

REDUCED TO A FINE POINT

Statistic Sharp Analyzes Matrimonial Chances and Chills.

STRESS OF MODERN SOCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Loves of Spring Bonnets Bloom in the Windows—Brief Chats About Persons and Things in Woman's Busy World—The Latest in Fashions.

A chill writer, a man, of course, has collected some interesting statistics upon the subject of men and matrimony that are worthy of contemplation these sober Lenten days. The result of his calculations is offered in the form of a tabulated list, which shows us the percentage of marriages at various ages from 20 to 30. Thus we are informed, says the Cincinnati Commercial, that out of 1,000 bachelors (widowers have a table to themselves) only twenty-one may be expected to take unto themselves wives when they are between the ages of 20 and 25. Now, although it is emphatically at such an age that you make a profound study of the ethics of flirtation, I must disagree with the clever statistician when he laments their continued bachelorhood. It would be but a sorry spectacle to see them making a study of the ethics of repenting at leisure. From 25 to 30 they grow in resolution, as ninety-four marriages may then be expected among 1,000 marriageable men, which leaves only 600 maidens nothing to be desired. Then comes a memory of past tenderness, than a ball program, or, may be, a withered flower. Bachelors whose ages vary from 30 to 35 should be strenuously cultivated. Positively 138 out of every thousand are disposed to take the fatal step, while from 35 to 40, 147 are sufficiently bold to do so. This is magnificent; but then come immediately symptoms of the decline. During the next five years the marriages drop to 122, and hence fade slightly away, numerically, ending, at the age of 40, in a fraction. Not even half a bachelor out of a thousand is left to blush before the altar when he has attained to his fourscore years. A matter for regret is that we cannot depend on the despatch of most of the other sex proposes. Judging from the experience of most women, men commence to do so at 17, and work steadily and perseveringly away at the accomplishment until they reach the age of 22, when they only indulge in the mild form of recreation as an occasional pastime. Now, the table that has been given to us proves that, until he is 35, a bachelor's proposal has absolutely no marketable value. It may, indeed, only be said to fetch a reasonable price, between the ages of 30 and 45. The deduction from all this is obvious. Common sense forbids us to give our hearts into the keeping of a man under 30, as the aforesaid hearts must inevitably be broken. It seems that at even the best existing matrimonial periods the chances against final annexation of a husband are nearly seven to one. The news is not cheering to engaged couples. In any case, I advise Angelina, when Edwin falls on his knees, to think of this table of her chances, and to be prudent.

Another statistical sharp has come to light in San Francisco, and he has, after reading several hundred novels, given us the benefit of his researches as to the men and women behave at the crucial point when a man says a woman the commitment of asking her to share his burial lot with him as well as the time intervening before that uninteresting event.

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A Union Pacific official tells an amusing incident of travel in the Salt Lake Tribune, in which Julia Ward Howe is the principal figure. He was going

west from Omaha, and sat just behind an aged lady in the sleeper. Actuated by a benevolent notion, the Union Pacific man volunteered to aid the gray-haired woman in reaching the dining car at dinner time. After seating his escort carefully, the railroad man went to the other end of the car to take his meal. After he had done this twice in succession, the old lady accented him on their return to the sleeper thus: 'Now, why don't you insist on leaving me alone after so kindly assisting me to a seat in the dining car?' The railroad man's face flushed and he was staggered for a moment. Finally, after a succession of 'ahems' and coughs, he said: 'Well, my dear lady, I went to the other end of the car because I had a bottle of beer as part of my meal, and I did not wish to place it on a table where it might be objectionable.'

'Is that all? Well don't let that bother you any longer. You sit with me today and bring an extra bottle.' The railroad man had inspected her for a temperance organizer and orator, but when he was assured that she was an anti-prohibitionist he repented by sharing his liquid with her at future meals. He had become aware of her womanly suffrage leanings, but never suspected the name of his aged and interesting friend until she started to leave the train, when he saw her pointed out by a lady as Julia Ward Howe.

If I were asked by a young man or a young woman how to be guided in the choice of a life mate I should, in the exercise of a judgment based on wide and studious observation, say: Choose that person who, after a reasonable period of association, proves to be most compatible with you in all respects. Payne in a pertinent article on 'The Secret of Happy Marriages' in the March Ladies' Home Journal. This broad law comprehends nearly all others that can be suggested. It were infinitely better to be single through life than to marry one who would not answer to this condition. Speaking somewhat narrowly and selfishly, contentment is the most that can be got out of life, and when a contented couple is found it will also be discovered that they exhibit manifestly opposite characteristics of temperament, habit, taste and physique. It is upon this fixed foundation that happy affinities are formed. It is an important doctrine in medical jurisprudence that 'like cures like'—which is only another way for saying that like kills like—and it is true in the social realm that companionship is not felt between young men and young women who are closely similar in general appearance or disposition. On the contrary, it arises, and leads to happy wedded persons who are often widely dissimilar.

They were a company of congenial women before an open fire over 5 o'clock tea, and one of them was saying how she hated to grow old and lose her zest in life and its belongings. Then a fresh-faced matron, with a pair of steady, true eyes, spoke out with her native vehemence: 'Nonsense, what do the years bring but greater treasures and greater capacity to enjoy them? Do you suppose I guessed anything about real happiness in what we called 'youth's happy days'? Why, every year that I have been a wife and mother I have known constantly increasing joy; better and better appreciated what life offers me.' 'Every year I have had more and more delight in my friends near and more; every day I take on a wisdom of experience that gives me a sense of power against what may come, and as to the future and old age, why I never think of it to dread it.'

Mrs. Cleveland, according to the Cincinnati Enquirer, Washington dispatches will have a private secretary when she goes to the white house. This assistant, who was recommended by Mrs. Whitney, is a Mrs. Tomney of Washington, a widow, who has traveled a great deal, and who is the mistress of several languages besides English. It is said that she has arranged with Mr. Cleveland to attend to the voluminous correspondence of the social side of the white house for the sum of \$2,000 per annum, to be engaged between the hours of 9 and 2 each day.

It is astonishing to notice how the physical condition of woman adapts itself to their social necessities. If a woman wishes to avoid a disagreeable experience or break an undesirable engagement she can in the space of a few minutes grow cool and pale or flush and feverish, as the case may demand, and no one who trusts the evidence of his senses can deny the reality of her illness. But presto! The marvels of Herrman and Keller are as nothing in comparison with the rapidity of the transformation that takes place when the victim wishes to appear. The glow of health returns to her cheek and she is the gayest and brightest in all the gay assembly to which she betakes herself.

startling to American readers and therefore likely to take. There is no question that cigarette smoking is common among the 'fine ladies' of Europe, and particularly in that class from which Marion Crawford has drawn some of his most interesting characters. The curious but serious creature who ran away with Don Orsino's heart he first met in a studio where she was sitting for her portrait. When fatigued with sitting she borrowed a cigarette, placed herself carelessly on a divan, and smoked with Don Orsino and the artist.

Mrs. Everett, the wife of a master drayman from New Orleans, is said to be one of the best veterinary surgeons in that city. She began by treating her husband's horse, and when an influenza epidemic, she had long been a skillful nurse, and noticing that mules and horses suffered just as people do, she decided to doctor them in the same way. Warm blankets and hot applications, both external and internal, proved remarkably effective, and finally the appreciative animals would open their mouths to take her remedies. After the horses had recovered Mrs. Everett, encouraged by her success, studied every book she could find on the diseases of horses and mules, and their surgical treatment, until she could set a broken leg, extract a nail from the hoof and treat influenza and lockjaw.

Mary, the mother of Washington, died in 1793, not long after the inauguration of her son as the first president of the United States. In 1833 Silas Burrows, a wealthy and patriotic citizen of New York, offered to build a monument over her grave. The work was begun and the monument erected, and the solemn ceremonies by President Andrew Johnson in May of the same year. Financial reverses overtook Mr. Burrows, it is said, and the monument never rose above the basal structure. This and the marble monument, which was intended to top the pile, but which rests on its side, half buried in the accumulated mold of years, have been clipped by relic-hunters and cracked by the weather.

'It will not be many years,' said Mrs. S. T. Rorer of Philadelphia, who devotes her life to gastronomic affairs, 'before cooking will form as important a department in the curriculum of our girls' public and private schools as mathematics and geography. It is, in fact, on a par with the study of arithmetic and the most neglected. In Philadelphia, Boston and New York it is taught, as it should be, in the normal schools, due attention being given to chemistry and hygiene. The chemistry of food should be thoroughly understood, and is, in fact, a high-priest, trained chef. Women must be educated in cooking, and it is, in my mind, much more important than the higher accomplishments.'

The project for Mrs. Potter Palmer for her work in behalf of the Columbian fair is a unique one, and the women of the board that suggested it deserve credit for the happy thought. To stop the mint of a country to turn out a single piece of gold and then destroy the die used for the purpose is an unheard-of general, is to give it a priceless value and make it a Kohinoor among gold pieces.

Mrs. Palmer, as has been said, is one of fortune's favorites so far as money and estate are concerned, and there is not much that could be offered her which she does not already possess. This coin, however, in its superb singleness, is a commemorative gift, a masterpiece.

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Marmors of the Modes. Black velvet ribbon is a favorite trimming material for millinery. A great deal of iridescent trimming is shown for millinery as well as for other garments. Velvet will be one of the fashionable fabrics for spring, either by itself or in combination. Rolling and curved hats have given way to sharp, decisive looking plaited brimmed ones. Women talk a good deal, of course, but so would men if they had as many interesting things to say.

Lace is one of the leading fabrics of the season. There are handsome chantillies in black and coral. A fashionable tint for evening gloves is called 'cherry' and is that called beure frais, or fresh butter. Plain-plaid ribbons and silks are imported in enormous quantities for millinery and dress trimmings. There'll be a skeleton in every closet wear, if ermine comes in again, and the day will get a little variation from tin canes. In kid gloves the popular lengths are four, six and eight buttons and there is a good demand for the musquette style. White lace in all widths and flouncings are to be used. Laces with gold threads and iridescent embroidery are much liked. Ottoman ribbons, with corded edges, are used for trimming purposes; also Persian and Roman ribbons in graded widths, and also for sashes. Silk gloves are to be worn again, and light shades and tints promise well for summer wear. White gloves are to be worn for almost all occasions, and the Bolero jacket is one of the features of the season. Embroidered jacket fronts are shown for making up the hem, so that it may fall firmly and keep the dust away.

the shapely arms is to be congratulated. Although for the moment there are plenty of rumors but no actual changes or deviations in the general line upon which fashions are moving, there is an endless series of innovations in minor characteristics. New tailor-made costumes for early spring wears in Director, Russian, and strictly English styles, showing short-skirted and natty open coats, present an unusual amount of odd and novel effects in their composition. The richest of the new coats are of brocade or lustrous corded silk, not infrequently made up in colors. One of the choice models is the Olga, significant of its Russian origin, and is of heavily repped silk in dark hunter's green. The average husband pokes a good deal of quiet fun at his wife's predilection for what appears to be unfruitful expeditions, but he seldom gives her due credit for all the money that she saves by 'looking round.'

A late Parisian novelty—in diamonds—are bizarre enough to attract the attention of those seeking after new and strange effects. Old jewels can be so well arranged in these hats, which are described as setting off to striking advantage a ball costume. Linen collars and cuffs are again in high favor, but worn with a difference. The cuffs are no longer a mere strip of white below the sleeve, but protrude for an inch or two, like a man's wristbands. There is also another style, made in velvet to seize upon the masculine belongings. A pretty present for a busy woman is a white sate, framed in gold, with a pencil suspended to it. This hangs beside her dressing case and upon it each morning she writes what she expects to do during the day, and she is a happy woman if she completes what she has set out to do as her duty.

Gathered skirts, like those upon the Russian blouse, are this season added to many of the corselet bodies of silk or other fabrics. Another style very useful for removing last year's dresses is to cut the corselet in a low, bare, back and front, completing it by a high underbodice of contrasting material. To conceal the joining, use is made of ribbon or narrow girdle. A soft corduroy cloth, which looks like a heavy-ribbed cashmere, in silver blue, tan, green and white, is made in neat and pretty spring costumes, consisting of a very flaring bell skirt, a fancy Russian coat with ample revers and a jaunty back showing wing-like pieces of velvet extending from the waist to the full line. The parted fronts reveal a fitted shirt-waist of flower-striped surah. It is a caprice of the moments with a certain set of girls who strive for fads and eccentricities to omit all punctuation marks in their letters. Probably some one who couldn't find them in started the fashion. Just as girl at the opera a few years ago found that a sore finger throbbed and ached desperately if her hand lay on her lap, and was much relieved when she held it upright. So she sat all the evening in a conspicuous box with one slender-gloved hand touching her cheek—with the result of making the attitude a marked and raging fashion that endure season.

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INDUSTRIAL NOTES Uncle Sam chewed eighty-five tons of tobacco last year. A North Carolina mill makes 4,000,000 cigarettes daily. Aluminum in 1892 cost \$19 a pound; now it costs 70 cents a pound. A New York Central locomotive is to go eighty-two miles an hour. The number of textile mills in the country was increased by 272 last year. The new mills employ 91,300 persons. In 1892 the twelve leading locomotive works in the country built 1,703 locomotives. In 1891, 1,580 locomotives were turned out by the same works. It is stated that in England those parts of locomotives which are liable to rust are made of galvanized iron, and that this includes the inside of tender tanks and also the coal spaces. Nearly 6,000 men were at work last year on the ship canal which is to connect the Baltic and the Mediterranean. The expenditure has so far amounted to about \$20,000,000. It is expected to be opened for traffic in 1905. Joseph Schiesler of Oakland, Cal., thinks he has solved the problem of Arctic travel by means of a device which uses a petrol engine on a sled and makes the engine drive a series of spurs, which take hold of the ice and force the sled forward. The old country is doing business with the outside world. The quantity and value of iron and steel exported by Great Britain in the first seven months of last year were 2,140,000 tons and \$19,842,342 respectively, against 3,018,030 tons and \$25,067,291 in the corresponding months of 1891. Austria announces an electric locomotive which is to travel 125 miles an hour. The North Belgian company and the North France company are constructing a line for locomotives, operated by electricity, on which the journey from Brussels to Paris, about 192 miles, will be accomplished in 30 minutes, a speed of nearly 150 miles an hour. A new horse shoe recently patented has for its special object the obtaining of better foothold and the lessening of concussion or jarring effect upon the animal's feet. The shoe is made with apertures extending through it, located by the position usually occupied by the nails. The openings are of dovetail form, and usual nail holes are provided in the intervening solid metal portions of the shoe. Projecting through the apertures are elastic rubber studs fixed on a strip of rubber or leather intervening between the metal shoe and the wall of the hoof, and through which nails are driven in the operation of shoeing. The passage of a law last year in Massachusetts restricting the working hours of women and minors in manufacturing establishments to fifty-eight hours a week would, it was feared, place the manufacturers of that state at a disadvantage with those of other states. The apprehension was increased when the same wares were given for fifty-eight as for sixty hours of labor. But as it turned out this move on the part of Massachusetts has been an incentive to other states to take like action. The New Hampshire legislature has just passed a law exactly similar in its terms and the large Levenson mills in Maine have increased wages to a point where the cost of production will be equal to the short hour production in Massachusetts.

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