

AT THE AUCTION.

"Why good morning, my dear."
 "Oh, good morning. Am I late?"
 "I've simply been rushed to death ever since breakfast."
 "No. They haven't begun yet, you haven't missed a thing."
 "Have you seen anything good this morning?"
 "Oh, simply loads! A perfect dream of a highboy and a love of an old English cream and sugar set. Sheffield, you know, I think they almost match that pot I got in New Orleans six years ago."
 "Why how lovely! Oh, there's Mrs. Smithers."
 "Yes, and yesterday she bid over me and took the Chippendale desk, I've been waiting for ever since the sale began. I think it was rude of her."
 "Perfectly horrid! I always did think she—why, how do you do, Mrs. Smithers? How well you are looking. I am glad to see you."
 The three ladies kiss. That is always a sign that hostilities are imminent.
 "Good gracious! There's that man again. He's a perfect brute! I'm not going to bid against him again. He simply waits till he reached my limit, and then he bids 50 cents more."
 "Why don't you complain to the auctioneer?"
 "I believe I will. Oh, just look at that old copper pot! Isn't it a dear?"
 "A perfect love. I wonder if we have time to walk through again before the auction begins?"
 "Yes, but we mustn't miss getting front seats. What are you looking for Mrs. Smithers?"
 "Oh, nothing in particular. I just thought I'd drop in and see if I could pick up anything good. I believe I'll go back and sit down."
 "I'm sure she's found something fine, and has got the auctioneer to put it up. Let's hurry back."
 "Ladies, the first thing I shall sell this morning is this fine specimen of old English ware. It was picked up by one of our agents in the county of Suffolk, and originally came from one of the stately old homes of the English aristocracy. How much am I bid. One dollar. Do I hear two? If I see a hand raised I shall take it as a bid. Thank you, Mrs. Smithers. Two dollars for this beautiful specimen of early English ware from one of the stately seats of the British aristocracy? Why ladies, it's as if you had handed me a fifty cent piece and I had handed you back a dollar. Two dollars! Two dollars, once! And a half, Mrs. Cary? And a half. Two dollars and a half! once, two and a half, twice. Two and a half three. Thank you, Mrs. Smithers."
 "There! I told you she was trying to play some underhand trick. And it's just what I needed to fill my set. Would you go any higher?"
 "Oh, I think it's a perfect love. I believe I'd go \$4."
 "Mrs. Smithers bids three dollars for this rare piece of pottery from the stately home of a belted earl. She bids \$3. Do I hear the \$4? Mrs. Cary raises her hand. Mrs. Cary bids \$4. Are you all through? Third and last call. S—S—. Thank you, Mr. Carter. Mr. Carter bids four and a half. Once, twice, three times. Sold to Mr. Carter for four and a half dollars."
 "Oh, Mrs. Cary, I'm so sorry you didn't get that piece. You wanted it so badly."
 "Oh, not at all. I'd really much rather you'd have had it, my dear. That's why I didn't go any higher my dear."
 "Anyway, now that I look at it closely, I don't believe it's genuine anyhow."
 "Why, neither do I. It's a horrid shape too. What do you suppose anybody could do with a thing like that? But isn't it just like a man?"
 "Yes, they are so pig-headed."
 "The next thing I shall offer for sale, ladies and gentlemen, is this exquisite highboy. It's a rare bit of Colonial workmanship. Its original owner was one of the proud old Puritan fathers of Massachusetts. I have no doubt that this highboy was once among the household goods of Elder William Brewster. I am almost sure that it came over in the Mayflower. Why, ladies, the possession of this exquisite highboy is quite sufficient one for membership in the Daugh-

ters of the American Revolution. And how much am I bid for this antique relic of old Puritan days in merry New England? Mr. Carter bids \$10. Ten —"
 "I think it's a horrid old piece, don't you? But if that man wants it let's all bid against him and pay him up for taking that beautiful old English set."
 "Oh, good! Let's all do."
 "Mr. Carter bids \$10. Do I hear the \$20. Thank you. Mrs. Cary bids \$20 for this unique and interesting specimen of the furniture of our forefathers. Twenty dollars! Twenty dollars! Mr. Carter bids twenty-five. Twenty-five! Twenty-five! Mrs. Smithers raises her hand. Mrs. Smithers bids the thirty. Thirty dollars! Forty from Mr. Carter! Thank you, sir! Forty dollars once, forty dollars twice, forty —. Thank you, Mrs. Cary. Mrs. Cary bids \$45. Forty-five once, forty-five twice, forty-five three times—and sold to Mrs. Cary for \$45."
 "Oh, what on earth shall I do? I wouldn't have the thing for the world, and, besides, I've spent twice my allowance already."
 "Get up and let the man have it."
 "Since the gentleman who bid against me seems so much disappointed, I'm willing to withdraw my bid and let him have it."
 "Mr. Carter says he couldn't think of being so rude, Mrs. Cary. He is quite content that you should have it."
 "Mrs. Smithers, you take it. Your house is so much larger than mine."
 "Oh no, you keep it my dear. I'm sure it's a good piece. I guess I won't wait any longer. Good morning."
 "Good morning, my dear—the wretch! I honestly believe she is glad I got it. And I paid three prices for it too. I wish I could make her take the old thing."
 "Just look at that man! I actually believe he is smiling."
 "Did you ever see such a horrid looking person?"
 "A perfectly brutal face."
 "What shall I do with that old highboy? It's really a good piece, after all, though. Don't you think you could use it, my dear? It would look so well in your dining room."
 "I'm afraid not. I have to deny myself a great many things, you know. And anyway I couldn't think of taking it away from you, dear."
 "Well, I just thought your dining-room looked a trifle bare, that's all. There! That Carter man is going out. The very idea of his sitting there and letting me have that highboy, when he knew perfectly well I was bidding against him—as a joke."—Leader.

MIXED MARRIAGES.

A little monograph by a distinguished Jesuit has recently come to the attention of the New Century. It is an unpretentious pamphlet, but as convincing as words of Holy Writ, because supported and sustained by an imposing array of figures.

It treats of mixed marriages. A word on such an important subject will not be amiss.

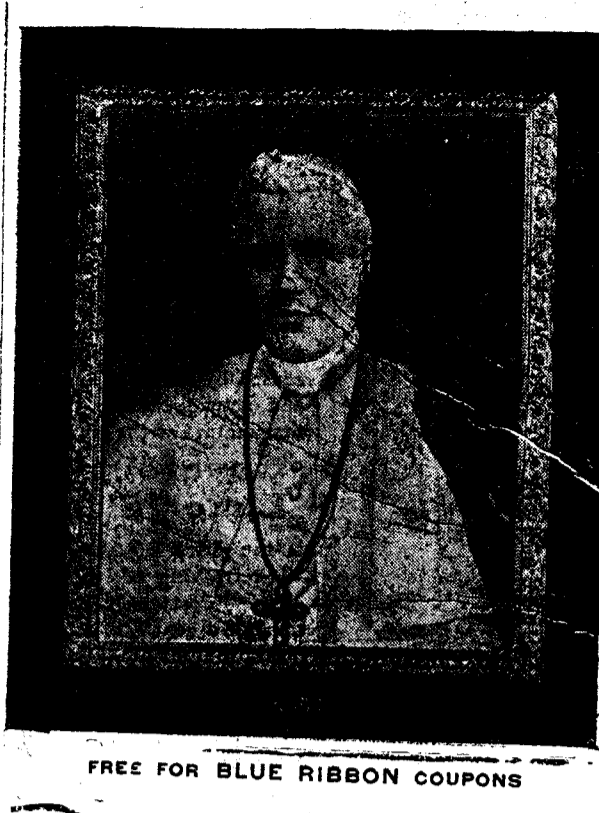
That mixed marriages will not take place in this country is one of those dreams that the complacent Catholic, quietly smoking a soothing after-dinner cigar, may harbor. But a certain, relatively low, perhaps, percentage of mixed marriages must be expected in the present condition of things.

The most noteworthy fact in connection with the activity of this mixed marriage microbe is that its ravages are seen most frequently among what may be called the "better classes."

And public opinion seems to be growing shockingly lax. Even the point of view of Catholics grows somewhat tainted. And the chief danger is to be feared from those with social aspirations, whose ideals of living have been distorted by the example of the unethical-minded about them.

The Catholic Church has never wavered in her historic position with reference to divorces.

But the "middle-isle Catholic"—who accepts meekly the yoke of social custom not of his own making—falls a ready prey to the net of the Fowler.—New Century, (Washington).



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SLEEPIN' NOO.

"Hey, Tonald, sleepin'?" said a Highlander to a drowsy acquaintance.
 "No, Tuncan," was the ready answer.
 "Then, Tonald, would ye be for lending me twa shillings?" was the next question.
 "Sleepin' noo, Tuncan," was the response.

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