At spring housecleaning one is puzzled what to keep and what to throw away.

MARRIAGE MADNESS BRINGS EVILS IN TRAIN

Journalist Tells of His Experience With Matrimonial Bureau.

London, April 20.—A correspondent of the Manchester Chronicle who has been investigating one phase of the social question writes:

Some three or four hundred women want to marry me. I say it more in sorrow than in joy. I do not feel honored, nor flattered, nor even grateful, for the women who want to marry me have not seen me. They are afflicted with marriage madness, they have fallen in love with a four line advertisement, and they are ready to make fools of themselves over a perfect stranger.

When I first set out to advertise for a wife I felt a particularly large sized sort of a cad. I thought of myself trifling with the affections of tender-hearted, timid spinsters, longing to be loved, and I blushed every time I looked a woman in the face. That was before the letters came. Now I am sorry for myself. My faith in women has received a shock, and I am living in constant fear of being carried off and married against my will.

At first I interviewed several ladies and explained the situation to them. But never again. It is not nice to be informed by an angry woman of all your defects, physical and mental. The average woman is very observant, and I have had pointed out to me deficiencies in my composition I had never suspected. Also I have been told with emphasis that I am positively the last man in the world any decent-minded woman would stoop to marry; and if it were not for the few hundred letters in feminine handwriting now lying in my desk awaiting return to their senders, I should hesitate to approach any woman outside a lunatic asylum or an institution for the blind. And even from these letters I can get but little consolation, for to the writers I am merely a letter and a number at the end of an advertisement.

Three Kinds of Letters

The letters I have received may be classified under three heads—the larky letter, written in a spirit of adventurous fun; the business letter, composed with a view of financial improvement; and the pathetic letter, written by a lonely girl pining for sympathy and companionship. But while these letters differ even as their writers differ, they are all extremely foolish. All the women and girls have signed their names, and with one exception given their full addresses to a stranger, in whose hands they have placed the power of heartless blackmail. The letter written in thoughtless fun may give the writer months of anxiety and suffering; and I am prepared to take all the censure that my methods may call down upon me if I could be the means of conveying a warning to women and girls who would answer a matrimonial advertisement as they would apply for a situation. If they must answer the advertisements, let them follow the example of one of my correspondents and give the G. P. O. as their address until they know something about the man to whom they are giving their confidence.

The confidence I have received I do not intend to betray in this article, but I will quote one or two extracts, which cannot harm the writers, and at the same time will show the public to what lengths marriage madness will drive members of the softer sex.

Humor and Pathos

One of the letters I received was edged with black, and in it the writer informed me that as her husband had been dead a few weeks, "I thought I would like to correspond with a gentleman, as I do feel a bit lonely." The lady also announced that she was "very well educated and fit to go into the best society," but unfortunately her composition and grammar gave the lie to her assertion.

Another lady, gifted with a sense of humor, informed me that since the appearance of my advertisement a small voice had been constantly bidding her write to me. I cannot give the whole of her letter, but I am convinced she is a very charming girl. Two other correspondents—one a trained nurse and the other a lady doctor—caused my susceptible heart to quicken its beats; and a widow of 35, with an income of $2,000 a year, had her attractions. Another young lady, one of the few who enclosed photographs, wrote one of the most charming letters I have ever received, and a young girl, who had lost her parents, laid bare her heart on paper, and composed a touching little document, the cry of a soul seeking sympathy rather than the call of a woman desiring a mate.

Some of the letters were like demands for payment, short, sharp and peremptory. "Please forward particulars of yourself to the above address, when they will be considered." There were several epistles like that, and they sent a shiver down my spine. There was a hen-pecking touch about those letters which made me glad I was known only as a letter and a number.

One thing I noticed was that nearly all the young and presumably pretty girls had no fortune but their faces, while ladies over 30 up to 52 talked insinuatingly of "private means." One middle-aged lady with $1000 a year gave me a fright. She nearly had me married by post. She considered that we could manage nicely on our combined means, arranged how many servants we should keep, where we should live, and pointed out where we could economize. That lady did not so much want to marry me as to manage me.

Blackmail Common

If women would only realize that not one in twenty of the matrimonial advertisements are genuine, they would hesitate before placing themselves in the hands of any man who cared to spend a few shillings on a newspaper advertisement.

Lest it may be thought that I am exaggerating the danger of answering these advertisements, let me give a case, the facts of which I have personally investigated. A spinster lady on the shady side of thirty, and possessing a comfortable income, answered the advertisement of a "bachelor of means.' A correspondence between the two was started, and several letters were exchanged, together with photographs. The letters became more and more confidential, but, although the lady pressed for an appointment, her correspondent invariably made an excuse. She remained unsuspicious, however, until one morning she received an impudent demand for $250, the price of her letters, with the threat that unless the money was forthcoming the letters would be circulated among her acquaintances. Her obvious course was to place the letter in the hands of the police, but the fear of those letters getting into other hands drove her to desperation, and she foolishly paid the money.

The snares of the matrimonial advertiser are not laid solely for women with private means. Many young girls have made the acquaintance of plausible men who dangled a wedding-ring before their eyes. The acquaintance has led to betrayal and desertion.

Gentleman Abroad

Last week I hinted at the use of matrimonial advertisements by dealers in the white slave traffic. Girls especially orphans and those without friends to whom they can turn for advice, should beware of the man with residence abroad. A favorite trick of these marriage sharps is to offer the inducement of a honeymoon on the continent. The girl is informed that a marriage in England with a foreigner is illegal, and she is lured to the continent and condemned to a life of shame.

Another type of marriage-monger to be avoided is the man who wishes to borrow money on the strength of his engagement. He wants a matter of $500 to complete a big deal. In ordinary circumstances a woman would be able to see through the whole miserable business, but in matters matrimonial they seem to lose their heads and to play into the hands of clever rogues who prey on the weaknesses of women.

The pathos of the marriage market lies in a woman's natural desire to justify her existence. She is handicapped by the laws governing sex relations, and by the fact that the women considerably outnumber the men. If she suppresses her instincts and remains a spinster, her life is shadowed by the knowledge that an unmated woman is a woman spoiled, and if she responds to her instincts regardless of consequences, she receives the world's cold shoulder.

Women who answer matrimonial advertisements are between the devil of spinsterhood and the deep sea of marriage mongering. They are prepared to dip blindly into the matrimonial basket and trust to luck to draw a prize.

And that way lies misery and the divorce court.

READS 167,000 PAGES EVERY YEAR

Literary Man Estimates Average Amount of Reading Necessary Be Up-to-date

I am a poor "literary" man, who is hard put to earn a livelihood with his pen, writes W. W. Whitlock in the New York Evening Post. In addition to writing, however, there is a certain amount of reading I must absolutely do in order not to get hopelessly out of date. Like Dr. Cook, I have reduced this baggage to a minimum, but there still remains an appalling amount to carry to the goal.

I have made a calculation of what I must read during the coming year, and this is the result: Fifty current novels, averaging 400 pages each, or 20,000 pages in all; 15 magazines monthly, averaging together 4500 book pages monthly, or 54,000 pages yearly; 25 standard works, averaging at least 500 pages each (see Dickens' works), or 12,500 pages in all; three newspapers daily (except Sunday), approximating 100 book pages daily, or 36,000 pages yearly, 600 rejection slips (an underestimate) from editors, approximating 100 book pages; two personal letters each day (including bills and eviction notices), approximating 1500 pages yearly; subway and street car advertisements (from which I obtain ideas), 7300 pages yearly; add another 7300 pages of magazine advertising.

To the foregoing add 10,000 pages of miscellaneous reading, such as electric signs, billboards, theatre programs, etc. The final total of all this reaches the appalling sum of 167,000 pages year'y! Estimating 400 words to the page, we obtain 67,000,000 words, which my poor eyes must pass over during the year. And this takes no account of books in foreign languages, of which I am extremely fond, or of my fiances's letters, which are daily growing longer.

And this must be done before I begin to earn a living.

FRENCH PRISONS ARE COMFORTABLE

Amusing Story of Criminal Who Refused to Escape

Paris, April 20. — We have it on good authority that the way of transgressors is hard. But it does not seem to have any overpowering terrors for the average French lawbreaker. In England, once one gets into the clutches of the law, very little account is taken of sentiments. Stern, implacable justice is all that evildoers have any right to expect, and as a rule, it is all they receive. English prisons and penal colonies are run on severe, unsympathetic lines, and no excessive indulgence is shown towards their inmates. This is as it should be. But in France different notions seem to prevail as to the treatment of criminals, with the result that the prison does not inspire the wholesome dread it does in England. Take the case of Duez, the official liquidator, who admits having swindled the French religious orders out of something like £400,000. Although he is now under arrest, and may be sentenced to four or five years' detention, that unwelcome prospect does not appear to fill him with uneasiness or melancholy. Not for him the head or the heart bowed down! As he passes along the corridors of the palace of justice on his way to the cabinet of the examining magistrate, his former lady friends salute him with a nod and a smile, and the courtly receiver, with all the Frenchman's proverbial gallantry bows over their hand and imprints a kiss upon it. Other acquaintances—perhaps accomplices—shake hands with the peccant receiver, and make inquiries as to his health, and the delinquent assures them with a smile that he never s ept so well in his life as since he was locked up.

The Duez Case

Journalists and photographers tumble over one another in their eagerness to interview or snapshot Duez before he disappears, with his guards, through the door of the magistrate's cabinet, and the dishonest official, who confesses to making away with nearly a quarter of a million belonging to others, laughs prodigiously, and tells the men with the cameras that he will charge them five francs a picture. Why this inconscience, this cynicism, this absence of shame or regret for the most impudent and extensive series of frauds that Frenchmen have known since Panama? Is it because, as M. Barthou, the minister of justice, himself admits, that there "is something rotten in the French magistracy?" Or is it due to the impunity with which evildoers in this country, provided they have enough influence in high places, escape the punishment they rightly merit? Even when sentence is pronounced and the culprit is taken off to jail, money can do a lot to soften his incarceration. Cases are known in which criminals in French prisons were able to bribe their warders to smuggle in from their friends outside delicacies which find no place in the ordinary prison fare. Fowl, roast beef, meat extract, wine and brandy were obtained in this way, although the introduction of these luxuries was a distinct breach of the prison regulations.

Fresnes is notorious for its "hospitality," and so agreeable is a sojourn there that many criminals, at the approach of winter, regularly arrange to get locked up until it is time to come out into the balmy air of springtime and the genial sunshine. Less than three months ago, the story goes, a new prison in France was opened to receive its first prisoner, sentenced to six months' detention. The new establishment had cost nearly £40,000 to build and equip, but unfortunately the prison budget made no allowance for the warders and their "guests.'

Prisoner Fond of Jail

The governor finally solved the dilemma by deciding that a policeman, who was married, should take up his quarters in the prison and serve the prisoner with his meals. But after a few days the policeman got tired of this. The profit he made on the arrangement was very small, and in a confidential tone he confided to the prisoner that, if he cared to take French leave, he would see that every facility was given him to do so. But his charge quick'y reassured him on the point.

'I'm right here," he said. "Your wife is an excellent cook. You are all very kind to me. This is a nice, new prison. I haven't been so well off for a long time. You don't catch me running away. What's more, if you discharge me ,I'll jolly soon be back"

Then the chief warder tried to persuade the prisoner that he would be well advised to make himself scarce. But he might as well have saved himself the trouble, for he met with no more success than the policeman. All the doors and windows of the prison were left wide open. He was given permission, he was even asked to go for a walk, in the hope that he would disappear for good. He thanked his jailers, and several times went for a stroll round the neighborhood. But he always returned again in time for his meals One night last week, however, he met an old friend when he was out, and after a glass or two of wine they found so many things to talk about that it was 3 o'clock in the morning when the "prisoner" returned to his lodgings. But although he hung on to the bell, and rung for a'l he was worth, no one came to the prison gate. At last the policeman opened a window and shouted angrilly:

"If you don't be gone, I'll fire on you!"

The lodger took the hint, but at 6 o'clock he was back again, and his guardian had to comply with his request to be admitted to his cell. How the affair will end I can not tell, but it is said that the sub-prefect is seriously thinking of offering the "prisoner" a louis to go elsewhere for his food and lodging.

LOTS OF COTTON NEEDED

Only Steel Excels It in Manufacturing Importance

Cotton enters into the manufacture of more articles of commerce today than any other commodity except steel. Eliminate cotton and the stoppage of spindles and looms would be but a trifle compared to the paralysis that would visit countless other industries.

The railroads of America consume 250,000 bales of cotton annually. Cotton duck is the basis of the airbrake hose, of enamelled ceilings, according to the "Technical World." The plush chairs are of cotton; the "leather" seats are of cotton.

Automobiles require about 290,000 bales annual'y for the manufacture of "leather" seats and cushions.

More cotton is used each year to harvest and market the grain crops of the world than would be required to clothe the inhabitants of a large city Electricity, powerful as it is, cannot get along without cotton. Millions of miles of copper wire annually owe the perfection of their installation to cotton yarn or tape or cotton cloth.

The armies of the world to-day are c'othed in cotton cloth—khaki—or something similar. The United States alone requires about 5,000,000 yards of eight ounces khaki cloth annually for its army. The navies and merchant ships of the world use more cotton duck today than was required in the days of sailing vessels. Millions of yards of cotton cloth are used by the tobacco industry for growing tobacco under shade and making bags for smoking tobacco.

Cotton bags have displaced barrels to a great extent in the shipment of sugar, salt and flour.

Cotton is used in the mining and marketing of coal. About 15,000,000 yards of cotton duck annually is made into coal bags.

About 20,000,000 yards of cotton duck is made into overcoats with b anket lining, to take the place of heavy wool and fur garments in the American and Canadian North-West. Thousands of bales annually are required to make cotton duck to place around the asbestos sectional covering in which the steam hot pipes of fireproof buildings are enclosed. Cotton blankets have displaced woollen blankets in many important markets of the world.

Cotton cloth has taken the place of wallpaper in thousands of modern homes.

Cement companies use about 8,000,000 yards of cotton bagging annual'y.

The United States government requires 4,000,000 yards of cotton duck annually for coin bags.

Millions of yards of duck 46 inches wide are used annually for the purpose of filtering oils.

Cutton duck is the basis of rubber belting and all kinds of hose. Sales to these branches of the trade amount to 50,000,000 yards annually.

Millions of yards of cotton cloth are used in large cloth signs and advertisements.

More cotton is used in "linen" shorts and collars than linen. Mercerised cotton goods to the extent of hundreds of millions of yards sell in competition with silk.

Cotton is used to a greater or less extent in all but the most expensive of woollen fabrics.

These items furnish a few of the reasons why the world needs 3,000,000 bales more cotton than it did five years ago, notwithstanding the fact that new markets have not been extensively developed and the wor'd's population has shown no sudden increase.

NEW WHITE RACE OF MEN MAY BE FOUND

London, April 20.—Relating his experiences during explorations in Bolivia to the Royal Geographical society Major P. H. Fawcett remarked that voyages up the Amazonian rivers were not without their dangers.

There are anacondas (giant snakes), crocodiles, electric eels, sting rays, and the perania, a small deep-bodied fish with razor-like teeth and an unappeasable appetite for blood. Men unfortunate enough to fall into the Paraguay—where the perania is most prolific—may be picked clean before they can be rescued.

The Anaconda is ubiquitous, moves by night, and has a weird cry. The major's party killed one 65 feet long and another party reported killing one 85 feet in length.

Insects are legion, and render life a torture. Mosquitos are the least offensive. "In places one is covered from head to foot with bees, inside one's clothes and outside, in one's ears, nose, eyes, hair, and mouth if it is opened, pungent-odoured and seeking salt perspiration. Feeding by day under such circumstances is out of the question." There is a whole list of dreadful and obscure diseases, and the Brazil-nut tree, dropping its heavy fruit from 100 feet or 150 feet, often breaks the traveller's head. There is also a tree which drops a colourless liquid which causes the body to swell and gives acute pain.

There are rumors which cannot be disproved, since no one knows the heart of the continent, of a white race with blue eyes and red hair.

Locals

Today—The closing out sale of the Doll stock of jewelery, etc., commences by orders of the creditors. 3432-111

FRIDAY'S EARLY MORNING SPECIALS AT 9¢

New Ginghams, fine quality, fast colors, checks, stripes and plaids, color combinations of sky and white, pink and white, black and white, navy and white, etc. If you want some nice stuff for children's dresses see these. **Friday, on Sale only from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at, per yard** ..... **9¢**

FRIDAY'S MORNING SPECIALS AT 9¢ A YARD.

Cretonnes---10 pieces of pretty cretonnes, in very pretty colorings, rich designs, shades of red, green, fawn, blue, terra cotta, pink, etc. We place the entire lot on sale **Friday morning only from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at,** per yd. ..... **9¢**

Towelling -- Heavy towelling for kitchen use, pure linen; for hard wear it can't be beaten anywhere. **Extra value, Friday, per yard 9¢**

Laces -- Fine val. laces or torchon qualities in insertions or edgings, beautiful fine makes. Reg. prices 12 1-2 to 15c a yard. **On Sale Friday at, per yard** ..... **9¢**

Ribbons -- In qualities of satin or silk taffeta, reversible qualities, all colors; reg. 12 1-2c a yd. **On Sale Friday at, a yard** ..... **9¢**

Fancy Braids for dress trimmings, ideal for kiddies' dresses, different color combinations, made of mohair and silk mixtures, all colors. Reg. 12 1-2c to 15c. **On Sale Friday, at, a yard** ..... **9¢**

Canton Flannel, unbleached or bleached, nice weight and very extra value. **On Sale Friday at, a yd.** ... **9¢**

White Cotton -- Bleached or unbleached, excellent value for the good quality of it. **Special Friday at, a yd. 9¢**

Embroideries in select new styles, edgings excellent qualities; if you want values get here Friday. Reg. 15c. **Friday only** ..... **9¢**

Apron Ginghams at 9¢

Just imagine, apron ginghams in blue and white checks and stripes, just what you need for house aprons, a full yard wide. **Friday Morning Special at, a pard** ..... **9¢**

Colored Muslins -- In dainty floral designs, choice quality, very stylish patterns and correct colorings. Reg. 15c a yard. **On Sale Friday at,** per **yard** ..... **9¢**

White Flannelette, firm quality, pure white, bleached. Take a tip from us and supply your needs tomorrow, the price is going up very soon. **Friday Special at, a yd.. 9¢**

Curtain Scrim in cream only, one yd. wide, lace stripe effect, very extra value. On **Sale Friday at, a yard.. 9¢**

Prints -- We offer you limited quantity of odds and ends in some good prints. Reg. 15c, to be closed out **Friday at, a yard** **9c**

NATURAL PONGEE SILKS, FRIDAY, 35¢ A YARD.

Regular value always 50c a Yard.

Fifteen pieces of natural color pongee silks for coats, dresses, etc. These fabrics are unrivalled for wear and general utility, seldom indeed can you buy such silks as these for the money. Regular 50c. **On Sale Friday at, per yard 35¢**

WOMEN'S BLACK PARASOLS AT 65¢.

On Sale Friday only, worth $1.00.

500 only Women's Parasols in black only, elegant natural wood handles, pearl or horn handles, steel frames and choice cloth coverings. The rain will soon be here, so here is your chance. Real values $1.00 each. **Special Value, Friday only** ..... **65¢**

Gigantic Closing Out Sale of all Dress Goods, Silks, Linings, and Dress Trimmings

Every yard of dress goods, silks, linings, etc., to be cleared out, a real genuine clearance sale of all these goods. Owing to our growing ready-to-wear business we are compelled to clear out all dress fabrics to give our ready-to-wear department more space. Every yard and every piece subject to huge reductions in price.

ALL DRESS FABRICS REDUCED. WE MUST CLOSE THEM OUT AT ONCE.

Colored Panamas, all wool, all colorings. Regular 50c. **Closing Out Price, per yard** ..... **35¢**

Colored Mohairs, in two tone effects, checks, plaids and self colors, all shades to select from. Regular 40c. **Closing Out Price, per yard** ..... **30¢**

Light Tweeds, in pure wool goods, checks and stripes, new arrivals, too, elegant for dresses. Reg. 40c to 65c. **Closing Out Price, per yard** ..... **25¢**

Fancy Mohairs, in solid colors, checks and stripes, a fine lot of materials for dresses. Regular 50c. **Closing Out Price,** .. **37 1-2¢**

Shadow Stripes, in lovely colors, all new materials and every yard pure wool, just what you need for a new dress. Reg. 75c a yard. **Closing Out Sale Price, per yard 55¢**

All Other Dress Goods, not advertized, we will allow discount of 15 per cent. off regular prices.

CLOSING OUT SALE OF ALL SILKS, LININGS, TRIMMINGS, ETC.

Colored Foulards, in fancy floral designs, stripes and polka dots, colorings of navy, brown, fawn, green, cadet and reseda; also white grounds with colored spots and floral effects, 25 inch, regular 50c and 65c. **Closing Out Price, per yard** ..... **39¢**

Colored Taffetas, in real French goods, excellent quality, all colorings, pure silk, white, cream, sky, pink, fawn, grey, brown, nile, green. Reg. 65c. **Closing Out Sale Price, per yard** ..... **44¢**

Colored Tamalines in excellent quality, beautiful finish, all colorings, of sky, pink, blue, navy, reseda, myrtle, rose, tan, brown, cream, and black. Reg. value 60c. **Closing Out Price, per yard** ..... **44¢**

Colored Pailettes, pure silk, lovely soft, silky finish, ideal for pretty dresses, rich soft colorings, all the new shades. Reg. 75c. **Closing Out Sale Price, per yard** ..... **50¢**

All Other Silks, not advertized, we give you a discount of 15 per cent. off regular prices.

Great Values in Blankets, Quilts, Comforters, Etc. Read the Prices--Buy and Save Money

Flannelette Blankets in white or grey, No. 1 quality, no seconds here, colored borders, all sizes and all are reduced.

10-4 size. On sale at **$1.00**
11-4 size. On sale at **$1.30**
12-4 size. On sale at **$1.60**

For Choice Pillows Read.

Art Pillows for beds, full sizes, soft quality, all reduced in price.

Regular $1.00, now ..... **$ .80**
Regular $1.50, now **$1.15**
Regular $2.00, now **$1.60**

White Bed Spreads in Marseilles or honeycomb weaves, only the very best of goods here, and the regular prices are far less than other stores ask. All are reduced to close out.

Regular $1.25 quality, now ..... **$ .95**
Regular $1.65 quality, now **1.25**
Regular $2.00 quality, now **1.65**
Regular $2.50 quality, now **1.95**
Regular $3.00 quality, now **2.40**
Regular $3.50 quality, now **2.85**
Regular $5.00 quality, now **4.25**

More New Suits and Coats—Just received, per express — These are the very latest season's novelties. If you want fashion's latest at the least prices, come and see what we have. Prices $20 to $45.

BINNINGS CALGARY'S BEST STORE 112 EIGHTH AVE EAST

Summer Underwear for women, in large variety of qualities. Our range of combination garments cannot be beaten anywhere. See our spring special at 65c a suit.

Current Accounts

Opened for business men on favorable terms.

Loans made to responsible parties.

YOUR account is invited.

The Bank of British North America

ESTABLISHED 1836.

CALGARY BRANCH: G. F LAING, MANAGER.

WATCH BEISEKER

A new town located on the Langdon Branch of the C.P.R. and the Grand Trunk survey.

A good chance here for a Drug Store, Livery and Blacksmith. Also Hotel and Doctor, and all of those looking for an A1 town to make money

This locality is populated by a fine class of people who are making money, and there is no question but what it is the best proposition in Southern Alberta.

See HENRY KURTZ, Jr., Beiseker, regarding particulars.