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MAY MARRIAGES UNLUCKY.

Old Superstition Which Has Powerful Influence With European Bridal Couples. The municipal statistics of the city of Marseille show the observer that on the 28th of April, 1894, there were registered at the mayor's office in that town no less than 94 marriages. Why this enormous number? Because, according to an ancient tradition, couples that marry in the month of May expose themselves to great danger—death will soon smite the unfortunates, or, at the very least, their union will not be blessed with children. Therefore a large number of Marseille lovers availed themselves of the last days of April to join themselves in wedlock.

This curious superstition is by no means confined to Marseille. M. le Blant, a French investigator, ascribes to it an origin in Roman antiquity. The Roman poet Ovid said that May was no time for widows to marry or for young girls, and adds that the imprudent woman who braves fate by so doing will die early. Plutarch agrees to the truth of this.

It may be because of this ancient principle that the Roman Catholic church has made the month of May sacred to the Virgin. However this may be, the idea has certainly perpetuated itself with singular persistence. Tassoni, writing about the middle of the seventeenth century, relates that among the inhabitants of Ferrara many young nobles and princesses who were married in May died only a few days afterward. "It is the observation of this strange fact," he observes, "that induced the Ferrarese, so it is said, to follow the ancient custom."

At the present day the superstition has not ceased to show itself in certain regions of Italy, in Rumania, in south Germany, Bohemia, Westphalia, England and France, notably in Saintonge and in the Govennes, where every one acknowledges the truth of the proverb, "The month of flowers is a month of tears."

"Perhaps," said Plutarch, "the month of May is regarded as unlucky because it comes between April and June, the months respectively of Venus and Juno, the tutelary goddesses of marriage, or perhaps it is because May is the month of the feast of the Lemures, the souls of the dead."—Paris Letter.

TREE PLANTING IN FRANCE.

Useless Sand Dunes Converted Into Valuable Land With Pines.

The French thoroughly appreciate the advantages to be derived from systematic tree planting. Tracts of sand have been covered with pine forests, and the world lands, borrowed, as it is thought, from the German, is losing its meaning of "waste." Till a century ago a large portion of the forest of Fontainebleau consisted of bare sand hills, but the planting of pines was begun. A variety capable of standing the severest winters was evidently found, and millions of trees now diffuse healthy and agreeable odors, besides furnishing timber for fuel.

The decomposed fir needles, moreover, gradually form a crust of vegetable mold, permitting the growth of trees and shrubs less able than the pine to live on air. The department of the Landes, once a barren region, with sand so loose that people had to walk on stilts, is covered with pines, and the problem of draining the subsoil has been solved, as described in Edmond About's story of "Maitre Pierre."

The losses by fire and anxiety to produce something more remunerative than pine are now, however, inducing schemes of artificial fertilization. In many French watering places dunes have been transformed into woods, thus holding out to seaside visitors the attraction of agreeable shade and a change from monotonous beach. Shifting sands have been prevented from extending inland. In some cases dunes have been acquired by companies, which, after planting them, have cut them up into building lots and have seen them dotted with villas.

Elsewhere municipalities have taken up the matter, and in large operations the district or the department has provided the funds.—London Times.

He Loves to Work.

The foreman of a bootblackening shop in Madison square is a continual surprise to the customers. His employer is a padrone, and he is left in complete control. His conduct justifies his employer's confidence. He is the hardest worker among the half dozen employees and frequently takes the brushes from one of his subordinates when there are not enough customers to keep all busy. He never allows a customer to go away unless he is satisfied that his boots have been polished in the best manner possible. He is ever full of enthusiasm and works with as much energy at the end of a busy day as at the beginning. His humor never lags, and his muscles never tire.

"It is as good as a brace to watch that fellow," said a rounder. "He is the only man I ever saw who always seems to love to work."—New York Sun.

Dutch Toast.

Dutch toast is a simple dish for using up scraps of bread. Crumble the bread and place in a frying pan with a slice of butter or drippings. Add salt, pepper and sage if liked. It should be seasoned quite well. Add a small quantity of boiling water, cover closely so the steam will soften the bread, stir several times and serve hot. What with cream toast, codfish and fruit toast, we may have this turco cooked bread frequently with out its becoming monotonous.—Philadelphia Ledger.

In the house of a Pompeian sculptor were found 32 mallets, 15 compasses, 3 levers, several chisels, together with jacks for raising blocks, and nearly 30 statues and busts, in every stage of manufacture.

The grains of cornstarch are only about one-fourth the size of those of the starch made from the potato.

Pianos.

Excellent pianos may be bought in Europe at perhaps two-thirds the cost of a like instrument here, and even individuals can import pianos to advantage in spite of the tariff. But a fact that works pretty effectually to protect the home manufacturer is that either the American climate or the usual steam-heat tends to destroy the imported piano, so that even the temptation of saving from \$200 to \$500 on the first cost does not induce many persons to take the risk of an instrument that cannot stand the climate.—Philadelphia Ledger.

England's Tobacco Law.

An antiquarian says that tobacco cannot be used in England save by a violation of law. In 1660 a law was made prohibiting the growth or importation of tobacco beyond a few hundred pounds of leaves every year, "to be used in medicine." It is said that this statute has never been repealed.

Bettered.

"I would like to improve my opportunities," said the good boy. "Get the firm to leave more money in the cash drawer," suggested the lad of evil propensities.—Detroit Tribune.

It cures piles, it cures obstinate sores, chapped hands, wounds. It does this quickly. Is there any good reason why you should not use DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve?

What a Women Can Do.

I want my lady friends to know of the new field now open for them. In the past six months we have made a profit of \$907.02 after paying all expenses. All our sales have been made at home, not having canvassed any. My official duties calling me away most of time, I left the Dish Washer business in my wife's control with the above results. The business is rapidly increasing and will continue to grow until every family has a Climax Dish Washer. Not a day passes but what we sell one or two and some days fifteen or twenty Dish Washers. It's easy selling what everybody wants to buy. You can wash and dry the dishes perfectly in two minutes. For full particulars, address the Climax Mfg Co., Columbus, Ohio. Get a sample washer and you can't help but make money. They only cost \$5. You may just as well be making \$5 a day as to be doing nothing.

Couldn't Stand The Pressure.

The fact has developed itself that the Honorable Judge Beal of Hastings who has devoted so much (?) of his valuable time attending to the wants (and in some cases what they didn't want) of the people who put him in office, through his official capacity as district judge, could not stand the pressure brought to bear upon him, and has at last consented to hold court in Red Cloud on the 17th day of next April, when the now celebrated contested election case to ascertain and determine which is to predominate—township organization or not township organization—will be tried.

The judge could have saved himself a great deal of unnecessary worry and a x e s had fulfilled his promises and held this court last January. The fact also remains undisputed that by his past actions the judge has forfeited his right the good will and respect of the citizens and taxpayers in this vicinity; and should his political aspirations again lead him to seek favor at the polls, it is not at all improbable that he will hear something drop when the final canvass of the vote is taken that will learn him a lesson ever to be remembered.

We have also been informed that the judge expressed great displeasure over the article which appeared in the Leader a few weeks since under the heading, "Our Voters Snubbed." In reply, the only apology we have to make is one to the people that the article referred to was not more pronounced and to the point than it was. We had the facts and figures, and knew what we were talking; about when the article was being prepared. It now remains to be seen whether or not the judge will "do the square thing" to the citizens and taxpayers of this county when this case comes up for trial at Red Cloud during the term beginning April 17 1895.—Blue Hill Leader.

The experience of Geo. A. Appar, of German Valley, N. J., is well worth remembering. He was troubled with chronic diarrhea and doctored for five months and was treated by four different doctors without benefit. He then began using Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, of which one small bottle effected a complete cure. It is for sale by Devo and Grice.

Amboy.

Cold again. As it was stormy we did not get our items in last week.

Mrs. C. C. Cox's brother and family

who have been here on a visit have returned to their home.

John Saladen is able to take his position at Mr. Cox's again.

Gerrie Brown returned to her home in Red Cloud after a week's visit with old friends.

G. W. Baker, wife and daughter Mrs. Frase attended lodge at Red Cloud Saturday night.

Mr. Mann's smiling countenance was seen in Amboy Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bloque are visiting their parents.

The dust storm Wednesday was one of the worst ever known.

Alf Saladen got a horse out on the wire fence.

C. L. Lewis and G. W. Baker had their hay-racks demolished by the storm.

What about the skating party Tuesday Feb. 5th? For particulars ask Rob and Susie.

Mrs McKinney and daughter Velma returned from a four weeks visit to the eastern part of the state.

Bessie and Jessie Cokroll were pleasant callers at Mr. Baker's last Sunday afternoon.

Miss Laura McBride spent Sunday in Red Cloud.

Walter Cox is expected home next Monday.

Mr. Hines lost a cow last week.

Mrs. D F Trunkey is on the sick list this week.

Ira Baker and George Frase were Sunday visitors in Red Cloud Sunday.

Sylvester was home Sunday.

Rossie Mallock spent Sunday in Cowles with her mother.

Misses Alta and Susie Baker were shopping in Red Cloud Friday accompanied by Mr. Buchanan and Alfred Saladen.

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