THE HERALD.

AN AMICABLE DIVORCE.

How It Was that Mr. and Mrs. Shipherd Concluded They Had Made a Mistake

[From the New York World.]

There has been a good deal of gossip for the past few days in the village of Richmond Hill, Long Island, about the separation of Charles R. Shipherd and Mrs. Shipherd. Local interest as to the separation has run high, owing to the social standing of the family, and to the fact of Mr. Shepherd, having been long resident of that part of the island, has greatly excited the curiosity of the neighbors. It has been asserted by many of the residents in Jamaica that the rupture was brought about by the over-zealous attentions Mr. Shipherd paid to Mrs. Lyman, a lady with whom all the village sympathise She is a widow with several small children. Her husband was a Southerner and a Confederate officer, and after the war came North to enter a jornnalistic career. Mrs. Lyman is also said to be possessed of literary talents, and at one time contributed many articles to a magazine, of which she subsequently took the management. Prior to the death of her husband she lived in a beautiful country residence in the interior of the island, but has during the past two years been reduced in circumstances and obliged to support herself and family by the efforts of her pen. Very little was thought of the intimacy between her and Mr. Shipherd, as the latter was continually showing that lady every kindness in the most open way. Some of the neighbors, however, declared that Mrs Shipherd was very jealous of her husband, and that she had cautioned him not to continue his attentions to Mrs. Lyman.

Mr. Charles R. Shipherd originally came from the West, and was the pastor of Plymoth Church at Chicago. He purchased from Mr. Charles Fox the South Side Railroad and became lessee of all its branches. The running of the road was prosecuted with great extravagance, and the number of improvements that were established durthe time Mr. Shipherd had control of the road won for him the reputation of being a very rich man. Although he was constantly engaged in his railroad matters, Mr. Shipherd did not forforsake the pulpit, and was pastor of the reformed Church at Rockville Center, and in the absence of the Rev. Mr. Van Syke, of the Reformed Church at Jamaica, attended to his pastorate. His railroad speculations did not turn out successfully, and a large amount of money was lost. After the culmination of these ventures Mr. Shipherd removed to Richmond Hill, and purposed to live a quiet life with his family, having saved enough from the wreck of his fortune for a comfortable support. He had four little children, one of whom was subsequently killed in a railroad accident, and another died a year or two later.

A *World* reporter called upon Mr. Shipherd last evening and asked him about the separation from his wife. Mr. Shipherd was very much excited at the publicity that had been given to his matrimonial troubles.

"In the first place," said Mr. Shipherd, very nervously, "there is a very little to tell you, except to deny the unmitigated falshoods that have been circulated. If there was a third person interested in the matter, whose name had been rightfully slandered, I could commend the public, in defence of social morals, for digging up the details. The introduction of Mrs. Lyman's name is a malicious fabrication, and is no more warranted than if the name of any other of my acquaintancs had been chosen. She is a most estimable lady, and is a personal friend of Mrs. Shipherd and my sister, who resides with me at home. In fact, all the neighbors know that the three ladies were almost inseparable, and that Mrs. Shipherd would be the first to deny that my relations with Mrs. Lyman were the cause of our separation."

"If the matter has to be publicly discussed," continued Mr. Shipherd with some vehemence, "it is right that a plain statement of facts should be made. I was married to my wife twenty years ago, and, after having sunk $300,000 in the South Side Railroad, came to live in Richmond Hill. Over fifteen years ago my wife and I made up our minds that our marriage was a mistake, and while enjoying the seclusion of this quiet little spot have been devising some means to obviate the discomforts of living together. A year ago the plan of separation was agreed upon, and the details of an absolute divorce were drawn up. We have been residing under the same roof for the past year on sufferance in order to have the legal papers ratified in proper form. We have given the matter mature deliberation, and everything has been done in the most friendly spirit. My wife has an equitable proportion of my property settled upon her. About three weeks ago application was made by both of us for an absolute divorce, which was granted by consent in a Western State. There are provisions for the disposition of our two children, in which it is stipulated that no undue influence shall be exercised by either parent, and that the children shall reside in alternate periods of equal length with both. Mrs. Shipherd is now living at Sag Harbor with the children, and there does not exist any unpleasant feeling between us, but only a perfect understanding to abide most implicity by the spirit of the decree which has been granted. All these statements can be substantiated by the legal documents which I have in my passession."

The residents in the neighborhood express great surprise at the dissolution of this household. Mrs. Shipherd has been looked upon as a most exemplary woman and affectionate wife. Mr. Shipherd, to outward appearances, has always conducted himself most kindly and invariably impressed his friends with being a devoted husband and a loving father.

A LIVE QUESTION.

WATER-WORKS have become a live question in Council Bluffs. It is a very dead question in Omaha.—[Omaha Herald.

Not so very dead as you imagine. The sentiment in favor of water works among the property owners of Omaha is stronger to-day than it ever has been. If the question was subbmitted to a vote to day the proposition to establish water works would carry ten to one. The only obstacle in the way of establishing water works in Omaha is the fraudulent assessment of property. There has been a systematic effort on the part of certain old fogies to keep the assessments down below their real valuation, under a mistaken notion that low assessment means low taxation. The truth is that the deliberate evasion of the law that requires assessments to represent the full valuation of the property assessed has done more damage to Omaha than any other cause except perhaps the Union Pacific river bridge toll.

With the exception of preventing the building of needed public improvements like engine houses, sewers and water works, these false assessments have not saved the property owners of Omaha one dollar of taxation. No matter what the assessed valuation of property is, the amount of taxes retaxes remains the same. Thus if the valuation of property in Omaha is ten millions of dollars and cost of our city and county government is one hundred thousand dollars a year the tax rate will be one per cent. Reduce the assessed valuation of Omaha property to five millions and the tax rate will be two per cent. Reduce the valuation to two millions and a half and the tax rate will be four per cent On the other hand the damage done by low assesment is incalcuable.

The first question any eastern capitalist, who is disposed to invest in. Omaha property, asks, is; What is your tax rate? If you answer four per cent, he tells you that is an enormous tax, at once looks elsewhere for an investment. How many millions of capital have been invsted in other localities by foreign capitalists that might have been invested in Omaha during the past ten years but for the high rate of taxation? And yet there is not a city or a county of the same population west of the Mississppi that is less in debt and has a better credit than Omaha and Douglas county.

The only exorbitant tax that we pay here is the rate of insurance, and that would be reduced at least fifty per cent by the establishment of waterworks. Under the present charter there is no way of securing water works or any other costly public improvement, except by raising the assessment, to what it should be—the real salable valuation of real estate and a more thorough enforcement of the law in the assessment of personal property.

Is this an unripe slice of next spring or only an old hunk of last fall?—Chicago Journal.

Clippings.

The new style of winter cloak for Ladies has two revolver pockets. The members of the fair sect who adopt them will probably shoot lots of Christmas gifts out of these receptacles.

Woman consumes thirty-six buttons on her single pair of kid gloves, whereas man buttons his suspenders with a shingle nail. And yet folks will ask, 'Button, button—who's got the button?"

A Kentucky matron named Nickell has just presented her husband with the twenty-first pledge of her affection, and it is thought the neighborhood ought to be well supplied with small change.

Of what two towns in France does a little thin man in a big overcoat remind you? Too long and Too loose.—[Old Conundrum. And of what two counties in Ireland does it remind you? Ulster and Leanster.

The Akhoond of Swat draws the line at thirty-five cups of tea per diem.—[Exchange. The Christian Union explains that the Akhoond is the religious adviser of the Khan of Khelat but fails to inform us what's Swat.

Go to the deer, thou signal service. An old hunter says; "Fully three days before a heavy snow storm the deer will all quit the mountain tops and seek the big laurel swamps for food and shelter, until the storm is over."

What are the young men coming to nowadays? We mean the young men of good family, the young men who are supposed to be the hope of the nation.—[Boston Post. That is an easy one. Most of them are coming to grief.

George Francis Train has discovered how any man can live in luxury on 5 cents a day. But why should we live in luxury when we see so many poor families around us who are struggling to get through the winter with only one dog?

It is said that the age of superstition is passed, but there are yet a great many women who wouldn't have a dress cut on Friday for the world.—[Ex. What the dear creatures most hanker after is a Weddin's-day dress.

An English medical journal says that fifteen per cent of the inmates of lunatic asylums are muscians and singers, but it neglects to state how many of the remaining eighty-five per cent were driven mad by the practicing of the former.

An energetic itinerant loomod up before us the other day with a patent contrivance for holding coin. When he discvered that he had wandered into a printing office, the way he begged pardon and slid down stairs was a caution to peddlers.

An undertaker in Berrien County, Mich., is testing in the Courts his right to disinter a body in order to recover a coffin which had not been paid for.—[Ex. And Berrien County is just the place to expect such disinter-ested proceedings.

A medical college for women has been established in Henrietta street, London. Dr. Cockle of Gray's Inn Road Hospital and Mrs. Garrett Anderson a female physician pronounced the opening addresses. Dr. Cockle said he could not judge to what extent women would be able to endure the fatigue of medical practice, but believed that she certainly had the necessary intellectual qualifications for it.