

unduly enlarged, his eyes in mourning or his ears considerably abbreviated. That this kind of diversion tended to make the charavari unpopular goes without saying.

Is singular, however, how such an outlandish institution gained such a foothold. I have heard them on the Island, in Colorado, in South Dakota and in Oregon, and I have read of them being everywhere. It shows after all how mankind love fun and frolic, and it emphasizes the truth of the poetic aphorism:—

"A little nonsense now and then
Is relished by the best of men."

In my young days, it was regarded as a disgrace to be "charivariated." The "charivariers," however, pretended to think otherwise. They held that it was a great honor to be serenaded in this manner. They probably didn't think so, but they had to say something. I noticed, however, that it was the oddest people, the cranks, the busy-bodies and the disliked that were made the victims of the charivari. It was almost impossible for a Smart Aleck to carry away the prettiest girl in the community, or for an old batch to marry a maiden of his own age and escape a good healthy serenade.

In the community where I was reared the charivari was looked upon as a very disgraceful business. I say this, not because the boys were any better than other boys, for we were not, but our parents were very strict on subjects of this character. They created the sentiment against them—not were. Scarcely a paper appeared in those days that did not contain an account of one occurring in some part of the Island, and it would be idle to deny that these accounts were read with a good deal of avidity. So that when we young fellows got together, the propriety of getting up one ourselves when a favorable opportunity arose, was the theme of conversation. We realized that we had to move very cautiously in the matter lest we should be found out and thereby incur the displeasure of the "old folk."