

representative, as there are forty-seven sovereign States, each claiming exclusive control over the matter of the marriage of its citizens. Hence it comes that in Montana and Washington twenty-one is the earliest marrying age for a man and eighteen for a woman, while in New Jersey or Connecticut the ages are respectively fourteen and twelve. All that a schoolboy in Washington, therefore, has to do in order to wed a school-girl friend is to induce her to lay her skipping-rope aside for a time and fly with him over the border into a more complaisant State. In Sweden and Norway weddings in church are exceptional, and you are not bound to give the officiating clergyman any fee whatever. In Switzerland the only fee is one to cover expense of the publication of notice of marriage in a local newspaper and registration, and you can be married at any hour you please. In Greece a bishop's license costs three drachmas, or half-a-crown, and the registration five drachmas. In Belgium they make a little charge for a 'marriage pamphlet' presented to the parties, and for stamps, but even these are dispensed with if the parties make a declaration of poverty. On the subject of the grounds of divorce very great divergences occur between the laws of different nations. In France to call a wife 'canaille' before her children justifies a decree of divorce, as also does a wife's 'refusal to obey her husband when it is a question of a theatrical engagement.' A husband can also be divorced for ill-treating his mother-in-law or his step-children. In spite of the proverb about the advantages of commencing matrimony with a little aversion, it is the law in Germany that 'insuperable aversion' may become a ground of divorce if both parties consent and there are no children. Roumania distinguishes itself by an enactment that a divorce can be pronounced if the tribunals are satisfied that 'existence in common is impossible.' In Massachusetts and Mississippi, 'the habitual use of opium or like drug' is held a sufficient excuse for untying the marriage knot; and in some States, as West Virginia, marriage will be annulled if one of the parties is a negro and the other a white person. As to the cost of divorce, the cheapest and simplest kind in the States costs about 100 dollars; in Germany it varies from 7*l.* 10*s.* up to 45*l.* In Russia, Consistorial Courts pronounce in divorce cases, and the expense is great. Saxony's modest figure is from 2*l.* 10*s.* up to 5*l.*—*Westminster Gazette.*