

How They Marry in France.

The young girls and young men in France are sedulously kept apart, and that wooing and winning are unnecessary preliminaries to a French marriage are facts that have been much commented upon; but how they marry in France, and the etiquette of that formal and business-like ceremonial, and the preliminaries considered necessary thereto are, we believe, but little understood on our side of the water.

The first thing to be done is to go through that time-honored formality called popping the question. But a French aspirant for matrimonial honors is not allowed to make his proposals in person to the young lady. That would be a sad breach of *les convenances*, and would probably horrify the *jeune personne* out of her seven senses. A friend is charged with the delicate office of asking her parents, not if they will accept M. So-and-so for a son-in-law, but if it would be agreeable to them to consider him in that possible light. Should the answer prove favorable, the gentleman may desire an interview with the young lady's parents or guardians, at which interview the young lady must not be present. In this first interview all business questions, including the important one of the young man's fortune, expectations, etc., are settled. Should all these preliminaries be favorably arranged, a second interview is decided upon, and the day and hour rigorously settled beforehand. Exactly at a specified time, the future bridegroom must present himself, careful but not too carefully dressed—that point is essential. His betrothed, in elegant but simple attire, awaits his coming, surrounded by her parents and relatives. After this first visit he is entitled to be received as a *pretendu*, but must request this privilege either by writing or through one of his near relatives. Permission once accorded, he is then for the first time presented to his lady-love as her future husband, and may afterwards visit the house on an intimate but not a familiar footing. He must always come in full dress, nor can his *fiancee* receive him in other but a very careful toilet. A morning-dress, no matter how fresh and tasteful, is completely inadmissible. The gentleman must invariably send his *fiancee* a bouquet on the day he intends to call. The engaged pair must never be permitted to indulge in a *le-ta-tere*, no can they call each other by their first names without using the prefixes of *monsieur* and *mademoiselle*. An engagement ought to be kept secret, and should be officially announced only a few days before the signing of the contract. Of course, French engagements are usually very brief, such a life of constraint and formality being agreeable to neither party.

These preliminary formalities having been scrupulously gone through with, next comes the question of the wedding, or rather weddings, for our French couple must be married twice over, once at the mayoralty, in accordance with the law, and once at church to satisfy religious scruples. This latter ceremony is by no means essential to the legality of the marriage; but not to be married in church is considered a proof of irreligion and republicanism of the most ultra type. Now comes an amount of bother which, to our extremely simple ideas as regards marriage, appears to be at once stupid and unnecessary. As a necessary preliminary to the civil marriage, the bride and groom must arm themselves with half a dozen documents each. First comes the *acte de naissance*, or birth-certificate; then the consent in writing of both parents, or, if either or both of them be dead, the proofs of their decease, and the consent of grandparents or guardians in their stead. If you are sixty years of age, and have parents still living, this written consent is still indispensable, unless, indeed, you go through the formality of the *trois sommations respectueuses*, which consists in "respectfully summoning" your recalcitrant parents three times to show cause why you should not espouse the beloved of your heart, after which you can do as you please. But such a proceeding is looked upon with so much disfavor by French society that it is only resorted to in very extreme cases. If you are an officer in the army you must get the permission of the Minister of War to your nuptials, and he will not grant it unless the bride possesses either a dowry of 30,000 francs, or a settled income of 1,200 francs a year. All these consents obtained, next comes the publication of the bans, which takes place not only in the church, but also at the mayoralty. The signing of the contract is the next formality to be fulfilled. Usually, in Paris, this ceremonial is made the occasion of a family festival, and a special dress is prepared for the bride, very often a fac-simile of

the wedding-dress, only in some delicate evening-dress tint instead of white. The notary reads aloud the contract, after which the bridegroom rises, bows to the bride, and signs his name, afterward passing the pen to her. She signs in her turn, and must then hand the pen to the mother of the groom, who must give it in turn to the mother of the bride. These little points of etiquette are strictly observed. All the other relations then sign in turn, according to age or station. It is considered a great honor to obtain some high personage as a witness to the contract. If there is a *fete* given on the occasion, the *corbeille* or wedding presents of the bridegroom, and the *trousseau* as well, are exhibited to the guests. The *corbeille* comprises shawls, jewels, gloves, laces, furs, etc., together with a purse containing a sum of money in gold, the whole enclosed in a large and elegant box, or in a handsome work-table. The value of this present is usually supposed to represent one per cent. of the young lady's dowry.—*Appleton's Journal*.

Kissing the Children.

Kisses in the morning
Make the day seem bright,
Filling every corner
With a gleam of light;
And what happiness he misses,
Who, affection's impulse scorning,
Departs, and gives no kisses
To the children in the morning.

Many think it folly;
Many say it's bliss;
Very much depending
On whose lips you kiss!
But the truth I am confessing,
And I'd have you all take warning,
If you covet any blessing
Kiss the children in the morning.

Kisses in the evening,
When the lights are low,
Set two hearts a-flaming
With affection's glow.
And the angels swarm in numbers
Round the pillow they are pressing,
Who are wooed to peaceful slumbers
By a dear one's fond caressing.

Kisses in the morning
Are not out of place;
Kisses in the evening
Have a special grace;
And it seems to me that this is
For indulgence lawful reason;
Sweetest tulips—I mean kisses!
You are never out of season!

My Wish.

(Original.)

Oh! speak not of this world so fair
Its charms are not for me;
The joyous birds float through the air,
But there you know they're free.
Oh! I would live in the golden age,
When all is peace and love,
Where the innocent child and the thoughtful sage
In one charmed circle move.

Oh! I would dwell in sylvan bowers,
In Elysium pure and sweet,
'Mong myrtle vines and fairest flowers,
With Cupid at my feet.
Oh! I would bathe in the waters of Lethe,
And happiness sweet would be mine;—
And yet, 'mid forget-me-nots, I would wreath
The ivy and wild eglantine.

And Eolian harps, with sweetest strains,
My morning hours would cheer,
For naught that this wide, wide world contains
Can so delight my ear.
And on Zephyrus wings would the even appear,
In that dear, enchanted spot,
And filled would be the balmy air
With the sweet-scented Bergamot.

And rapture sweet, in that Eden of bliss,
My weary soul would fill,
Like the joy, so pure, of an angel's kiss,
That leaves a transporting thrill.
Oh! let me muse on the days to come,
(Of their brightness I now see a gleam),
When I shall dwell in the palace home
Of whose beauties I now fondly dream.
Covey Hill.

H. E. C.

Household and Personal Cleanliness.

We may as certainly gauge the mortality of a country by the condition of the women and children, by the beauty or disorder of the homes, and the respect or disdain for personal cleanliness and adornment—all of which depend solely on woman's will and perception—as we learn by the existence of railroads or the frequency of telegraphs where a country stands in relation to the more advanced conditions of civilization. The women who disregard the charm of what we may call the luxury, the elegance of household and personal cleanliness; whose eyes are not open to dirt; to whom rags are not shame, personal unloveliness no disgrace, home disorder no neglect of natural duty, are mainly responsible for the corruption surely to result from this uncared-for condition of home life. With personal disregard comes personal degradation; with indifference to home comfort, neglect of property; and neglect of property brings loss, which is poverty, which is mendicancy—than which no agent is more powerful in the destruction of all self-respect.

See the rates the Americans charge us for Protection.—Mr. J. Labatt, of the London Brewery, has an order from Colorado for a car load of bottled ale. The duty on this will be over \$400; the carriage will be only \$360.

In the province of Nassau, Prussia, the common nettle has been treated like hemp, and is found to yield fibre quite as durable and as fine as silk. Factories have consequently been started for its manufacture.

Commercial.

FARMERS' ADVOCATE OFFICE,
London, June 1, 1878.

With the present peaceful aspect of the eastern question, and the very promising appearance of the growing crops, there is a quiet but steady decline in prices, both here and in England.

WHEAT.—The deliveries the past month have been more than the previous one, although the wet weather and bad roads have to a large extent lessened the deliveries. There is no doubt there is a good deal of wheat (especially spring) still in the hands of the farmers. The heavy decline the past ten days will, we think, have the tendency to make the farmers market their wheat at once. The very favorable crop reports from all parts are having a very serious effect upon the markets of England, and should these reports continue as favorable for some time we may look for a still further decline. New wheat has made its appearance in St. Louis from Texas, and at Savannah, Ga.; and, we shall probably see samples of new wheat on this market in June. True there are some reports of injury by rust, frost and fly, but these are more than counterbalanced by the increased average.

PEAS.—Are somewhat easier, and are being picked up as fast as they come in by shippers for the English markets. They have ruled unusually steady the whole season through, and the new crop will find our market very bare.

CLOVER SEED.—Nothing doing and prices nominal. There is some disposition on the part of English seedsmen to buy for holding over, but they have not been able to get hold of much, as there is nothing held here except in first hands.

BUTTER.—Market dull, and the tendency has been downward. The business done so far has been confined to the local trade. There seems to be no disposition on the part of shippers to commence operations. As we said in a previous article the sooner there is a change in the make, mode of treatment, and handling of Canadian butter, the better it will be for the dairymen themselves; and we can see no better way out of the dilemma than by adopting the factory system at once. Matters have come to this, that if you do not make a good article you had better not make any at all.