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MARGARET LEE'S DIVORCE.

An American Author Highly Praised by Mr. Gladstone

That a Brooklyn woman should write a ood novel is not at all surprising, nor that should deal with a great wrong and have moral. But that it should be critically reviewed by England's greatest states-nan, be warmly indorsed by him and on his recommendation have a large sale in

England is quite an episode in literature. Miss Margaret Lee is a serious and deeply earnest woman who formed the design



early in life to become a novel writer-in steam. Pullman Dining Cars run through in fact, she directed her studies in school to that end, and began to write soon after being graduated. Her first work gained the prize of \$1,000 offered by The New York Herald for the best distinctively American novel, and was published under the name of "Arnold's Choice." It was followed soon by "Dr. Wilmer's Love," events of the late civil war forming the basis. Other works of minor importance followed, but all showed the same power-a special ability in social analysis.

She studied life-studied men and women of the middle and wealthier classes as they appear in trying circumstances and as they act under the temptations of this rushing modern life. In these studies her attention was often called to the curiously contradictory laws of different states on the subjects of marriage and domestic rights, and the dreadful wrongs made possible by such laws. She made a thorough and re-ally lawyer like study of this legal com-plexity, and the result was "Divorce," by far the most successful of all her works. The first edition of 10,000 was sold in a few weeks, and others have followed.

Mr. Gladstone read the book, and, as be says, found in it the best conclusions of the clearest intellects, stated with American directness and feminine grace. "Di-vorce," said he, "deals with the greatest and deepest of all human controversies. It is in America that this controversy has reached a stage more advanced than else-where." He commended the strength and courage with which the author of "Divorce" had dealt with the subject, and recommended the republication of the work in England. In six weeks thereafter a reprint of the book was on sale in En-

A Black Priest.

The Rev. Father Augustine Tolten, of Chicago, enjoys the distinction of being the only person of African descent who has become a priest in the Catholic church

in America. Tolten's career, from a slave boy in 1861 to a Catholic pastorate in Chi-cago, in 1890, is highly creditable boyhood he worked in a tobacco factory in Quincy, Ills., at fifty cents a day and gained a common school education in the parochial school of St. Peters, Later he studied Latin with a priest and in time became

assistant to a priest in a Missouri town. At the age of 22 he entered St. Francis College at Quincy and after four years of classical training went to Rome. In Rome the ambitious negro was admitted to the propaganda and began a course of study including two years of philosophy and four of theology. In 1886, at the age of 32, he was ordained priest and held services in St. Peters. Returning to America, he officiated at services in Hoboken and New York, and then assumed a pastorate in Quincy, which he held four years. Father Tolten is now priest of a church at Dearborn and Thirty-sixth streets, Chicago.

Hunting for Indian Heirs.

In the first year of the present century a friend-a true friend. French trader named Jean Baptiste Beaubien married an Indian woman in whose veins flowed the blood of the Ottawa and the United States government purchased the Pottawatomie reservation, a part of which is the site of the city of Chicago. The agreed price was \$400,000, but for some reason at present unknown the money was never paid, and still remains in Uncle Sam's strong box. The authorities are anxious to turn this large sum over to the



OFFICER ALEX BEAUBIES. No full blooded Indians of the tribe interested are now alive, but the descendants of Beaubien have put in a claim based on the assertion that the old trader's wife was a Pottawatomie. Alex Beaubien, a Chicago police officer, is one of the leading applicants, and, if he makes good his case, will be so wealthy that he never again will have to swing a club.

While in Washington a few days ago the widow of Gen. Crook selected a burial site at Arlington to which her husband's remains will be removed at an early day.

PLAYED HEARTS FOR TRUMPS.

The Enormous Profits of a Matrimonial Agent in England.

Over in England a venerable tooking erson bearing the name of Leslie Fraser Duncan is having a "peck of trouble." Some time ago he was sued by Miss Gladys Knowles for breach of promise, and the jury gave thumping damages against him. He immediately went into bankruptcy, and application followed for leave to prosecute him for offenses under the



debtors' act. Mr. Duncan, when brought up on examination the other day, stated that from 1870 until quite recently he published a paper called The Matrimonial News, and that his average income from the sheet had been \$10,000 per year. The profits had ranged between \$2,500 and \$15,000 annually. When the exposure and collapse of the business occurred not long ago he realized on his assets \$30,000, which he "gave away to two ladies as a free gift." At present he was worth nothing and could not satisfy the judgment obtained by Miss Knowles. After hearing this story the magistrate sent Mr. Duncan to jail, where he remained until he paid the amount of the damages —£6,000.

The scandal has stirred up quite a healthy agitation in England, for it has brought to public attention the methods and profits of a vocation that flourished at the expense of the romantic, the silly and he weak minded. For a score of years the man Duncan "lived like a lord" on "personals" and fees obtained from school girls, ancient maidens and impressionable widows who desired to get native assistants in regard to their national husbands. Men also contributed to the prosperity of The Matrimonial News of course, but it is doubtful if more than a small minority did so with honesty of pur-The majority of the wife seekers desired the acquaintance of women with fat bank accounts, and when they saw the gray bearded middleman the ensuing conversations were not sentimental, but strict ly businesslike. The result would be agreements something like this: For one tenth of the property secured through mar riage Mr. Duncan contracted to make Mr. A. acquainted with Miss B., the heiress. and to further the match to his utmost, the fee to be paid within ten days after the wedding. The compact signed, sealed and delivered, the wooing sped smoothly on to the church door.

So Mr. Duncan went on, leaving behind him a long trail of wrecked lives and unhappy unions, for it is a pretty well estabsuccess that has not mutual esteem as the prime reason for the compact.

The venerable Londoner, however, is not the only one who has grown rich by the creed and the overthrow of this Babylon. matrimonial agencies as well as England. Some, doubtless, are conducted with honesty and fairness, but in the main little thought is given to consequences as long as the dollars flow into the pockets of the go between. Ignorantly or knowingly, the agent" becomes the accomplice of the adenturer, and aids him to work the ruin of some ill-advised, or rather unadvised, female. Speaking of the part that the "personal" plays in tragedies of this sort George William Curtis writes: Lovelace, upon the chance of decoying a victim, brings you an advertisement. You make him pay well. Your daughter, young, romantic, foolish if you choose, and ready for a lark, merely for the joke of the thing, replies, guardedly and anonymously. Her reply is answered. She rejoins. It is a piquant game, and Lovelace is a dangerous fellow. Master of arts, he tries every wile. Interest, curiosity, stir in the young woman's breast. So chivalric, so noble, so modest and respectful is Lovelace! It is a strain of old heroic poetry in these baser times.

They meet, of course, at last. They walk by stealth. Oh, stolen hours of joy! The cold, cold world frowns on them, she murmurs. But it is so pleasant to have a choes Lovelace, with the melancholy eyes, in the low, sweet voice. Well, good sir, you gain perhaps \$20—yes, even Pottawatomie tribes. Eleven years later \$30 for the amusing advertisement—and you lose your daughter."

> Sir John on the Egg Question. Sir John Macdonald's remark regarding be United States duty on eggs is creating a good deal of amusement. The Canadian statesman said: "Our hens shall lay eggs for the British breakfast table, and not for the unappreciative Yankee." Thereupon a Montreal paper comments that eggs are not improved by a sea voyage, although the ocean trip may add to their flavor and impart a bouquet to them when opened. The scheme to market Dominion hen fruit in London is hardly feasible, presuming always that the dweller by the Thames prefers his eggs as does the "unappreciative Yankee"-fresh.

Growth of Northern States.

The completed figures of the census in all the northern states show some odd facts. First, the percentage of increase has been less than in any previous decade (the war era excepted), though the increase by immigration has been twice as large. Deducting the 4,700,000, or about that, of Europeans located in the north since 1880, it would appear that the natural increase has been but 12% per cent., or a fraction over I per cent. a year. This is less than that of Great Britain, where the natural increase is 14% per cent. in a decade.

The English system of having an elecion for member of parliament here and here at odd times strikes an American as ery peculiar. Suppose but one district at a time in a state elected a congressmanhow it would be inundated with speakers and documents!

Pennsylvania shows by the current cennext with 89,063

STANLEY UNDER FIRE.

Sensational Discussion of Maj. Barttelot's Conduct and Murder.

Stanley Africanus is under fire. And as far as can be judged from this distance it is a very hot fire, for all the friends and relatives of Maj. Barttelot are charging that that gentleman was left to perish by Mr. Stanley, and that the latter is now slandering the major to serven himself. Ward, Troup, Bonuy and all the other surviving officers are appealed to for their testimony, and the widow of Lieut. Jamisen (not being under obligations to remain silent, as the living officers are) has agreed to make public her husband's private letters and papers on the subject.

The facts well known are these: Maj. Barttelet was left in command of what was called the rear guard, at Yambuya, on the upper Congo,



MAJ. BARTTELOT.

main there till carriers arrived who were to be sent by Tippu Tib. At least 600 carriers were promised, and he was on no account to fail of bringing all the goods to the coast, for without them, said Stan-

with strict in structions to re

would be a failure. Messrs. Ward, Troup and Bonny reached that camp in August with goods and men; but no carriers came, the command was prostrated by sickness, a general demoralization ensued, Maj. Barttelot attempted severe measures with the natives and was killed by one of them. So far all agree; but Mr. Stanley says that Maj. Barttelot had insulted the wife of Sanga, the native who killed him, and that he was a dissolute man and totally unfit for the place. Mr. Walter Barttelot has issued a book in vindication of his brother, and containing serious allegations against Mr. Stanley of treachery, libel and even worse offenses to truth and soldierly honor. It is painfully apparent from what they have already said that the other offi cers condemn Mr. Stanley for making such gross charges against Maj. Barttelot, though they do not entirely exonerate the Intter.

The fairest statement, and one that has an air of truth, is that of the Belgian lieutenant, Baert, who was Tippu Tib's secretary, who visited the Congo camp, and was president of the court martial which condemned Maj. Barttelot's murderer. He says the major was a brave and faithful soldier, but extremely irascible; that he erred in imposing too strict orders on his customs. He had strictly forbidden the Munyema reveis, and on the night of July 17, discovering that a revel had begun, he issued from his tent in a rage and shook a stick at one of the women. Her husband, in a sudden burst of savage rage, shot the major dead. He adds that Maj. Barttelot's temper had set the whole command by the ears, but the rest of Mr. Stanley's insinuations he pronounces false.

The interest in the controversy in Engand almost overshadows Gladstone and the Irish question, and the appearance of Mrs. Jameson's book is eagerly looked for. Mr. Ross Troup, now in America, is among the severest critics of Mr. Stanley.

Joe Smith's Prophecy.

It may interest some people to know that his was the year named by the prophet Joe Smith for the complete overthrow of the United States government and the lished proposition that no marriage is a grand triumph of the Mormons. His language was as follows: And the Lord said unto me: Joseph, if you live to be \$5 years old you will see the consumption demethods indicated above. America has Smith was born in 1805, hence the date fixed and so often referred to by the Mor mons. Their abandonment of pologamy this year is at least a coincidence. The United States can stand many "overthrows" of that sort.

Bismarck's Letter of Thanks.

In his old age and retirement Bismarck has developed all those characteristics of a courteous gentleman which, during his active career, were overshadowed by the business methods of a high and exacting position. He recently wrote a very cordial note to the New York Historical society acknowledging his election as an honorary member, and among other things said "This great honor is one more proof of that sympathy which, on the part of so many of your countrymen, has cheered me during my political life."

A John Brown Relie.

The little old frame dwelling where the abolitionist John Brown, or Brown of Ossawatomie, was born, is at last marked down in the list of historical relics for preserva This old colonial house is in the town of Torrington, Conn. Brown was



BROWN'S BIRTHPLACE AT TORRINGTON, born in 1800, and passed his infancy up to

five years of age in Torrington. The principal record of his life in this old house that has been preserved is his own confes sion in an autobiography, that at the age of 4 years he "stole three brass pins." Ossawatomie's father, Owen Brown, has re corded the fact that the reformer was born just one hundred years after his greatgrandfather. In making this entry Owen added, "We live in peace with all man-kind so far as I know." But the boy did not find a peaceful life, and today the crumbling structure where he was born and nursed and everything connected with it are in danger of destruction at the hands of relic hunters, who wish to preserve mementos of the fighting agitator. Even the ancient shingles, ornamented with a picture of the house, a reproduction of which accompanies this sketch, bring \$10

The plan for the preservation of the old house includes also its restoration to its original condition, and it is probable that both the dwelling and the land adjoining it will together be placed in the same shape that they were early in the century. The house will be open to sightseers, and numerous John Brown relics, collected from all over the country, will be arranged in various rooms convenient for inspection. The movement is in the hands of Torring ton people, and it is also proposed to erect a monument in the center of the town sus the greatest increase since 1880 of any which shall have inscribed on it all the instate, namely, 965,683. New York comes circuits in the life of Brown from the time chants in the life of Brown from the time he left Torrington until his death in 1859.

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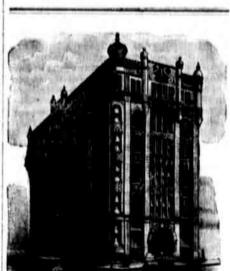
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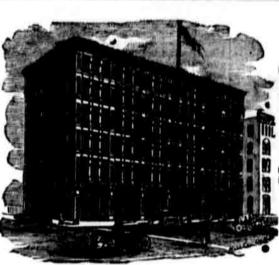
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