

to hear his pathetic words of farewell. In recognition of his eminent services he was created a baronet. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by Mr. Herbert Stephen, who was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1881, and is clerk of assize on the Northern Circuit.—*Law Journal (London)*.

MARRIAGE FOR A LIMITED TIME.

An interesting, yet extremely ridiculous, question has found its way into the California Courts. The problem to be solved in all seriousness by the Courts is this: 'Is a marriage on the European plan valid?' In other words, is a contract of marriage stipulated to expire at the end of six months or a year a valid document? If the document be valid, is the limitation good? Does the limitation invalidate the contract? Can the relations of the contracting parties be legally set aside at the end of the prescribed time? Would a child born after the limit has expired, and were the contract not renewed, be a legitimate child? It seems impossible that in this day such a question should be seriously raised; but, as a matter of fact, there has developed among the California lawyers some difference of opinion on the subject.

Six months ago Edward M. Elkus and Lillie Mabney, of San Francisco, entered into a contract 'to be married for a period of six months.' A few days ago they again repaired to a notary's office, and caused a second contract to be drawn up for another six months. The young couple maintained that they have the advice of good lawyers that the contract is good. The situation is such a novel one that several reputable lawyers have persuaded the young couple to permit the question to be submitted to a court of adjudication. Just how to get this before the court is the question. It can hardly be accomplished by divorce proceedings, neither could it be accomplished by criminal process. Lawyers, however, declare that they will find a way of bringing the matter to judicial notice, in order that the ridiculous proposition may be settled at once.

Some of the best lawyers in the State have taken an interest in the matter. Many prominent citizens declare that it is against public policy for such a question to be dignified by a doubt for any length of time. On the other hand, there are a few lawyers who consent to maintain the strict legality of the terms of the limited contract.