

From Altar to Prison Cell

HONEYMOONS THAT HAD UNUSUAL ENDINGS.

Amazing as are the honeymoon dramas of fiction, they are not more so than those that occur in real life. Comedy and tragedy, bliss and misery, joy and despair are often strangely intermingled during the period when happiness should reign supreme.

A certain man obtained a divorce from his wife, and proposed to marry again on the day when the decree nisi was made absolute. This is done six months after the decree nisi is granted, and is a formality, unless the King's Proctor intervenes. The judge sits, as a rule, in the morning, with a number of decrees before him, and runs rapidly through the lot, ten minutes or so sufficing to clear the list.

The man was advised to wait a little longer, it only a day; but he married again at one o'clock on the day fixed for pronouncing the decree absolute, and he and his wife departed at once on their honeymoon.

A Woman's Revenge.

About an hour later a clerk employed by his solicitors, chancing to go into court, found the registrar reading out the list, which somehow had not been taken at the morning sitting. When the registrar came to the newly married man's case, a barrister rose, and stated that he intervened on behalf of the King's Proctor. Thus the couple who had gone through the ceremony of marriage at one o'clock, had committed bigamy!

They received the news on the next day but one, when they returned to London in great alarm. Fortunately for them, however, all went well. The intervention had been obtained on affidavit made, from motives of revenge, by the divorced wife, and when the King's Proctor found that there was no foundation for her charges, he withdrew. The decree was consequently made absolute.

The end to another honeymoon was more tragic. An occasional customer of a well known hotel in the Midlands ultimately married the manageress, and they went to the Continent. After visiting the principal cities, they journeyed to Nice for the Battle of Flowers, which they watched from a balcony. While they were looking at the merry-makers below, two men who were passing the house stopped in front of it. One of them pointed to the husband, who immediately rose in great excitement, took a step forward, and toppled over the balcony, killing himself instantly.

It was a strange fatality—one much stranger than the widow ever knew. Nearly three years previously a certain insurance company had paid 7,500 pounds in the belief that the husband was dead. The man who pointed to him on the balcony was the manager of that company, who was amazed to see him still alive, and doubtless it was the shock of seeing and recognizing the manager that had caused the swiftness of his fall.

One of the most remarkable of honeymoon dramas is well known to the police of a certain city. A couple, after getting married in a neighbouring town, came to the city for their honeymoon. Next day the man went out to purchase something for his wife, leaving her in their hotel.

As he was returning, an old school-fellow dived out of an entry just in front of him. The recognition was mutual. In an agitated voice his former chum suggested that they should change hats and coats, stating that the police were after him.

This was done, and, as a result, the honeymooner was arrested, and subsequently sentenced to three years' imprisonment for a crime that he had not committed. While he was incarcerated he made no statement to the officials, though his wife somehow knew all the circumstances, and on his discharge he rejoined her. Then they went back to the city to finish their honeymoon!

4,000 Pounds for a 'Cello

The story of the famous Stradivarius violin-cello, made in 1720, on which Piatelli, the celebrated cellist, used to play, is told by Olga Raester in "Ghosts on Big and Little Fiddles." The cello, after Piatelli died, was sold to the late Robert Mendelssohn, a Berlin banker, and the nephew of the composer, for 4,000—the largest sum ever paid for a cello.

Piatelli first saw the instrument in Dublin in 1844, but it was not until twenty-three years later that he became its owner. He was at a friend's house—Col. Oliver, who had paid £350 for the cello—one day comparing the Stradivarius and two other instruments, the colonel asked him which of the three he preferred. "The Stradivarius," replied Piatelli without hesitation.

The colonel told him to take it home, but Piatelli refused, and left the house hurriedly in case his great longing for the cello might cause him to retract his refusal. The instrument was sent to his house after him, and he kept it until his death.

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LITTLE STICKY FINGERS.

Little sticky fingers, little sticky thumbs.
Little lips of sweetness smeared with cookie crumbs.
Now my collar's ruined, now my shirt's a wreck.
All because I let you put those arms about my neck!

Here's a smear of something on my Sunday vest.
Here's a necktie tangled, stained and sadly messed;
Little sticky fingers, I'm a sight to see.
All because I let you climb upon my knee.

I've chocolate in my eyebrows, I've syrup in my hair.
And there are little finger prints on everything I wear;
And here upon my trousers you dropped your bread and jam;
Oh, little sticky fingers, it's a sorry sight I am!

And all the world can see them and all the world can note
Your thumb prints on my collar and the stains upon my coat;
But little sticky fingers, if the world could only see,
"Wouldn't four thumb marks plainly on the dotting heart of me."

Do You Wear Jade?

Of all the semi-precious stones that Western women have borrowed from the East as a means of self-adornment, jade is the most interesting because its price, though it is so inexpensive, seems trifling when compared with that of pearls, for instance, we find that even the confirmed jade wearer does not give up her green-blue ornaments the respect they deserve.

A Chinese poet described jade as the "concentrated essence of law" and this idea is carried farther in the gift of a jade butterfly that the Chinese bridegroom gives to his bride as a symbol of the success and happiness of their married life to come. So highly prized is the rich-toned green or "kingfisher" jade in China that it is called Imperial jade, and this stone is often chosen for the main part of the mandarins' necklaces, of which we sometimes see lovely colourful examples in private art collections in this country.

Amulets of jade were placed in the tombs of the dead in the Orient to ward off evil spirits, so fortunate is the influence of this stone supposed to be. It is interesting to reflect, when you slip on your jade intaglio engagement ring or jade necklace, that the same stone probably made the first jewellery ever worn by primitive women. It also fashioned the rude hatchets and other implements of war and domesticity used many thousands of years ago.

The ensemble for sports wear might be of homespun trimmed with muskrat.

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