

EDITORIALS.

MARRIAGES GROWING FEWER
AND FEWER.

THE New York *Independent* thus expatiates and censures in regard to this subject—

"That marriages are fewer than they were ten years ago, there is, unfortunately, no doubt. And they are growing fewer and fewer every year. And we say boldly and unqualifiedly that the dress of woman is the reason—the great reason, the one reason. Dress and all it implies. Flora McFlimsey knows very well what we mean and all we mean. Fifteen years hence, when she is 'that old Miss McFlimsey,' she will try a change; but it will be too late."

Dress is the one reason why marriages grow fewer, the dress of woman, not of man, says our contemporary. This may be true. The dress of woman may prevent men from marrying, but it does not prevent women from marrying when they have satisfactory chances, or even chances not altogether satisfactory. The responsibility therefore still seems to rest upon man for the decrease of marriage. The women will venture, if the men will. Of course the men never spend a dime extravagantly in either dress or anything else, never. If there is any extravagant spending, the women do it.

Meantime it may be well to consider that if marriage decreases, the inclination of the sexes towards each other does not decrease, that such inclination comes by an immutable law, and that unless that inclination be gratified in marriage it will be gratified outside of marriage. In short, the decrease of marriage means the increase of immorality and illegitimacy, the increase of seduction, fornication, adultery, with all that those ugly words imply. In this view the decrease of marriage is a dead loss to a nation.

HUMAN INFANTICIDE.

The New York *Herald* says—

"No animals are known to abandon their progeny, for the word abandonment cannot properly be applied to those few cases in which the young of certain animals receive no care because they need none. In every species where the progeny need care and defense it is the one inseparable trait of animal 'morality' to furnish these to the last extremity if need be. Even those who hold that humanity is only the latest step in progress from animal life must admit, therefore, that a growth which seems all in the direction of improvement has at least produced one result which is a degradation, and puts man below the animals in benevolence; for all human races rid themselves of the burden of a superfluous progeny with more or less deference to forms. It might be superfluous to speculate as to the precise point of progress towards humanity at which mothers find the material instinct less powerful than certain conventional considerations of good repute, or even of common comfort, but it is certain that the point is touched at an early stage of the growth of every society, and grows as the civilization is higher."

"In this country we have generally gone a step beyond England in our puritanism; and have murdered the mother by malpractice before the birth of the child. But this seems now to have become dangerous."

The *Herald* recommends "the establishment, as part of the public administration in every city, of foundling hospitals."

PAROXYSMAL.

THIS is how the Rev. Mr. Dawson got bewildered and led into trouble recently in San Francisco—

"She appeared to me to be all that the heart of any man could desire. She was beautiful, she was a Christian; she was well educated, modest, amiable, kind and affectionate; and she had a heart which

beat responsive to my own. And without any premeditation on my part, and before I knew it, I found her presence quite essential to my happiness; and seven months after my application for a divorce, and when I knew I was sure to have it soon, I told the young lady of my love, and found it reciprocated. In this I erred, no doubt, and should have waited until entirely free. But ministers are men, and love is blind, especially when the object of it is such a perfect angel as this young lady seemed to me to be. But any man who will dare to say I had any evil intent in going with this young lady is a black hearted villain. My love for her was as pure and true as ever filled an angel's heart, and I idolized and worshipped her, and was willing to give my life for her."

However, he found that the course of true love did not run very smoothly. He confided too much to a "mutual" and also found other false friends, of whom he talks in this way—

"Especially ought this to have satisfied one of my bitterest persecutors, who has himself been caught alone in his study at 9 o'clock at night in paroxysmal contact with a young lady; at the same time that he had a wife and a young child in a different part of the house. It will also appear that some of the professedly pious have no regard for the honor they may attach to their words or actions; that some of them are ready to combine to screen a villain if he is thought to have the best show of carrying his case, and to crush the one thought to be most helpless."

This is not a very flattering showing for those "professedly pious," but it is only another mite to add to the mountain of evidence that profession and possession are by no means the same thing.

SHORT SHRIFT FOR BURG-
LARS.

THE increase of burglary in various parts of the Union has induced a sterner sentiment towards them, favoring their summary punishment on the spot, when caught in the act of burglary. Some few soft-hearted persons think that it is too hard on the poor burglar to disable him violently on the very scene of his crime. But the burglar should think of that before he starts on his predatory enterprises. When a man finds a ruffian breaking into the house, the supposition is that the ruffian is prepared to commit violence and even murder to cover up his crime and insure his own safety, and under such circumstances no man can be required to wait and give the burglar the first chance. The instinct of self-defense forbids it with a man of backbone, and he cannot be reasonably blamed for preserving himself and his family from any such contingency as their probable death at the hands of the villainous burglar. On this subject the *Philadelphia Times* sensibly says—

"Two or three citizens in New York and one in this city having lately defended their premises from burglars by the use of arms, even to the point of killing, the propriety of a man taking life under such circumstances has become a matter of fair discussion, and there are not a few tender hearted people who plead for more leniency toward the criminal. Exactly what they would have a man do who wakes up in the middle of the night to find a burglar in his house, who is presumed armed, and whom the law itself assumes will take life itself if necessary to secure his object, they will not tell us."

"To be serious, for the subject is a serious one, scarcely a day passing that a half dozen burglaries are not reported in the morning newspapers, and often, as a result of them, the murder of some respectable citizen, Van Brunt's and Hammond's and Gottsberger's plan of dealing with the burglar is the safest and best, and on the whole the only plan. Technically the law might not acquit a man of the killing, but public opinion and a

jury would express and enforce the unanimous opinion that the courageous citizen had done his duty, and deserved thanks instead of censure. It is a good old maxim of Anglo-Saxon law that a man's house is his castle, and the burglar not only invades that which the President dare not, but also comes prepared to take life if his safety demands it. The good citizen then need not be afraid of defending his castle at the pistol's point, or of preserving his own life at the cost of that of his would-be murderer."

THE CHIEF JUSTICESHIP.

AFTER the appointment of Mr. Lowe to the chief justiceship of Utah, and when it became generally known here that he was a gentleman of ability and extensive legal knowledge, and was manifestly disposed to administer the law with a commendable degree of fairness to all parties and classes, it was hoped that his stay would be prolonged, that justice might be done in court, and that the bench might not be prostituted to partisan prejudices and one-sided expositions and decisions. But this hope, it appears, is not destined to be realized, owing to the resignation of the Chief Justice.

It is true, that to a self-respecting man, a man of learning and ability, a good lawyer, and a fair-minded judge, there is little that is very attractive in the judgeship of a Territory. The legitimate remuneration is comparatively small, nothing for a good lawyer to covet, nothing to induce an able lawyer to relinquish a fair practice for it. It is true that there are "opportunities," but a man fit to be a judge ought not to think of that kind of remuneration, he ought to be proof against it, so that to him it weighs nothing as an inducement. There is the further drawback connected at present with the Utah judiciary, that it seems impossible for an honorable, upright, fair-dealing, impartial judge to live here without being subjected to the enmity, misrepresentations and slanders of a most vicious, corrupt and reckless ring of partisan conspirators, who detest nothing so much as an honorable and upright man in office, one who will not degrade his office to favor their miserable purposes. Were an angel to come down from heaven to be a judge in Utah, this reckless ring would endeavor to blacken his character, impugn his motives, misrepresent his acts, and make it appear that he was an emissary from the other place, and ought to be sent back at once. They would be as hospitable and friendly toward him as were the people of the cities of the plain toward the angels who visited Lot.

What the people of Utah generally desire in the seat of the Chief Justice is a good, honest, upright, fair, impartial judge, if such a character can be found who will accept the position. They think they are entitled to the appointment of such a judge by the President and the Senate, seeing that they, the people, are deprived of choosing a judge for themselves. They do not wish for a judge who will specially favor the "Mormons," nor one who will specially disfavor them. They do not wish to have a judge who will specially favor the Methodists, or the Catholics, or the Presbyterians, or who will specially disfavor either of those parties. They do not want a judge who will specially favor or specially disfavor any party of any kind whatever. They do not desire a judge who will give to party what is due to the people, but one who will render to every one his due, and who will administer judgment and justice, and not swerve from that which is right through fear, favor, or hope of reward. That is the kind of a judge that is greatly desired by the people of this district and Territory. They could get along admirably with such a judge, and would consider it equal to a great favor to have him. They do not want a judge with a mission, either religious or political, or any other mission except to discharge his judicial duties faithfully, without any prejudice, bias, or leaning from that which is just and right.

Men who are deeply prejudiced, or are partial in their judgment, are sure to make mistakes, sure to make great mistakes, and great mistakes on the bench are almost certain to work serious injustice. So that it is anything but agreeable to good citizens, anything but creditable to the federal administration, anything but conducive to the public welfare, for a partisan, partial, prejudiced, or in any wise vicious man to be appointed to so high and important a place as the chief justiceship, or the associated justiceship, and we trust it will never again be done for Utah. Our citizens have had a surfeit of that kind of business, and they desire no more of it. Nothing pleases them more, in a federal official, than the acknowledged characteristics of a good, upright, honorable citizen, talented, cultivated, and experienced, a man and a gentleman, without fear and without reproach, fair-minded with every man, and impartial and just toward all who may come before him.

COAL IN GREAT BRITAIN.

A FEW years ago, the alarmists had a fine time in speculating upon the supposed near approach of the time when Britain's stock of available coal would be so greatly diminished that the price would be vastly enhanced and she would be no longer enabled to supply the world with cheap iron and other manufactures as she does now. In consequence of the alarm coal went up two or three prices, and the prices of other things rose accordingly.

In 1868 a royal commission was appointed to inquire into the coal supply, and take evidence upon the future producing ability of the coal fields in the United Kingdom. Since that time the subject has been made a study by Mr. Wm. Edwards, of South Staffordshire, as well as by other intelligent gentlemen. In a paper recently read before the Mill Forge Managers' Association, Mr. Edwards made the following interesting statement, from which it will be seen that there is no danger at present of the exhaustion of Old England's coal supply—

"With regard to the South Staffordshire district, great quantities of coal will be available, in consequence of the successful working of the Mines Drainage Commissioners, under a special Act, and owing to the discoveries of splendid coal in localities not before believed to contain the mineral. The Sandwell estate consists of 1,000 acres of thick coal; Lord Calthorpe's estate, 1,400 acres; General Studd's, 500 acres; Westbromwich Colliery Company have 50 acres in the solid to get; Spon Lane Colliery Company, 50 acres of thick coal in the solid, and 60 acres of broken mine; the Blakeley Hall estate, 70 acres in the solid to get; Earl Dudley's new colliery at Lye Cross has proved 500 acres of thick coal in the solid, 10 yards thick; Messrs. Hunt are getting coal in three pair of pits, which in all range from 20 to 30 yards thick; and the new coal fields in the Cannock Chase district, embracing a district of ninety-three square miles, have an average thickness of workable coal above 2 feet thick of 50 feet. Of this total about one-fourth has been got, and three-fourths, or 1,024 million tons, remains to be gotten; while in 1870, it was estimated by the Royal Commission that there were only 988 million tons left. The district of North Staffordshire has an area of coal-fields, exclusive of the Cheadle and Goldstitch basins, of ninety-five square miles, and the available weight of coal, at a depth of 4,000 feet, is 3,720 million tons. In 1870 this coal-field yielded 3,873,512 tons of coal. The Cheadle coal-field contains about 104,524,000 tons of coal available for future use; and the Goldstitch Trough is supposed to consist of 117,000 tons. Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire, are supposed to have of coal 900 square miles, of a total weight of 28,082 millions of tons. South Wales, in 1870 was supposed to contain 906 square miles of coal to 4,000 feet depth, and it was calculated that this area would yield 31,783 million tons of coal; and that if the rate of production of that year (13,-

664,112 tons) was kept up, the coal would last for more than 2,300 years; but recently there have been extensive new discoveries. Scotland is supposed to have 9,843,465,930 tons of coal; and Durham 796 square miles of the mineral, or in weight, 7,452,250,000 tons. Shropshire, North Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, and Cumberland, all, with other counties, contain more fuel than had been expected. The production of coal in Great Britain was, in 1872, greater than in any previous year, being a total of 120,000,000 tons. Of the 178,000,000 tons known to have been raised anywhere in 1875, 100,000,000 tons were brought to bank in Great Britain.

"All the foregoing calculations as to the mineral fuel capabilities of this country were based upon the expectation of its being obtained within what is now regarded as workable depths; and the deepest pit being worked, throughout the world, in one lift, at the present time, is the Arley pit, at Rosebridge colliery, near Wigan, which goes down 2,445 feet; the pit in Belgium, whence coal is being brought up from a depth of 4,000 feet, being worked in three inclines, with as many engines."

SENTRYCIDE IN FRANCE.

THE Paris correspondent of the London *Telegraph* says there is just now in France a reign of sentrycide, which is alarming to soldiers who have to stand guard at nights. Sentries keeping guard over magazines are the special victims, and not a week passes without an attempt of this kind, the time selected being at perhaps the dearest hour of the night, or rather morning—about 2 o'clock. Similar circumstances of this kind are reported from all parts of France, the assailants mostly escaping.

ATTEMPT AT BODY STEALING.

The Somerset (Ohio) *Press* of a recent date has the following concerning an attempt to steal the body of General Sheridan's father—

"Last Wednesday evening Mr. Jacob Sites, accompanied by his young son, repaired to the Catholic cemetery in this place to prepare a grave. While Mr. Sites was engaged in digging the grave his son strolled about the cemetery, and in the course of his rambles discovered that the grave of John Sheridan, Sr., had been tampered with, and at once informed his father of the discovery. Mr. Sites notified Father Noon of the condition of the grave; and he, with John L. Sheridan and Dr. J. D. McKinney, proceeded to make an inspection of it, which showed that the earth as far down as the boards covering the coffin had been thrown out, but that the body had not been disturbed. It is believed that the resurrectionists became alarmed, and abandoned the work very hurriedly, as they left a spade and dropped a case containing a pair of spectacles and a pencil. Tracks in the lane back of the cemetery show that they had with them a one-horse wagon and two horses. The object of this attempted grave robbery is difficult to divine. Mr. Sheridan has been dead for more than three months, and it is hardly likely that the body would be desired for dissection. By some it is believed that the robbers expected to get a reward for the return of the body."

SENSIBLE TALK.—In a recent case of parental separation, involving the custody of the child, Justice Gilbert, in Brooklyn, gave some good advice to married people in the following strain—

"It was the duty of the husband and wife to live together. There was a great deal more of this alleged cruel treatment than formerly. He was afraid that the secret was that women nowadays were a little too exacting. They expected more attention than they did formerly, and were more dissatisfied at trifles. Married persons had to put up with a good deal, and must not be ready to break up a family and separate for a whim."

It has come out, now that he has been dismissed by the service, that the English Colonel Baker, of railroad car infamy, was known in the army as a professional roue.