would wobble on the thin planks on to which in your confusion you had stepped, and then in the uncomfortable silence you would say something you did not intend, and Dufferin seemed to be waiting for that."

## Fallers Called Mental Defectives.

According to a Brooklyn physician, most accidents, as well as divorces and crimes, are in reality due to defective mentality. When a person gets caught in a maze of traffic and does not know whether it is better to go backward or forward he is, according to this doctor, a target for everything coming his way.

The indecision or lack of judgment leads to frequent accidents with the same individual. Of 112 persons who were questioned in four semiprivate hospitals forty-six had had previous accidents and thirty-two more than one such accident. Out of about 50,000 examinations of defectives there was scarcely a case that did not show many scars. Inquiry among eight automobile owners showed that the opinion commonly held of reckless chauffeurs among their fellows was that the reckless ones were not quite normal, or, as they phrased it, were "crazy."—New York World.

## The World's Strangest University.

Founded in the year 972 A. D., the Mohammedan university of El-Azhar ("The Luminous") is one of the oldest existing and strangest universities in the world.

El-Azhar is the Oxford of the Moslem world and is at present attended by upward of 10,000 students of all ages and from every eastern country from the Caucasus to Somaliland. Board and lodging is free. The teaching consists chiefly of Mohammedan dogma, which is laboriously committed to memory from sacred books.

The students squat in groups on the floor of the immense building with their boots—which have to be taken off on entering—and their daily rations beside them and accompany the droning repetition of their lessons with a rhythmic swaying of the body. Writing is done on tin slates.

Girls are allowed to attend the lectures, but only as listeners; they may not speak.

## Eaten the Canary.

An Italian street peddler was making mechanical canaries warble and carol when a coal wagon lumbered by driven by an old dandy. The driver heard the song and, pursing up his lips, imitated it perfectly. Amazed, the peddler walked across the street and regarded the old man long and hard.

"Yu needn't be lookin' fo' dat bird," Uncle Andy assured him, "caze Ah've done swallowerd him. Ah've done kep' him down dar fo' twenty year an' Ah ain't gwine let him go now!"

And a crowd gathered, as is customary in New York.—New York Post.

## The Last Word.

"By gosh," a henpecked husband said, "I hear some chaps kicking because their wives always have the last word. Now, for my part, to give my wife the last word never bothers me a bit."

"It doesn't?"

"No, on the contrary. I always feel thankful when she gets to it."—Exchange.

## The Screech Owl.

The screech owl feeds on small mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, spiders, crabs, scorpions, earthworms, grasshoppers, crickets, ground dwelling beetles and caterpillars. Screech owls should be encouraged to stay near barns and outhouses, as they will keep in check house and wood mice.

## Bulgarian Wives.

The wife of a Bulgarian rarely goes out without her husband, does not receive callers in her husband's absence, seldom appears in a restaurant, a cafe or a place of public amusement and never goes to any such place unless her husband accompanies her.—London Telegraph.

## Just Like a Man.

"I don't understand George," said the bride.

"How so?"

"He told me to sweeten his coffee with a smile, which I did. And then he went and put in two lumps of sugar, anyhow."—Pittsburgh Post.

## Wide Awake.

Fuddle—You know Stocks, don't you? Doctor—Yes, indeed. He is now a patient of mine. Fuddle—Pretty wide awake man, isn't he? Doctor—I should say so. I'm treating him for insomnia.

## There is no degradation in the hardest manual or humblest servile labor when it is honest.—John Ruskin.

## The Counterfeiter

By JOHN TURNLEE

John Roelf, detective, was called upon by the manager of the Third National bank to ferret out the perpetrators of spurious ten dollar bills on their bank. He began by making a thorough examination of the bills. It would seem that a good engraver could make a duplicate of any bank bill that would be practically perfect. But no matter how much care he puts on it there will be differences. On these bills there was a miniature likeness of the then secretary of the treasury. There was a difference between the valid and spurious pictures in the right nostril, the left eyebrow and a line running between the nose and the left cheek.

But this was of no moment to the detective except to enable him to spot one of the counterfeiters when he saw it. It did not help him in running down the counterfeiter. He knew that certain persons were going about buying articles worth various sums from 50 cents to \$2 or \$3, offering one of the counterfeit ten dollar bills and receiving the change in good money.

Roelf interviewed several of the persons on whom these spurious bills had been passed—a young woman cashier in an ice cream saloon. She said that a young man had brought in a girl, ordering ice cream, cake and other articles for both of them; had paid for what he bought with a ten dollar bill and received \$9.15 change. After the departure of the couple the bill was found to be counterfeit.

The only person who saw this young man and woman was the cashier herself, who waited on them, no other person connected with the saloon being present, but her description tallied with that of others—that is, the description of the young man, for this was the only time he was reported in company with a girl.

Roelf gave a telephone number to the proprietors of a certain store on the main shopping street of the town and asked them, if any one passed the spurious bills, to call him up and hold on to the person who had offered it. Then he took a novel, sat down by the instrument, read and waited.

On the third day of his waiting he was rung up from a cigar store. A young man had called, bought a handful of cigars, offered a counterfeit ten dollar bill, received \$8 and some silver in change, lighted a cigar and gone out smoking. The proprietor had telephoned Roelf and sent a boy to shadow the young man. Roelf went to the cigar store, and when the boy returned he showed the detective a house which the young man had entered.

Roelf remembered that there were different possibilities connected with this young man. The bill might have been passed on him, he being entirely innocent of the matter. He might be passing the bills for the maker. The house he entered might be in no way connected with the counterfeiting. It might be the place where the bills were made. It behooved Roelf, therefore, to be careful in his investigations lest he either come down on innocent persons or frighten the counterfeiters away with all their paraphernalia.

What he did was to observe the house. He loitered near it for half a day to see who came from and went to it. No one entered it, but a woman came out.

The usual way for detectives to watch a suspected house is to hire a room opposite. Roelf did this and kept close observation on the house the young man had entered. Within a few days another case of passing the bills was reported to him. A young man—very likely the same person as before—had bought a hat with one of them. The bill had been detected, the purchaser had been followed and had entered the house Roelf was watching.

This removed all doubt that the guilty person occupied the house in question. Roelf made arrangements to raid it, but concluded to get what additional information he was able before doing so. He kept up his watch, but the only person he saw come out or go in was a young girl. It seemed to Roelf that there was something familiar to him about her, but he could not tell what it was. He never caught a fair glimpse of her face, for whenever she emerged from the house, if the weather was fair, she put up a parasol and if it rained an umbrella.

Roelf now gave orders among the shops that if any one passed one of the spurious bills and it was detected before the person passing it got away he was to be detained. If this was not possible Roelf was to be telephoned of the fact and he would arrest the counterfeiter if he returned to the house.

One afternoon he received a telephone that a young man of effeminate appearance had entered a drug store, bought a pair of hairbrushes and passed a counterfeit bill. Roelf went out on the street and walked back and forth for some time, when he saw a young man who answered the description of the counterfeiter making for the suspected house. As he was about to enter Roelf clapped a hand on his shoulder with a gruff "I want you."

He was startled by a shriek such as might come from a woman.

And it did. When the person arrested was brought to face accusers she turned out to be the cashier of the ice cream saloon who claimed to have had one of the counterfeit bills passed upon her.

Colonel Wm. Beatty, of Brady, was visiting in the city Saturday on business and with friends.

For Sale—Large size hard coal heater. Phone Red 540. 74-4

Peter Muir left Saturday for Sutherland to attend the funeral of Henry Coates.

A girl was born Friday to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parkhurst, residing on east Ninth street.

Trainmen arriving from the west report a light fall of snow Sunday morning at Sterling, Col. The fall was very light and melted as fast as it fell. It was followed by a good rain.

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## Order of Hearing on Final Settlement

The State of Nebraska, Lincoln County, ss.

In the County Court:

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary E. Sluts, Deceased.

To the Creditors, Heirs, Legatees and Others Interested in the Estate of Mary E. Sluts.

Take notice, that John W. Sluts has filed in the County Court, a report of his doings as Executor of said estate, and it is ordered that the same stand for hearing the 20th day of October, A. D. 1914 before the Court at the hour of 9 o'clock A. M., at which time any person interested may appear and except to and contest the same.

Notice of this proceeding and the hearing thereof is ordered given to all persons interested in said matter by publishing a copy of this order in The North Platte Tribune, a semi-weekly newspaper printed in said county, for three consecutive weeks prior to said date of hearing. Dated Sept. 22, 1914.

s29-3w JOHN GRANT, County Judge.

## NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Serial No. 05208. Department of the Interior United States Land Office North Platte, Nebraska, Sept. 21, 1914. Notice is hereby given that Elmer Duggel, of North Platte, Nebraska who, on July 28, 1911, made Homestead Entry No. 05208, for E1/2 of NE1/4, Section 18, Township 12 N., Range 30 W., 6th Principal Meridian has filed notice of intention to make final three year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before the Register and Receiver, at North Platte, Nebraska, on the 17th day of November, 1914. Claimant names as witnesses: Arthur Comer, Louis Grukla, Joseph Shaw, Will Collins, all of North Platte, Nebraska. s25-6 J. E. EVANS, Register.