

The cow-seals arrive in about two weeks after their lords have taken possession of the grounds and selected the places for their harems, and a "universal, spasmodic, desperate fighting" takes place among the bulls. As the females come up, they are met by the "bachelors," whose duty it is to escort them to the beach and drive them up on the rocks as fast as they make their appearance. Some of them seem to be looking for some particular male, and will climb upon the rocks and call out and listen. As soon as the female has got upon the sand, the nearest male addresses her with a noise like the clucking of a hen, bows to her and coaxes her, until he gets between her and the water, when his manner changes and he begins to drive her up with angry growls. He is not yet sure of her, however, for the seals in the next line above him are on the watch to steal the most desirable prizes that their more fortunately situated fellows have captured. They take them in their mouths as cats do their kittens. Sometimes two seals contend for the same female at once, and in this case she gets terribly lacerated and sometimes torn in two. When the distribution of females has been finished, the arrangement is permanent. Each bull-seal keeps the mastery over his twelve or fifteen wives if he is in one of the front rows, five to nine if he is in a back row, and allows no intrusion on his domain. One old bull is mentioned by Mr. Elliott that had forty females under his charge.

The pups are born a few hours after the mothers have landed; each mother brings forth one, seldom twins. The mothers show but little fondness for their young, but can distinguish their cries among the thousands, and each will suckle no other than her own. The pups begin to take to the water when they are about a month old, clumsily at first, but soon becoming accustomed to the element.

The rookery at the Pribylov Islands is broken up during the last days of July and the first week in August. The young have then become able to take care of themselves, and are abandoned by their mothers, who give themselves up to lounging on the waves. The "married seals," who have been constantly at their posts and restlessly active for three months without taking food or water, go down to the sea to feed and wash. Notwithstanding their long fast and hard work, they are not emaciated, but come out in good condition, having sustained life all the time by absorption of the thick stores of fat hidden under their skins. The mothers continue to idle, and the pups and "bachelors" to sport and frolic, till the storms of autumn begin to come on, when they all depart for warmer latitudes, after which they give no account of themselves till the next spring.—*W. H. Larrabee, in the Popular Science Monthly.*

THE MARRIAGE PROBLEM.

The greatest and deepest of all human controversies is the marriage controversy. It appears to be surging up on all sides around us; and every book which helps definitely to map out its lines has on that account both interest and value. It is in America that, from whatever cause, this controversy has reached a stage of development more advanced than elsewhere. Moreover, the present social life of America offers at all points a profoundly important field of observation, toward which European eyes have hardly yet begun to be turned. This social life, if it does not already embrace the largest province of the entire social life of civilized man, will shortly embrace not the largest only, but the largest beyond all comparison, and will form, in constantly growing proportions, a testing element in the general condition of Christendom, and even of humanity at large. The present social life of America may be said to be a new formation, and to have begun at a date which would warrant our applying to it the apter title of *Wav'ry*, "*'Tis Sixty Years Since*." Mrs. Stowe must have drawn upon the experience of her early days in her admirable New England novels, such as "*The Minister's Wooing*;" but the Puritan life which she describes appears to have vanished, at least from the wealthier circles of American society. The true meaning of a discussion which calls into question the ancient and specially Christian constitution of the family is that it is a vast upthrow in the world of thought and fact which, if consummated, will change in time the whole moral surface of the earth, and shift, in a revolutionary sense, the polarity of life.

The chief spur thrown out laterally from this great upthrow is in America. Many a reader on this side the water will be startled when he learns that in the old State of Connecticut one marriage is dissolved in every ten, and in the new State of California one in every seven. He may learn with equal surprise that in South Carolina there is (as I am informed) no legal divorce whatever. I mean, of course, divorce which leads the way to re-marriage. Again, it is necessary to bear in mind that the divorce as well as the marriages of any one State are acknowledged in the courts of every other. I understand that the experience of America as well as of this country tends to show that divorce is highly associated with that portion of communities which is lacking in solid and stable conditions of life generally. America may suffer specially from the shifting of relative position and circumstances incidental to a forward movement in things material of an unexampled rapidity; and it may also be true that a State like Connecticut has to answer for many offenses not her own, though she cannot be exempted from full responsibility for the laws she has chosen to enact. We must beware of all sweeping and premature conclusions. But it seems indisputable that America is in the arena on which many of the problems connected with the marriage state are in course of being rapidly, painfully, and preciously tried out. In so far she is intrusted, like a *prærogative tribus*, with the destinies of others, and may do much by her example to make or mar them.—*Mr. W. E. Gladstone, in the "Nineteenth Century."*

HOW LORD CLIVE WON HIS WIFE.

About the middle of the last century a young cadet named Maskoleyne went to India, where he became acquainted with Lord Clive. The acquaintance ripened into intimate friendship and led to constant association. There hung up in Maskoleyne's room a miniature which attracted Clive's frequent attention. One day after the English mail had arrived Clive asked Maskoleyne if he had received any English letters, adding: "We have been very much misunderstood at home and much conspired in English circles." Maskoleyne replied that he had, and read to his friend a letter he then held in his hand.

A day or two afterward Clive came back to ask to have the letter read to him again. "Who is the writer?" inquired Clive. "My sister," was the reply; "my sister, whose miniature hangs there." "Is it a faithful representation?" further asked Clive. "It is," replied Maskoleyne, "of her face and form, but it is unequal to represent the excellence of her mind and character." "Well, Maskoleyne," said Clive, taking him by the hand, "you know me well, and can speak of me as I really am. Do you think that girl would be induced to come to India and marry me? In the present state of affairs I dare not hope to be able to go to England." Maskoleyne wrote home, and so recommended Clive's suit that the lady acquiesced, went to India, and in 1753 was married at Madras to Clive, then rising to the highest distinction.—*Chicago Times.*

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

A Glasgow, Scotland, firm, who have been constantly trying to apply electricity to bread baking for the past year, are reported to have succeeded. It is claimed that the flavor of the product is as good as that produced by any system of baking, and that it is baked much quicker and at a reduced cost.

Paying a visit a day or two ago to the premises of G. D. Martin, 132 Granville street, we were surprised when we looked round at the great number of articles, likely to be wanted by ladies as the house cleaning season draws on, which Mr. Martin is prepared to furnish. To enumerate them would take a catalogue, but we noticed cretonne, tapestry, chenille, lace and printed lawn curtains; window poles and trimmings; every possible description of table covers; napkins, doyleys and towelling of all sorts; oiled-down and wadded quilts; an assortment of house-decoration goods, traced for embroidery, in many materials, including cloth, silk, satin and plush; together with embroidery silks, wools and yarns, and a variety of fancy goods, all in excellent style. Mr. Martin's establishment is well worth a visit.

The "Great London & China Tea Company," 191 Barrington Street, is an establishment quite worth visiting. Moreover the visitor will be furnished, if he wish it, with a biscuit and a cup of coffee made from the berry, fresh-roasted and ground while you wait for it, which is the true method of getting that beverage with all its aroma fresh. Coffee, indeed, seems to be a specialty of this house, which is a branch of an establishment with many ramifications. It has branches in Montreal, St. John, Truro and Charlottetown. We believe the teas and coffees supplied by it are of excellent quality.

Mr. Stephen Stuart of Amherst, who is the inventor of a guard-rail fastener, has sold the patent to the I. C. R. The device does away with the cumbersome chuck blocks used in railway yards, and holds the guard rail opposite the frog so rigidly that it cannot be displaced, thereby avoiding a fruitful source of accidents.

We are glad to quote the *New Glasgow Enterprise's* enumeration of the attractions, business promise and capabilities of Brookfield, which has a population of about 300. It has four stores, 2 churches, 2 schools, and 1 hotel. Prohibition prevails. Within a few miles are deposits of iron and limestone. Iron at the rate of 40 tons a day has been shipped to the Londonderry mines. The iron is located three miles to the northeast. A dozen men are employed digging the ore and a dozen teams are steadily engaged hauling it to the station. Limerick is three miles south and from 20 to 30 and sometimes 40 men are employed there. The product is also sent to Londonderry—say two train-loads a week. Quite a quantity of milk is sent to Halifax every day. The total amount of money circulated in the district from these three industries is \$3,000 a month—\$36,000 a year. Besides these, there are the prosperous farming and lumbering operations. If the Stewarke railway made its junction with the I. C. R. here, Brookfield would soon become a flourishing town.

A flourishing industry in Pictou, N. S., is the Combination Picket and Wire Fence Manufacture of M. N. Fraser. Mr. Fraser keeps eight hands in employment, and sold last year about 50 miles length of this excellent fencing, which is familiar to every traveller on the Intercolonial, notably to Halifax people, as there is a considerable stretch of it along the railway in the vicinity of the Four Mile House. Probably this is Mr. Fraser's manufacture, though he does not so inform us. This fencing is not only one of great efficiency, but very neat in appearance. It is made up in rolls of 5 rods ready for shipment, and is composed of pickets woven into double strands of heavy brass-bound steel twisted wire. Each cable will stand a strain of 1,500 lbs. It is light and portable. The staples can be withdrawn and fence rolled up and carried to other places without injury. It will last three times as long as board or rail fence. Not being, we should imagine, could be a more perfect protection for sheep against dogs.