

## Is Marriage Becoming Obsolete?

Not the least curious and noteworthy of the results of the panic in the east, is reported a very perceptible falling off in weddings. The general average was kept up through the earlier portion of that miserable time, but of late has decreased to such an extent that there are serious fears of a total failure of the crop in this important part of the ministerial harvest, during the Spring and Summer coming. The reason assigned for their not doing so sooner is that those made up to the present time have been as one might say, clearing off the old contracts. Men sacrificed now agreed to it months ago. Of course they would be willing to pay a handsome margin for release now, but cannot get it. Women are shrewd hands at compelling bargains in matters of this sort. But new contracts are scarce. Husbands are rated "scarce and in great demand" in the matrimonial market; wives, "a surplus, and few offers at any price, except for exceedingly choice lots."

Notwithstanding our escape from the disaster of a panic and its consequent demoralization of social affairs, we may observe here a tendency similar to that noted in the east—a sad dimming of the glare of Hymen's torch. Why are our maidens threatened with spinsterhood, and why do our youths grow up and on into the bald and wrinkled stages of bachelorhood? Simply because the impression is constantly growing more and more prevalent that marriage is an institution which "doesn't pay." Its luxuries fail to repay the risk and cost of investment. As a general proposition it may be affirmed that as a people we have the most vague conceptions possible on the score of economy; but as a particular fact it may be further demonstrated that our women as a rule possess not even those.

An American, whatever his means, deems nothing too good for him. Theoretically, "the earth and the fullness thereof" belong to him. Practically, if he does not come into possession of that estate it is not for want of endeavor, and if unsuccessful he is so much ashamed of it that he will desperately struggle to preserve the semblance of attainment of what he considers his just deserts. False pride is the parent of our countless shams. We want champagne; but if our lank purses bid us "nay," we will insist upon at least having a poisonous and vilely flavored beverage which will come with a fizz out of a bottle mendaciously labeled "champagne." We want fine raiment; but if our financial resources proscribe that which is both fine and good, we will resign the latter characteristic to secure an imitation of the former. We want gold and diamonds; but the yearnings of our impecunious souls may be stayed with eroide and paste. Why, in some places, Pittsburgh for instance, plank monuments, painted and grained to imitate Italian marble and granite, are to be seen. From the cradle to the tomb there is among Americans an increasing combat with fate, by those who have \$1,000; by those who have \$5,000 per annum, to rival in expenditure and display those who have \$5,000 to maintain a superficial equality with those who have \$20,000, and so on *ad infinitum*. Our really rich men strive to outshine kings, while those in medium circumstances, and even the poor, try to ape the style of the rich. It may all be considered a sort of social affirmation of thorough democracy, but, as used to be said in the army, "it is no good way."

The main supporters of this false, artificial and injurious state of society are women. Men undoubtedly lay the foundations for their ruinous taste for competition in extravagance, but they go to far greater lengths than men would ever dare in its pursuit, for the reasons that they generally have little or nothing else to think of, within the somewhat limited scope of their comprehension, and that no enforced considerations of business necessity serve to restrain them.

The American girl of to-day is taught to cultivate an indifference as to whence or how money comes, so long as she can have it to squander on her personal adornment in rivalry with others of her sex. As Mrs. Burnham wittily says for women, "Man's pleasures would never suit us, and his profits we have. We allow him enough to dress respectably, and to take him to lec-

tures and other intellectual circuses; but the bulk of his income we appropriate."

Too voracious, quite, have American husbands found the Biblical statement that "a man's foes are those of his own household." American youth of the present day are generally reflective and not easily taken in, either by sentiment or speculation. They admire Arabella and Cynthia and all the rest of the charming baits to lure them from the untrammelled, independent joys of bachelorhood, but year by year it seems as if the number snapped from that sea of liberty into the frying pan of marriage grows smaller and smaller.

The plain truth is that so long as woman continues to be a synonym for reckless extravagance, no young man with a moderate income and measurable prudence can venture upon the risk of taking a wife—that is, a wife of his own. Not only must he see that he marries financial disaster, but he invokes the actual presence of ugly, shadowy phantoms of mental inquietude and shame, the legitimate brood of unthrift and baseless ostentation, when he assumes the weighty responsibilities of a husband. He hears on every side the conundrum, so frequently put as to constitute a perpetual buzzing in the air, "How can Mrs. — dress so upon her husband's income?" He sees the cloud of care, anxiety and regret which darkens the brow of married men. He feels how expensive is the burden of the ordinary social pleasures to which he is condemned if he would cultivate the society of ladies and still avoid the reputation for "meanness"—a term women are quick in applying to rational economy. Is it any wonder that he says to himself, "No; I lack the heroism required for a lifetime of such martyrdom?"

Of course, there will still be weddings, for there will always be men rich enough to enable them to dispense with brains, and it is to be hoped that while time endures it will be practicable in some cases to "go home and live with the old folks," but if women wish to popularize marriage, they must make gigantic reforms in their habits.—*S. F. Chronicle*.

## A Mammoth Cave in Shasta.

## NINE VAST SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBERS.

M. D. Butler, of Shasta county, Cal., informs the Oakland *Transcript* that a vast cavern, or series of caverns, have been discovered upon his ranch, sixteen miles east from Cottonwood station and about eleven miles from the Sacramento river. The ground immediately surrounding and adjacent to the mouth of the cavern is a plain, although not far off is a range of high hills. A stream filled with trout runs below the cave, which enters into Battle creek, the dividing line between Shasta and Tehama counties.

On the north of Shasta side, and in the center of the ranch, is a spot where the earth has, as it were, fallen in, or, as our informant expresses it, "a break down." This opening or aperture is about forty-five feet across and twenty feet in length. The sides are nearly perpendicular. A buck-eye tree shoots from the bottom of this hole to the surface. Down this declivity our informant let himself, by clinging to the branches of a tree. At the depth of twenty feet, by torchlight, two avenues are seen, the one entering from the north, the other from the south. The latter was the only one entered by Mr. Butler and companions. This underground corridor is in dimensions from twenty to twenty-five feet in width and six feet high. Immediately beyond, however, the explorers entered a grand chamber.

This was thoroughly inspected and found to be no less than three hundred feet by sixty in size, and of immense height. The rock seemed to be mainly of a reddish cast, but other colors were seen. Stalactites and stalagmites of huge size and of all the hues of the prism abound. Gnats are the only living tenants of this silent subterranean chapel. From this grand chamber, eight other rooms of various dimensions were explored. In one of them was found a pure spring of delicious water. Partially burned brands were discovered, showing that the Indians had probably tented the cavern many years ago. Mr. Butler has no doubt that very

many other recesses will soon be explored in this direction. As was remarked above, little has been done toward the exploration of the underground passages on the north side, from the base of the surface depression. But Professor Carr will soon be down in those mysterious depths searching with his torch for hidden treasures as assiduously as did ever Diogenes, lantern in hand, search for an honest man. And Col. E. J. Lewis, too, has already learned of the whereabouts of California's mammoth cave. And he is to go there soon, throwing down his California Codes for the nonce and getting into the ground before his work as a politician is finished.—*Ex.*

## United States Land Patents.

## U. S. LAND OFFICE.

Salt Lake City, Dec. 13, '73. The following patents issued on agricultural college scrip locations, have been received at this office, and are ready for delivery on surrender of the duplicate receipts:

No. 333 in favor of Nathaniel Hodges; 1160 Frederick Cooper; 332 George Weston; 336 Wm. Bartlett; 1159 Wm. Maughan; 330 Richard Johnson; 340 Joseph Robinson; 1157 Isaac Brockbank; 1114 Edmund Homer; 1179 Wm. Chatwin; 1325 Geo. W. Crocheron; 1323 Hans F. Hansen; 1308 John Wood; 1320 Amasa Potter; 1310 John H. Rich; 1124 Teaneum Taylor; 1120 Lars Ellason; 1305 Henry McGonigle; 1319 David Lant; 500 Wm. Havitt; 1102 Hans Peterson; 1105 John Hooper; 1111 Lewis W. Smith; 1116 Erick B. Erickson; 1112 Thos. Davidson; 1113 Evan M. Greene; 1118 Saml. Douglas; 1251 Jno H. Hodson; 1127 Wm. Huntsman; 1123 W. S. Read; 1126 Joseph Woodward; 1130 Thomas Moss; 1131 Absalom Yates; 1132 Geo. M. Peacock; 1135 Miles Miller; 1136 Thos. Carter; 1138 Wm. Andrews; 1137 John Brough; 1119 Henry Dinwoodey; 1140 Charles A. Terry; 1141 Jesse W. Perkins; 1142 Warren G. Child; 1144 Walter Granger; 1170 Francis Webster; 1169 Joseph Armstrong; 1168 George Perry; 1171 Moses M. Sanders; 1166 Wm. C. Mitchell; 1109 Nathaniel S. Beach; 1185 Hans K. Hansen; 1189 John Willis; 1108 John William; 1115 Wm. Carter; 1107 Azariah Tuttle; 1104 David Wilson; 1182 Robert C. Lund; 1187 James Dalley; 1186 Hans Hansen; 1183 Peter Sutton; 1177 George Bradshaw; 1304 Arvin M. Stoddard; 1188 Neils Peterson; 1190 Jens Anderson. M. J. ROCHE, Acting Register.

—Ogden Junction, Dec. 15.

## ARIZONA NOTES.

From the (Prescott) *Arizona Miner* of Dec. 2—

Gen. J. J. Dana, U. S. A., who, for a couple of years past, has filled the position of chief quartermaster of the military department of Arizona, his wife, son, and chief clerk, Mr. W. P. Baines, left headquarters to-day for Washington City.

We need a good rain or snow storm, now, after our five years of drought.

There isn't a prisoner in our county jail, and nobody seems to regret the emptiness of those nice furnished lodgings for vagabonds.

We know of one candidate for Congress, and shall soon have the "pleasure" of knowing many more. But it is a long time to election, and nobody need hurry. Just now, the want of proper mail facilities irritates our people, and they will go for any man who serves them well, or who shall give good bonds to do so, in this matter.

Artesian wells have afforded the means of reclaiming many a useless California waste, and they will yet cause more than one half of Arizona "to blossom as the rose." Will Congress, at its present session, pass the right kind of an act to encourage people to try for artesian water.

By spring the Apaches, with the exception of Cachise's Indians, will be much less troublesome. His policy is to keep stirring up and skimming off. In this way he is getting rid of the worst Indians. The young warriors, who are now obtaining power, hold enlightened views, much opposed to the old chiefs. The old chiefs, such as Delche and others, are continually endeavoring to kick up a fuss, and in consequence, will cause their own destruction. For the present, there is no danger of Cachise's Indians breaking out, as they are bet-

ter provided for than they ever were before, and they are improving the opportunity and laying up arms and ammunition. They have prospered so well since the treaty made with Howard, that they now have more than enough of animals to mount every man, woman and child on the reservation, besides having traded a great many off. At the time of the treaty, there was not over 500 altogether on the reservation. These animals they have acquired by raiding into Sonora. It is only a matter of time when Cachise and his followers will give trouble, as it is characteristic of the Indian to become proud and saucy when he is well fed and clothed, imagining that the white man is afraid of him. Cachise's Indians have been raiding into Sonora, murdering and killing the inhabitants, which is a disgrace to our government and should be stopped. The above are given as General Crook's opinions.

From the Tucson *Citizen* of Nov. 22—

M. B. Duffield has quartz claims fifteen miles west of Tucson, which he has been experimenting on for several years. Some ores recently worked by him on a small scale gave astonishingly rich returns in silver.

Last year's receipts of Tucson Village government were \$200 less than expenses. The council has ordered that no more village prisoners be confined in the county jail at the expense of the village.

## WESTERN NOTES.

California pays \$1,000,000 a year to Scotland for wheat bags.

The price of wheat in Walla, Walla is forty cents per bushel.

The stock men of Monterey county, California, lost heavily by the late storm.

Pickpockets and umbrella thieves are the cause of a great deal of profanity now in San Francisco.

A colony of twenty-five Italian farmers, fresh from Italy, will arrive shortly to cultivate a part of Grand Island, Cal.

Of the \$20,000 paid out last week by the railroad company near Los Angeles for labor, the Mongolians got less than \$1,000.

An impecunious San Franciscan recently "spouted" his artificial teeth, on which "mine uncle" advanced a dollar and a half.

James A. Herne, Alice Vane and Fay Templeton are playing at Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, Nev.

Redwood trees planted in Santa Cruz, Cal., fifteen years ago, have attained eighty feet in height and nearly three feet in diameter at the base.

John Flynn fell down stairs and was found dead at San Francisco lately. He was accustomed to the earnest and frequent use of ardent spirits.

Petaluma is out of debt and has \$2,000 in the treasury over and above the estimated cost of street work under contract and contemplated.

In San Jose, the Moot Court meets every Thursday evening. A whole brood of young lawyers will be turned loose upon an unoffending community before long.

The Columbia river was filled with floating ice, according to the latest reports. This is the earliest closing of the Columbia for twelve years.

The ship *Esdale* has cleared at Astoria for England, with 59,000 bushels of wheat, the largest cargo ever cleared from the Columbia river.

A company has been formed in Oakland, Cal., for the purpose of extending the facilities of the silk-ribbon factory now in operation at that place.

The Oakland, Cal., *News* says: "It is estimated by one who should know, that there will be from 500 to 1,000 new houses erected in and about this city next season."

At Carson, Dec. 8, Mrs. Sally Cline, a native of Scotland, aged sixty-three years, was found dead in her house. The coroner's jury found that the cause of her death was intemperance and exposure.

At Marysville, California, on the night of December 6, William Ritchie broke into St. John's Church and drank a gallon of communion

wine. William has been trying to get sober ever since, and expresses his willingness to die.

An Albany (Oregon) boy exploded an old gun barrel filled with powder, pieces of iron, etc., the other day, by heating it in the parlor stove. The members of the family were picked up, and the doctor thinks they may live.

Two young men have been victimizing the various San Francisco hotels by representing themselves as officers of the United States navy. They succeeded pretty well until they tried the Occidental, where Mr. McShane, the manager of that house, levied on their luggage to pay their bill.

John Mulcahy was killed at about half past 8 o'clock yesterday morning by accidentally falling down the shaft of the Hale & Norcross mine. The man fell 1400 feet, the car falling on top of him and mashing him in a most frightful manner.—*Gold Hill News*, Dec. 8.

The surveyors who left last June to survey the boundary line between Idaho and Washington Territories, returned last month to Walla Walla. They had suffered greatly, and were compelled to abandon their work when within three miles of completion.

A collision occurred Dec. 4, in Sacramento, at the Central Pacific Railroad depot, between a locomotive backing down the track and ex-Chief of Police Burke, who was standing near the edge of the platform. For once Burke had to take a back seat, and was willing enough to get off with that.

William Carlyle, of Bodega, Cal., manufactures wooden water pipe by boring sections of redwood, from twelve to sixteen feet long, with a self-cleaning augur of his own invention, capable of turning out from six to seven hundred feet a day when run by horse-power. Diameter of bore, from one and a half to three inches.

About a month ago a lady in Woodland, Cal., missed a hundred dollar gold note, which she placed in an envelope for the purpose of sending away. One day last week she went to the post-office to mail a letter, and found one awaiting her. She took it, and breaking the seal, she discovered the lost bank note. The person who stole the money evidently had a conscience.

William Berry Durgan, a summoned witness in a contested election case, committed suicide in the El Dorado County Jail, Dec. 3. Durgan was held in prison at his own request as a matter of self-protection, and suicided a few hours after being admitted, in view of the jailor and a doctor, who were unable to interfere in time to save his life.

An intoxicated man, while standing on the corner of Clay and Kearny streets, San Francisco, Dec. 6, drank from a bottle of oil of vitriol. Having had some acquaintance with Barbary Coast whiskey he did not at first discover his mistake, but some friends noticed it, and having had antidotes administered to him in a drug store took him home in a hack.

Last Spring we received from Eugene Casserly a small amount of jute seed, which we distributed among such of our farmers as were willing to test the cultivation of this valuable fiber-bearing plant. The seed was probably not very fresh, as but very few plants came up. But those that did come up are doing finely, are thrifty, and have attained an average height of eighty feet. The experiment was sufficiently satisfactory to assure us that, if good seed can be obtained, the plant can be grown in this valley. It is one of the easiest to cultivate and gather of the fiber-bearing plants, and the high price and great demand for the fabrics manufactured from it are sufficient guarantee that it is a profitable crop to cultivate.—*Fresno, Cal., Expositor*.

A gentleman, in search of a man to do some work, met on his way a lady not as young as she once was, and asked her "Can you tell me where I can find a man?" "No, I cannot," she replied, "for I have been looking for one these twenty years myself."

The name of Roger Tichborne will be handed down to posterity by other means than by the fame of the great trial which is now going on. The returns from the local registrars in England show that nearly 100 children have, by their parents, been named Roger Tichborne.