

observer, M. Taine, finds in old Capulet and his rough words to the fair Juliet the type of the British father, and sees corroborative traces of his domineering temper in the fact that the English son still speaks of his father as "the Governor." But in truth the *patria potestas* is far more potent with the Latin races, than with ourselves. The young Frenchman who wishes to marry the lady of his choice is not emancipated even at the mature age of twenty-five. If his parent disapproves he must present an *acte respectueux*, drawn up by a notary, soliciting permission, and if it is not accorded he must go on presenting *actes respectueux* year after year. No romance, however sublime, can stand much of this sort of thing, and the fruit of it is found in the multiplication of irregular unions. In the hope of checking these the French Legislature has limited the *actes respectueux* to one and dispensed with the notary—that expensive luxury—altogether. Let us hope that youths and maidens will appreciate these concessions and flock to the hymeneal altar, but when once the anti-matrimonial tendency has set in in an over-ripe civilization, bachelor taxes or premiums on matrimonial engagements are apt to have little efficacy."

**X RAY PICTURES AS EVIDENCE.**—A District Court of Colorado has had occasion to determine the rule of law governing the admission in evidence of shadowgraphs or photographs made by what is known as the cathode or X-ray process. The Court held such photographs were admissible as secondary evidence upon the same ground as maps or drawings. A similar conclusion was arrived at in an English Court of Justice many months ago.

**ACCIDENT INSURANCE.**—A curious case has arisen in Paris. M. Henri Martin, chief editor of the *Courrier de Lyon*, was found dead in his room, hanging from a cord passed over a hook in the ceiling and attached to a dog-collar around his neck. His life was insured for 30,000 francs, which the insurance company refuses to pay on the ground that he committed suicide. He had, however, been publishing articles on the scientific side of hanging, and was preparing one describing the sensations of a hanged man. The counsel for his family will contend that he was making experiments on himself, and that his death was accidental.