

HOW TO GET MARRIED.

thither new admirers, nor mysterious secrets of occult sciences, by which chill December may win sunny May, *or vice-versa*; do not hope to read herein how bride or bridegroom, best-man or bridesmaids, should be attired on the momentous occasion when the bonds of wedlock are being fast riveted by priest or parson, justice or deacon; think not to be entertained by the "how" among the foreign nations in the dark places of the earth. Such lofty themes transcend our humble powers; we only propose to try and show how the two distinct entities are welded together into one person, in the eye of the law and to the satisfaction of the lawyers.

Start not as if pierced by some serpent's tooth, at the sight of these two words, "law" and "lawyers," for "the law is, after all, the most romantic of professions." Happily for its members it is not entirely composed of sheep-skins and dust and decided cases, "quiddets and quilllets, cases and tenares," as the Prince of Denmark hath it. "Many are its paths of pleasantness, and writers of fiction, seeking where they can find what most will interest their readers, have oft-times turned to the law and invoked its invaluable assistance without compensation in compounding a plot or inventing a striking episode."

Take, for an example (which touches the point under consideration), a novel, which many of you have read during this very season, "What he cost her" (a truly novel subject, for most books might be truly said to be on what she cost him), by Mr. James Payne. The most exciting part of this highly creditable story is where the hero, Landon by name, is in the prisoner's docket to be tried for bigamy—he having deemed his first nuptials void, because his lady-love had married him under an assumed name, had taken to himself another partner for better or for worse. During the opening address of the counsel for the crown (for the trial took place in "merrie old England"), what puzzled Landon was, that the fact of his having been ignorant of the deception in the matter of the name (on which he counted for sympathy), was willingly conceded by the learned speaker; afterward he found that this was the chief point relied upon by his enemies. You, fair friend, did not see any great importance in the examination of Ella by Mr. Pawson, after she had explained that,

owing to a quarrel with her father years before, she had taken and ever since been called by her mother's name. He asked:

"There was no material cause, then, why you should have deceived your husband?"

"None whatever," she replied.

"He did not, however, aid or abet you in the deception?"

"He? no!"

"I mean," continued Mr. P., "that you and your husband did not agree together before marriage to deceive the public by your assumption of this false name?"

"Most certainly we did not," answered the fair witness.

You doubtless found these questions and answers far from startling, in fact, monstrous; but the wicked hero, perched on the ragged edge of despair, noticed that they had a marked effect on the gentlemen in horse-hair wigs; he saw stuffs and silks look at each other significantly, and the Judge himself steal a glance at him over his spectacles—a look which seemed to chill him to the very marrow. Ella, too, felt that her replies had sealed the doom of her once dearly-beloved. And well-grounded was the fear of the culprit, the triumph of the accusers. Sufficient cause had the lawyers for the glances which said unmistakably, "he's a goner;" and very bad on the bench for that look which read "you rascal, fifteen years of penal service for you." For the law of the land at that time said that a marriage not lawfully celebrated, by reason of fraud having been practised by one party or the other, was valid in favor of the innocent victim, and that a marriage was perfectly good even when one of the parties had been married under a false name, providing the other was not cognizant of the deceit: *Kiny v. Wroston*, 4 B. & A. 640. Hence, Ella having proved her husband ignorant of her real name, established the validity of the marriage, branded him as a bigamist, and severed the last hair that held the sword of Justice pendant over his head, consigning him to ignominy, disgrace and servitude. Having done all this, you remember she determines, woman-like, to rescue him ere the punishment, so richly deserved, overtakes him. She conspires with his counsel; produces a statement written by herself before her wedding, for Landon's perusal, explaining