

pursue the future wife. She is very careful not to out-distance her lover for fear of discouraging him, and when she has led him quite a chase, permits herself to be overtaken and captured. I wonder if she blushed and exclaimed on hearing the proposal, "Oh it is so sudden!" In modern times, owing no doubt to the fact that the young ladies are less expert horsewomen, the horse has been abandoned, but yet the chase goes merrily on.

The ceremonial of capture was kept up for a long time in the plebeian marriages at Rome. The friends and parents of the bride pretended resistance and the comedy of carrying off the bride was played. Among the aristocracy, the ceremonial of capture was much simplified. If possible, a javelin which had pierced a gladiator's body, was procured and with this the hair of the bride was separated. Upon reaching the house of the bridegroom she was lifted over the threshold. This custom is practised in China to this day and we can hardly help recognizing in it the symbolic embodiment of capture.

Among savage peoples the general rule was, that a certain sum should be paid to the parents of the bride. This no doubt greatly increased the temptation to capture the bride, as thereby the bridegroom was a richer man. However these captures were effected with some risk, so that we find them being superseded by a more pacific regime.

3. In a primitive state of civilization where the individuals subsisted by the fruits of hunting and fishing, the bridegroom was required to render a certain amount of labor or service to the parents. Hence we have the form of marriage by servitude.

This mode of marriage was not uncommon among the North American Indians and the tribes of Central America. It certainly had its advantages over the forms previously considered. It lessened the subjection, always hard and sometimes cruel, to which woman is liable in nearly all savage or barbarous societies. The bridegroom became more or less of a slave while in the employ of the parents and a certain amount of independence was thus gained by the bride. In one of the tribes of Central America the prospective son-in-law was required for the space of one year to make daily visits to the house of his betrothed to cook the food, carry the water, or heat the bath-chamber.[4] If necessary several such instances could be quoted to prove this important step. These would have been balmy days indeed