

who are invited by the parents of the groom, or of both, are expected to repair to the house of the bridegroom, and accompany him to the wedding, and also to return with him after the ceremony. By and by the sound of a drum was heard, and some one said "The bridegroom has come." Soon the party entered the house accompanied by the Greek Bishop of Latakia and seven priests and deacons. The women of the company made their way through the throng into the presence of the bride and began to chant the praises of bride and groom, and I suppose concerning nuptial bliss. This they continued to do for about fifteen minutes, when two priests clad in their sacerdotal robes entered the room for the purpose of conducting the bride to the altar which had been improvised for the occasion, and consisting of a small table upon which were placed a bronze plate bearing the figures of Christ and the Virgin, a silver censer and a number of lamps and waxen tapers. The bride then arose, when her aunt occupied a position at her left hand, and under the escort of the two priests, one at either side, they proceeded to the altar where they were to meet the bridegroom. For some reason he was delayed, which fact seemed to irritate one of the priests, an old grey-headed patriarch with a face as solemn as a suit of mourning, and looking about him he asked somewhat curtly: "The bridegroom, where is he?" But presently that delinquent made his appearance, preceded by the bishop arrayed in his priestly robes and wearing a royal crown, apparently overlaid with gold and set with gems, and carrying a shepherd's crook, beautifully inlaid with mosaic work; then the ceremony proper began. One of the priests read a portion of the service in a chanting or singing tone, and others uttered responses. Then the ring was brought consecrated by the bishop's making the sign of the cross over it, and the marriage ceremony was repeated to each three times. Another portion of the service was chanted or intoned and responses uttered. Then the censer, containing smoking incense was swung to and fro by the bishop in order that the fumes might be wafted upon the happy pair. After this two wreaths of what appeared to be orange blossoms were brought, consecrated, placed upon the respective heads of the victims and the ceremony repeated three times to each. Then followed a period of intonation. Upon the heels of that a goblet of wine was brought, over which the bishop made the sign of the cross three times, presented it to the bride and groom, each of whom took a sip and submitted to a triple infliction of the marriage ceremony, after which they were pronounced man and wife. Several other acts of minor importance were performed, such as kissing the book, etc. The ceremony occupied in all between thirty and forty minutes. Then according to custom the bride wept profusely and was comforted gushingly, and afterwards the newly wedded couple departed to the house of the bridegroom.—*Extract of a letter from Rev. Wm. Sproull.*

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A prohibitory liquor law has been adopted, and is rigidly enforced in the State of Kansas. The Governor of that State thinks that in a few weeks "there will not be a distillery, rectifying establishment, or saloon, in the State."