

OTHELLO OF EMPIRE.

Anglo-Indian Marriages and the Fate of the Wives.

A strong feeling is growing among the Anglo-Indians and others having intimate acquaintance with the British Indian Empire that the time has now arrived when the law should step in and absolutely prohibit marriages being contracted between English women and the native races of India.

That such marriages almost invariably and disastrously for the English girl is only too well known by those who have witnessed such matrimonial tragedies; but it is alleged that the tendency to increase, is slowly but surely helping toward a grave political crisis. Students of Indian politics declare that these marriages are breaking down the old tradition by which India has been held all these years, viz. the superiority of the governing race.

There have recently been many cases of marriages contracted by Indian law students with English girls, while studying in this country, which have ended in the usual way—by the Hindu or Mohammedan returning to India when his studies are completed, leaving his English wife stranded in this country without any means of subsistence and also without any means of enforcing her husband to maintain her.

A well known barrister in the Temple, who has spent many years in India, and has had a number of cases before him in connection with these mixed marriages, declares that it is impossible for one of them to turn out happily.

"What usually occurs," he says, "is that the girl is deserted when her husband returns home. She cannot obtain a divorce in England on account of her husband's domicile being in India. Neither can she get the Indian courts to release her, because she comes under the Mohammedan law, which does not recognize divorce, but does recognize polygamy, so far as governs the rights and obligations of the marriages.

"If she is not deserted and returns with her husband to India she may possibly remain the only wife of her husband or she may be one among others, for polygamy is legal and is practiced. But if she remains her husband's sole wife her position is impossible, for English people will never associate with or even speak to her. It being a recognized social necessity that they should not do so, and she cannot possibly live under the conditions of, and with, Indian wives. Her position is therefore one of complete loneliness and isolation.

"The students who contract marriages with white women and desert them are usually men of no standing in India, although they often pose in this country as princes or the sons of wealthy men, and when they return home they tell of the 'cheerfulness' of English girls, who in India are not even introduced to the natives, how ever exalted their position. These marriages are doing an incalculable amount of harm politically, apart from the sorrow they bring upon girls who are foolish enough to ally themselves with men of a black race."

The mixed marriage question is also becoming a serious one in the East End of London. In the neighborhood of the docks, where aliens mostly settle, immigrants from all parts of the world intermarry, and there are innumerable cases of English women having Chinese, Japanese, Lascar and African husbands—London Daily Mail.

The Female Form.

A famous German scientist who has made a life study of the beauty of women of all nations considers that he found the most perfect and harmonious development of form among the Japanese. His ideal proportions differ slightly from the standards of beauty left us by the Greeks, and he gives the following as his "normal proportions" of the perfect figure from averaging the measurements of many:

"The height should be seven and a half times the length of the head, ten times the length of the face, and the legs four times the length of the head. The shoulders should be two heads wide, and when standing erect perfectly developed legs should touch at the knees, the calves and the ankles."

Here, however, are some other measurements which artists generally recognize as a standard for beauty: The stretch of the thumb and middle finger should just measure the length of the face; the thumbs and second fingers should exactly circle the neck, while the thumbs and middle fingers should exactly circle the level with the shoulders; the perfect woman should measure exactly her height from the tip of one middle finger to the other, while the arm hanging down should reach exactly half way down the side.

Business as Usual.

Lady Curzon made a point of collecting any amusing attempts made by Hindus to write English that came under her notice and had many curious specimens in her scrap book. Once she got from Bombay a letter that two brothers sent out to their patrons on the death of their father, who had been the head of the firm. It ran:

"Gentlemen: We have the pleasure to inform you that our respected father departed this life on the 10th inst. His business will be conducted by his beloved sons, whose names are given below. The opium market is quiet and Mal 1,500 rupees per chest. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? We remain, etc."

THE MYSTERY OF MUSIC.

Scientific Explanation of Melody's Effects a Possibility.

The marvelous effects that are sometimes produced by music may, states a prominent scientist, eventually receive a scientific explanation. In a recent report Professor Kendrick said that, while the intricate connection of the auditory nerve is only just being unraveled, it is probable that the roots of these nerves are more widely distributed and have more extensive connections than those of any other nerves in the human body.

Researches on the auditory nerves indicate that there is scarcely a function of the body that may not be affected by the pulsations and harmonic combinations of musical tones.

Prevalence of Suicide.

The Civita Catholica draws a distressing and melancholy picture of the suicide epidemic in Europe. The author attributes this to the loss of faith. The figures are calculated to establish that in the Protestant countries suicides are more numerous than in the others. While in Spain and Ireland a decrease is noticed, Denmark and Prussia show an increase. Within the last thirty years not less than 1,000,000 suicides have been committed in Europe, and in this total Germany alone figures with 300,000.

Thoroughbreds of To-Day.

The thoroughbred, thanks to our incessant overracing and abuse of its representatives under the shallow pretense of "improving the breed of horses," has become a cripple, often at birth, nearly always at two years of age; a nervous rattlepate, slight of physique and erratic of manners. As a progenitor of harness horses he is so propitious that he controls both action and conformation; as a saddle horse or hunter he is too light, too unsound, and too crack-brained.—Country Life in America.

Resembles Napoleon.

E. H. Harriman, the railroad manager and financial power, is said to be the closest parallel to Napoleon Bonaparte that lives before the public eye to-day. In stature he is small. He is slight and does not look strong. He generally wears loose-fitting clothes and carries his hands in his coat pockets. He is very quick of movement, also of mind, restless, full of energy, critical of detail, exacting, autocratic. He is, like James J. Hill, moody and not a particularly pleasant neighbor when the mood is that way.

Penalty of Disobedience.

A correspondent writing from Peking says that the Empress Dowager, learning that her imperial edict issued several years ago calling upon Chinese fathers and mothers to stop the custom of binding their daughters' feet was not being obeyed as universally as a special imperial edict ought to be, evinced considerable ire at the news, with the result that several grand councillors, who were present at the time, underwent a disagreeable quarter of an hour at her majesty's hands.

Tree Supplying Water.

A species of tree is found growing on an island off the coast of Africa, the condensing power of the leaves of which furnishes the sole water supply of the island. In the forests of Washington State and British Columbia trees have also been observed which drip copiously through the night, and until 10 or 11 o'clock the following morning, when the flow gradually ceases, only to begin again at or near sunset.

Preferred Women Cooks.

Some of the most famous diners, of whom the late Sir Henry Thompson was not the least, have held that a first-rate woman cook is the superior of any "chef" that ever drew his thousands a year. Half the nonsense that is talked about "chefs" and half the money that is paid them flow from the determination of plutocratic persons to get rid of large sums in a manner that is pretty sure to be talked about.

Concentrates Sun's Rays.

There is an apparatus which concentrates the rays of the sun from more than 6,000 small mirrors on a spot about seven inches in diameter. The heat generated is about 7,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Iron can be melted in less than a minute and fire clay fused in about three minutes by this machine. Magnesia, one of the hardest things to melt, requiring a heat of about 6,400 degrees Fahrenheit, can be melted in twenty minutes.

Laying the Blame.

An English physician points out that doctors are sometimes blamed for the death of patients under chloroform, when the catastrophe is due entirely to the parents or friends, who ignore the strict orders not to give any food before the operation, and by administering milk, eggs, an orange, or chocolate, "to fortify him for the operation," bring on fatal complications.

An Ingenious Beacon.

An ingenious beacon is located at Arnish rock, Stornoway bay, in the Hebrides, Scotland. It is a cone of cast iron plates, surmounted by an arrangement of prisms and a mirror which reflect the light from a lighthouse on Lewis island, 500 feet distant across the channel.

TOO CONSCIENTIOUS MEN.

People Who Have Refused to Accept Fortune Left to Them.

It is safe to assume, notwithstanding the fact that human nature is probably less black than generally painted, that the world contains very few men who would refuse the bequest of a fortune for conscience sake—fewer by far than men who have turned away from wealth in order to espouse women of their own choice.

Herr J. Brengwin, a young German bank clerk, is one of the few who have set conscience before cash in this manner, says the London Tit-Bits. For some years Herr Brengwin has been employed at a modest salary in a branch bank in Berlin, and recently he became entitled to a fortune of very nearly £100,000 under the will of an uncle of whom he had scarcely ever heard, and who had made him his sole heir.

Naturally enough, the young man was delighted with his unexpected stroke of good luck and, resigning his clerkship, he repaired to Vienna, where his uncle had lived and died, to take over the estate, the bulk of which was personal property. Becoming aware that his uncle had amassed his fortune by usury and that his name had become a byword in Austria, the conscientious heir absolutely refused to accept a penny of the estate, resolutely returning to Berlin and getting himself reinstated on his old stool at the bank.

What was perhaps the largest fortune ever refused for conscience sake was that from which Frederick N. Charrington, the famous temperance advocate and religious worker in the East End of London, turned aside. Mr. Charrington was entitled to a share in his father's great brewery business—one of the largest in London; and it is estimated that the share he refused was worth £1,250,000 when he made up his mind that he would not accept it.

The story is told of how he was led to make this momentous resolve. He chanced to be standing outside a public house in the East End when he saw a drunken man shot through the doors into the arms of a wretched looking woman, who was patiently awaiting him. The drunkard struck the woman and heaped the vilest abuse on her without any apparent provocation; and as they slouched away Mr. Charrington, chancing to glance up, he saw his own name in large gilt letters on the public house sign. It was one of the brewery's tied houses.

Such was the impression left by the incident upon Mr. Charrington's mind that he vowed thenceforth to have no share in the trade which was productive of such results, but instead to devote himself to the cause of temperance and rescuing the outcasts of East London, a work he has at the utmost self-sacrifice pursued ever since.

"How much do they pay you for wearing that bit of blue ribbon?" eagerly inquired an impertinent young man of Mr. Charrington on one occasion.

"As nearly as I can make out," answered Mr. Charrington, with a bland smile. "It costs me £20,000 a year." Some eight or nine years ago a well known West End physician died, leaving a fortune of rather more than £40,000. The whole of this amount was bequeathed to a nephew with contingent remainder to certain charities should the beneficiary refuse the bequest, the object of the testator being to deprive a daughter, who had married contrary to his wishes, of the estate.

The nephew, however, although the fortune must have been a sore temptation to him, objected to being made an instrument of his uncle's posthumous spite, and announced his intention of refusing the fortune directly he was made aware of the terms of the will. Upon being pointed out to him that his refusal would only create the contingency provided for and not benefit him or his cousin, he formally accepted the fortune and then transferred it by deed of gift to the young lady who had been so unfairly dealt with by her father.

Unhappily, her husband more than justified the deceased physician's prejudice against him, and promptly gave up his practice and began to dissipate the fortune. He died, however, before he had made away with half the estate; and in due course his widow married the cousin who had so conscientiously refused the fortune for her sake.

The "Doyley."

Some words have very interesting life histories, and the quaint derivation of the word doyley is as interesting as any. For it we have to go as far back as the time of William the Conqueror. Among his followers from Normandy was a certain Robert D'Oyley, who received valuable lands upon a curious condition. Every year on the feast of St. Michael and All Angels, he was to make tender of a linen tablecloth worth three English shillings. As they were for royal use, the ladies of the D'Oyley family took great pride in making these "quaint cloths," as they were called, beautiful with the known methods of stitching. They were used only on state occasions in the royal household, and in time the term "D'Oyley linen" was applied them. Gradually it has filtered down to use as "D'Oyley," more often "doyley," and its peculiar significance remains, however, a napkin or linen cloth made beautiful by needlework.

There is good everywhere, and the reason men do not find it is due to the fact that they do not look for it.

HEAT OF HUMAN BLOOD.

A French Physician's View as to Disease Resulting Therefrom.

A French physician has been taking notes on the temperature in high halls in the early morning, when the doctor was walking in the Bois de Boulogne, while the shade temperature was 77 degrees, the instrument inside the hat registered 88. At noon, when the outer air was at 80 degrees, the temperature inside the hat was 102. In the evening, with a cool breeze at 83 degrees blowing, the top-hat temperature was 88. The doctor read a paper before the Academy showing that this unnatural heating of the head causes many nervous diseases and affections of the brain.

Foretold His Death.

Bismarck's anticipation of the date of his own death is not generally known. About nineteen years ago, during a debate in one of the great military schemes, he refused to interfere with the Septennate bill on the ground that he expected to live another three years, but to die within seven. In other words, he calculated on living till 1890 and on dying before 1894. As a matter of fact, his prediction was not far wrong, for, though he actually lived until 1897, he was politically dead as soon as he went into retirement at Fried-erichshuh.

China's Coal Mines.

Hongay, Tonkin, China, has the safest coal mine in the world. The working is on the side of a hill, which is one solid block of coal about 199 feet high. To get at the mineral it is necessary only to remove a layer of schist on the surface. The coal, which is of good quality, is mined to the extent of about 1,000 tons a day. There is a good deal of dust, which is used for making briquettes. The staff of the mine is composed of fifty Europeans and 2,500 natives.

What a Photograph Told.

A woman with an exceptionally clear complexion recently sat for her photograph. On receiving the proof she took it back to the artist and complained of a number of small spots on the face which marred an otherwise perfect picture. The photographer was at a loss to account for this, an examination of the negative failing to give the slightest clue to the source of trouble. A fortnight later an eruption of spots broke out on the woman's face, which proved to be the first outward symptoms of a very severe attack of smallpox.

Pheasants in Minnesota.

Present indications are that in a few years Minnesota will contain a good stock of Chinese pheasants as a result of the introduction of that game bird of beautiful plumage by the State Game and Fish Commission. The commission has 312 young birds ready for distribution in small quantities, to points in the State where they can be guaranteed protection from hunters for ten years, which the law allows them.

Living in South Africa.

Prices are high in South Africa and bills for laundry are frequently exorbitant. Persian, Kafir and Cape women do the work after a fashion. "One usually pays \$1.50 per month a head," says a woman correspondent, "and the woman who washes for you takes everything for that, but is apt to vanish for a month on end with your clothes!"

Powerful Searchlight.

The searchlight on board the British battleship Dreadnought is of a new type, being double-ended, so as to throw powerful beams of light in exactly opposite directions to facilitate—semaphore—signaling. Each light is of nearly 50,000 candle power, and placed on top of the tripod mast, will be visible twenty miles.

Effect of Alcohol.

A Berlin periodical, the Literarisches Eco, has collected and printed the opinions of over 100 authors on the effect of alcoholic drinks on brain work. A large majority of them pronounce it to be injurious, and advocate moderation or abstinence in the use of alcohol.

A Dying Necklace.

The famous "Mme. Theirs" pearl necklace, part of the legacy left to the French republic by President Theirs, is said to be dying. It is a well known fact that pearls turn black and die unless worn frequently next to the skin. The necklace is in the Government museum and is valued at nearly \$60,000.

His Varied Career.

Vere Goldthwait, one of the most interesting personalities of the Boston bar, has had a romantic career. He is the son of a well known Boston physician and for a number of years travelled with a wild West show. For a time he was one of the known cowboys of Colorado. He attracted considerable attention recently by publishing a book on Ingersoll.

Made a Poor Showing.

The Tokio papers are extremely sore at the poor result shown by the Chinese students who have studied in Japan at the civil service examination held in Peking. It is stated that the students who received their education in England and America succeeded remarkably well in the examination.

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