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The dignity of a calling is its utility.

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Forms of Marriage.

By M. W. Doherty, M. A.

Some few months since while amusing myself with the writings of one of our most prominent sociological authorities, I came across the following statement, "As a rule, the subjection of woman is in inverse ratio to the development of man." From this I was led, not by any doubt as to the correctness of the statement, but more by an element of *weisbergerig*, to enquire into the conjugal ceremonies as carried on in various parts of the world at various periods of history. And from these enquiries I must confess to those of our people who are matrimonial aspirants that they may consider themselves particularly fortunate in time and place. The trials and troubles which cast their shadows upon the path of our modern British Romeo would seem as welcomed *opportunities* in the love making of the less fortunate youth of New Zealand.

It is impossible to give the subject full treatment in an article of this nature, therefore I shall confine myself to a brief consideration of a few of the interesting marriage customs prevailing among various tribes and nations.