

marriage is clandestine, the husband may be imprisoned for five years or fined.

Nearly all the States have rigorous laws to prevent miscegenation; some forbid such marriages to the third generation, others forbid marriage between a white person and an Indian, negro, mulatto, mestizo or half breed. But here comes in the query, what is a negro? In Virginia the Courts have held that if a man has one-fourth negro blood he is a negro, if one drop less than a fourth he is a white man: while in North Carolina a person with one-sixteenth of negro blood in his veins is a negro. Still other States use vulgar fractions to define their meanings and void marriages between a white person and another having one-eighth, or more, of negro, or Mongolian blood; surely to discover these miscolored blood-corpuscles one must be a Sir Hudibras, who,

by geometric scale,  
Could take the size of pots of ale:  
Resolve by lines and tangents, straight,  
If bread or butter wanted weight.

Chinese and Mongolians are in Mississippi and Arizona tabooed almost as strongly as negroes for wedded mates of whites.

In Virginia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and West Virginia approaching nuptials cannot be kept quiet even if the woman holds her tongue, because the licence must be obtained in the county in which she lives; while in Kentucky unless she is of full age or has been led to the altar before, the licence can only be obtained on her personal or written application. How trying this must be to the innate modesty of the sex.

In New York until the nineteenth century had vanished the State steadily maintained the validity of marriage entered into by simple agreement without any formal celebration. For instance it was enough for a man to put a ring on a girl's finger, saying "this is your wedding ring, we are married, I will live with you and take care of you all my life, as my wife," when the parties went and lived together.

But an end seems to have been put to these common law marriages. By the Act of April 11, 1901, ministers of religion, mayors, aldermen, judges or justices of the peace must solemnize marriage (although Quakers and Indians may still marry as was their wont), and any parties if they prefer may marry by a written contract of marriage signed by both and at least two witnesses, stating the places of residence of the parties and the witnesses, and the date and place of marriage, and acknowl-