## Queer Marriage Custom of Hindustan, Where Aged Men Wed Babes



ame an elephant, followed by twelve still practiced here and there away silver belis around their weeks. The sad- it whispered that girl babies are dies were of cloth of silver and the trap- strangled and that poison is sometimes pings of the bridles were of gold. Be- laid on their mother's breast so hind these animals came the wedding that when they suck they eat no more.

cessions, and in every case the brides is hell. have been children, although the grooms may have been full-grown men. Some of the brides were six and eight years of Of all the women on earth there is none

Child Wives by the Millions.

You have all heard of the child marriages of India. They take place every day, and number inillions a year. They are chiefly among the Hindus, who form two-thirds of the population of Hindustan. I have before me the figures of the last census taken by the British. They show that India has now more than two million fifty thousand of five years and under. It 68,000,000 wives in the country, and onefourth of them are under the average age at which our girls marry,

the married bables whose husbands are living. I shall write of them farther on in this letter.

Marriages in India are niways arranged by the parents. They are a matter of burgain and sale, and the father of the boy gets the money. At present the price has risen, and one of the native newspapers is demanding that the parents of "Occasion Mr. Bryan's own words: for their sons. They say that the parents of the things of which I particularly comof the brides cannot stand the charges, plained was assessing a goat at \$25. that crime. He will be disgraced while could be done. he lives and sneered at by his fellows, "We looked over the rules and finally the betrothed in their cradies. They are mar- on the roads?" ried as soon as they are able to walk, and "Well, sometime", said I, wondering come wives. Indeed, there are but few fense. females in India who are not wives or widows by the time they reach fourteen man. years of age.

fifty to wed girls under fourteen. The don't see that I can do anything for you. baby marriages are usually little more Good day, sir, "-New York Telegraph. than engagements or contracts which cannot be broken. When the wedding ceremony is over the little bride is taken back she must live with her husband.

There is little race suickle in India. The better they like it. A woman who has no vain. is thickly inhabited. It grows greater from St. Gabriel's parish. per cent every year.

ridden by bare-legged men in son infanticide was common a few years red and gold turbans. Behind ago, and for the same reason it is above their fore-knees and from the eyes of the police. I hear

chair, and farther back a band of music The polsoning of them with opium wes and a crowd of men singing and dancing, common in the past, and it is mentioned wedding chair was a litter covered by old writers. About twenty or thirty with the red and gold canopy. Upon the years ago the government passed an in-I looked in through the curtains and saw localities hundreds of children were annu-They were children. The groom ally carried off by wolves and, strange to was a ten-year-old boy of a gingerbread say, the wolves took only mirls. In the color, and the bride a little brown baby year 1870 three hundred girl babies were of two. The boy were a gold cap and stolen by wolves from the city of Amritsar. had been drugged to keep her quiet dur- higher caste, even if the husband he gray.

India's Baby Widows.

age, and I have seen two of five. This whose misery is so great as that of the is my first sight of a bride who is really a widow of India. The moment her husband dies she becomes an outcast, her touch is pollution, and she is the slave are continuous torture, and, finsinning, of the family. She must take off her good clothing and dress in coarse cottons. Her head must be shaved and she cannot bathe as the rest of the family

the food or drink of the rest of the family, and all told she is worse than a leper. She will bring bad luck to any one who mattress inside sat the bride and groom, fanticide act and at that time investigated meets her, and no man will continue a face to face, leaning back upon pillows, conditions. It was found that in certain journey if he passes a widow on starting. Such is her condition at home and she cannot get away. She is estracised everywhere. She cannot hire out as a servant. for no one will take her. If she is good looking she may be employed at the temsuit embroidered in gold. He had heavy Before that the wells of some parts of ples; but as a rule her life is the most gold rings on his ankles and wrists. India were polluted by the drowning of horrid slavery. This is added to by the Around the girl's neck was a gold chain, infants and typhoid was common thereby, belief of her husband's mother and sisters and she had gold bracelets and anklets. One of the worst things that can happen that in persecuting her they are helping As I looked in the groom smiled and to these baby brides is to be married to the dead. They do not dare to pity her, waved his hand at me, but the baby bride old men. This is not uncommon, a family for the superstition is that those who pity did not open her eyes, and I am told she often being glad to make a union with a a widow are likely soon to be widows themselves. At the same time she is deing the ceremony. Since I have been in In such cases widowhood is almost sure pendent upon the rest of the family. India I have seen a score of wedding pro- to come early, and in India to be widowed Women cannot inherit property among the Hindus; and all that is left by the hus-

> what marriage means. Their whole lives they are punished until death. Twenty-Six Million Slaves.

What a fate is this for the woman full

grown or the old woman who as a widow

has but a few years to live. It is more

terrible still for the babies and children

band goes to the children.

husbands at twelve.

must not allow her shadow to fall upon

do. She must not sleep on a bed, but And how many human beings do you of these widows have many years yet to other part of the world.

bricks. She cannot eat with the family sus of British India, as they were gath- than 100,000 of between five and ten years. pyres of their husbands and burned them- prosent. If the temple brides have daugh- good. All of the pupils are child widows, wives under ten, and two hundred and must have but one meal a day and ered last year. They put the number of There are 275,000 young girls, who range selves to death. In 1804 the British gov- ters they are brought up as dancing girls, and some of the little ones are only five that of the coarest food. She must fast widows at 28,000,000, 4 number equal to between ten and fifteen years of age, un- ernment kept count, and its records showed being taught to read and sing and in- or six years of age. Many are young has 6,000,000 married women from ton to every two weeks with special fasts now almost one-half of our whole female popu- dergoing the slavery of widowhood, a that 200 women had so immolated them- structed in all the arts of seduction. These girls, and others are full grown women. fifteen, and \$,000,000 more who are between and then, the idea being that the more lation. India has one widow for her worse slavery than has ever been imposed selves within thirty miles of Calcutta in the girls are licensed by law, but of late years. In that school they are taught reading, fifteen and twenty. There are altogether she is tormented the greater will be the every six women and girls, and millions upon any nation, white or black, in any space of six months. In the next twenty- their excesses have become such that even writing and arithmetic, and also such arts

India o

happy in that she died but once.

I attended a wedding the other night at which about 500 Hindus were present. The groom was about six years old. He was a . The awakening of India, now going on, tight velvet trousers and a cap of cloth of

had for religion's sake. They are the twn- kind. ple brides who are bred to dance at the shrines, to pander to the priests and sing obscene songs to the gods. They are ob-

called "suttee," and it is questionable in that state, and there was an altempt to whether it was not preferable to continued do so. It failed because the masses of the widowhood, which is now known as cold people looked upon the institution as having suttee. The widow is condemned to a liv- been sanctified by religion, and because the ing death. She burns daily with want, dis- British make R a principle to do nothing grace and shame; her predecessor was that affects the faith of their subjects, Just now a similar action has been taken by Mysore, one of the native states, and it may be that it will succeed.

Education for Women

bright little fellow in a red velvet coat, cannot but better these conditions. The women could not possibly be worse off The bride was not present, and than they are, and any change must be whether she was a baby or not I do not an improvement. I am told that the naknow. The chief feature of the ceremony tive leaders realize this, and that even was the dancing of some Nautch girls to the Mohammedans are holding conven-the music of two drums and an Indian tions in the interest of female education. fiddle. The girls went through the most India has about sixty million Mohamsurprising contortions. They twisted them- medans, and this means that there are half serves this way and that; they bent back that number of women and girls. As it and forth as though they were India rubis now only four thousand such girls are
ber, the most of their dancing being within school. The Mohammedans feel that out lifting their feet from the ground. Some the educational standard of the followers of their motions were beyond description indecent. I am told that the Nautch girls this can be best done by educating the are professional dancers, and that their pro-girls. It is much the same with the Hin-fession is about the only one open to the doos, some of whose leaders have estabyoung women of India. They are by no lished girls' schools. There is a man means as good as they should be, but being named Roychand, a Jain, who has founded bad is a part of their business, and the peo-Allied to them is a class of girls who are city has other seminaries of a similar You have all heard of Pundita Ramabi,

who lectured in the United States not long ago and collected some money there tained while yet children by the temples for her girls' school at Poona. She is a through purchase or as gifts from the par- Brahmin, and belongs to one of the highest ents, and are educated for the purpose, casts of the Hindoo. She was educated Sometimes a man who has recovered from in England and for a time she was proillness buys a girl and presents her thus as fessor of Sanscrit it one of the colleges on the bare floor with nothing but a think are now undergoing such torments? live. As to the baby widows, there are You have heard how in the past the agift to the gods, or if one has a stroke of there. Her school at Poona has been place of matting between her and the I can give you the figures from the cen- 19,000 of five years and under, and more widows threw themselves on the funeral good luck he may make the priests such a running for years and it is doing great as will fit the pupils to make their own living outside. They learn to sew and embroider, and also kindergartening and trained nursing, as well. A farm is connected with the school, and some of the women learn dairying and sheep raising. faces of a number of his countrymen, who foot and followed up the argument with a and to this end he left a great many "Congratulations. Democratic victory on Many of the graduates are already earnbrass cuspidor, falling in the subsequent pieces of scarlet and green and yellow the way. Next year speaker-president, ing good salaries, some are teachers, others clinch on top.

calleo lying about his hut.

1912. Hurrah for Champ Clark." niatrons of institutions, and not a few have nuatrons of institutions, and not a few have "An elderly dame called one afternoon "I am quoting my old friend Tom Reed married again. Some have become misin '96 someone wrote Reed to ask if he

would run for the presidency that year, Christian Work Among the Women, Our missionaries are accomplishing much go further and fare worse, and I think for the women of India, as are also those of Great Britain. The work can be only done by the women, as men are not allowed to go into the women's quarters or to speak to them. There are about fifteen "Fellow-citizens," said the candidate, "I hundred females among the missionary have fought against the Indians. I have population, and the most of these do more "Me no can wear it, missy. Me too often had no hed but the battle-field and or less work. There are 128 foreign woman classes have graduated not only at the colleges of India, but at those of England, and are now acting as lawyers and doctors. As to the government schools, those for

> One of the crying needs of this country "The funny thing about that was," said which have no resident physicians, and

## There are also millions of child widows. Ancient and Modern Samples Culled from the Story Teller's Pack

Antique in New Setting.

liam Jennings Bryan, who, as a

boys come down on the downes they ask against my real estate assessment, and one and that the extortions are a disgrace to claimed that a goat was not "real" propthe country. Every Indian father is anx- erty in the legal sense of the word, and four to marry off his daughters and, ac- should not be assessed. One of the assescording to the Hindu religion, he will be sors, a very pleasant faced old man, very punished if he does not. A man whose obligingly said that I could go upstairs daughter becomes an old maid must ex- with him and together we would look over pect to spend a million years in hell for the rules and regulations and see what

As a result of this belief girls are often old man asked: 'Does your goat run loose

are old women at the ages our girls be- what the penalty was for that dreadful of-

" 'Yes.' I answered, 'he butts.' One of the native states recently passed "Well,' said the old man, looking at me. a law prohibiting the marriage of girls, 'this rule says tax all that certain property under eight and forbidding men of over running and abutting on the highway. I

An Elderly One Relocated.

The Rev. Maurice J. Dorney of St. Gahome and she stays there until she is brief's church, which is the ecclesiastical eight, ten or twelve years of age, when key of the Chicago Stock yards, is probably better and more favorably known among prominent democrats than any clergyman in the country

Of course, he is often called on by his however, are suggestive of the Shakepeople want children. They marry for parishioners to provide employment for spearian dispute in Tin Can. that purpose, and the more they have the their friends, and the appeal is rarely in

children is a curse to the family, and she A few years ago, just about the time that who does not bear a son is considered a the present pope, who was then Cardinal ment recited The Boy Stood on the Burnfailure. The marriages are at such an age Guiseppe Sarto, was elevated to the Holy ing Deck," a gem, he declared, from that there are thousands of mothers of See, John P. Agnew, son of former High Shakespeare's 'Othello.' twelve and thirteen, and there are some Sheriff Frank J. Agnew of Chicago, was little mothers of cleven or ten. There are building the Thirty-ninth street intercept- ward. twenty-five-year-old grandmothers, and I ing sewer and not being very far from have heard of great-grandmothers Father Dorney's hallfwick, a goodly num-rupter, and I certify that no Shakespeare at forty-eight years of age. The country her of Contractor Agnew's employes hailed never wrote that piece."

every year and there are forty million Mr. Agnew had just appointed a new can convince you that he done so." more people here now than there were in foreman-an Italian-and as Father Dor-1650, the average increase being thirteen ney was passing the big ditch the follow- skeptically, ing morning he looked on the upturned

EFORE leaving New York Wil- reverently touched their hats to him. "Well, boys," inquired Father Dorney, clinch on top.

rule, is somewhat somber, con- "how do you like your new Dago boss?" fided to a democratic lawyer "Foine, ye's riv'rence," was the chorus pummelled his opponent steadily. who is well known on Broadway of replies. "How do you like yours?"-, a legal anecdote. It is here re- Norman E. Mack's National Monthly.

> Henry James on Race Suicide. Henry James does not agree with Colonel do it." "-New York Tribune. Roosevelt on the question of large families. Small families, such as prevail in Prance, indicate, to Mr. James' mind, intelligence and progress, while large families indicate

the reverse. "Large families are so embarrassing, too," said Mr. James, on his last American visit. "I once knew a man named Thompson who had fourteen children. Thompson agreed one apring hollday to take his children to the seashore for the week-end. They set off, reached the station, got their tickets and were about to board the

train when Thompson was roughly collared by a policeman. 'Here, wot 'a' you bin a-doin' of?' the policeman growled flercely

Me? Nothing. Why? stammered. Thompson. "The policeman waved his truncheon toward the Thompson family. Then wot the bloody blazes,' he hissed,

A Literary Dispute. Richard Le Gallienne, the noted poet, said

Minneapolis Journal

at a dinner at the Hotel Westminster, in New York! "Literary disputes are interesting if properly conducted. Too many of them,

"Prof. Bill Billus of the Tin Can Dancing academy delivered a lecture in the Lone Cleveland Plain Dealer. Hand saloon, and in the course of his argu-

"But an interrupter arose and strode for-"I am a Boston gent,' said the inter-

Friend, said Prof. Billus, gently, I only a matter of environment. "'Convince away,' said the Bostonian,

"So Prof. Billus led off with his right them to wear at least a little clothing, was received Champ got the following: "on gargoyles."-New York Sun-

" 'Who writ the piece?' he shouted, as he for spiritual advice. The missionary noted in answering them," said Clark. "Back sionaries.

how enviously her eyes rested on the cal-'Shakespeare,' the Bostonian answered ico and he took up a two-yard plece of in smothered tones from beneath. the yellow, saying: 'Are you sure?' asked the professor. 'I'll give you this if you'll wear it.' "Dead sure,' was the reply. 'I seen him

"The female draped the calico about her like a skirt and departed in great glee. "But the next day, nude, as before, she Resumed Where He Left Off. Chicago traveling man, a guest at returned with the fabric under her arm.

the Hollenden a day or two ago, was tell- Handing it sadly to the missionary, she ing Clerk McCarthy a story Illustrative said: of how accustomed to long separations a traveling man and his wife may become, shy," "-Washington Post. This man's work takes him from coast to coast, and not infrequently he is gone from home for five and six months at a stretch.

The last time he went away, according to the man's story, he was obliged to leave home right in the midst of a meal in order to make the train he wanted to. You ought to wait another day and gentlemen of the second part, after a have your suit pressed," remarked his brief period of fond pursuit, have faded "I hate to have you go looking wife.

so ill groomed." "I'll have it done within a day or twoor at the first chance," promised the hus-"Wish I could stay, though, for a piece of that apple pie you were making. 'is this here crowd a-follerin' ye fur?" "-Save me a piece, won't you?" he added with a grin.

'Weil, she went to the train with him and bade him a fond good-by. Just f-ve months and ten days later he returned. His wife was again at the train, duti-

your suit pressed," were her first words as she threw her arms around his neck. "Yes," he said, "but, by the way, did won't." you save me that piece of apple ple?"-

Brewer's Tale on Tolerance. The late Justice Brewer was noted for But I'm a moral coward. I can't face the his tolerant and broad minded views. A prospect of going through life as Mr. Washington diplomat recalled the other William Burke."-Cincinnati Times-Star. day a story told by Justice Brewer in 11-

lustration of the need for tolerance. "We should respect the views of others" -so the story ran-"for morality itself is elections to fill congressional vacancies 'A missionary in the South seas was distressed because his dusky paristoners were grams. The other night, just after the the freshman, "that the name has stuck the women as a rule have practically no

Aloysius Jones looked sad, "I wanted said he. "I still want to. But I "Why? Won't she marry you?"

he served her with chocolates; he fairly

sonality on stage or street. But, he, too,

Miss Billy Burke," said a friend, the other

We thought you were going to marry

Why He Will Not Marry.

"No." said Aloysius Jones. "I haven't asked her, and I have no reason to assume that she would say 'yes' if I did ask her.

Champ Clark's Hopes.

Since the repeated victories in the by-Champ Clark has been the recipient of a flood of congratulatory letters and telenude. He decided to try delicately to get news of the election of James S. Havens to 'em ever since. Now everybody calls efficient medical attendance

" 'Well,' answered Reed, 'they might they will." "-Cleveland Leader.

1912. Hurrah for Champ Clark."

He Had Done Enough.

been marked with blood." Because of the dimpled charm of Miss ing voter came to the front. Billy Burke, Mr. Frohman's sweetest star, there are sumors every now and then that this, that, or the other fortunate man is

Burke goes on her way unaltared, and the Magazine.

Mustard Plaster Cure.

into the remote landscape. Last winter "Mustard as a promoter of morals was gossip was especially sure that a certain man, whose name may be given for the j purpose of this narrative as Aloysius II-year-old daughter: Jones, seemed to be up in the running.

He waited upon Miss Burke with flowers; plaster on you.

Those Gargoyles.

A college freshman was showing some friends the sights of the campus last week, affied in carrying it on. The customs and He was very proud of the new buildings caste distinctions of India are such that and attempted to describe the architecture, only women doctors can treat the native

He laughed, but his friends waited.

no canopy but the sky. I have marched physicians and numerous hospitals and over the frozen ground till every step has schools. There are two Christian colleges end in Madras alone more than one hun-His story told well till a dried-up look- dred thousand girls are going to school, The girls are bright and they seem to "I'll be darned if you hain't done enough learn quite as well as our girls at home. for your country. Go home and rest. I'll A number of them entered the university to lead her to the altar. Still Miss Billy vote for the other fellow."-Success and some of the daughters of the higher a new role," said the woman. "Yesterday girls are increasing, although they are still heard my Bohemian neighbor say to her far outnumbered by those for the men For instance, India now has 150,000 boys' 'If you do that again I'il put a mustard schools with about 5,000,000 pupils, and only 12,000 girls' schools, with 600,000 in attend-"The child didn't do it again. When & ance. The percentage of illiteracy among drooted whonever he beheld her dainty per- asked why, the mother told me that in her the women is far greater than among the disobedient children are punished men. In all India there are less than 1,000 by applying a mustard plaster. It is more 000 women who can read, and this means efficacious than whipping, scolding or about one in every 150. On the other hand, moral sussion. The plaster isn't left on about one man in every ten can read, and long enough to blister badly, but even a large percentage can both read and without a blister a mustard plaster is a write. The officials tell me that only about corrective measure that all little Bohemians try to avoid, even at the expense of school and less than 3 per cent of the girls. school and less than 3 per cent of the girls.

> is medical attendance, and especially doctors for women. Lady Dufferin started a movement of this kind and Lady Curson "See those things sticking out from the women, and the great need is lady misroofs, don't you?" asked the freshman, sionaries who have good medical educa-pointing to a number of weird figures of tions. The first female doctor came in stone. "Well, last year a fellow called 1870, and there are now many. There are, however, a half million villages and towns

> > FRANK G. CARPENTER.