VARIOUS DIVORCE LAWS.

HOW THE MARRIAGE BOND IS BROKEN IN SOME COUNTRIES.

A Country Where the Leaders of Society Are Those Who Have Been Oftenest Divorced and Remarried — Chinese Causes for Divorce—Women of Ceylon Experiment Three or Four Times—Drunkenness a Cause in Prussia—Divorces in the United States.

Marriage is an elixir. You have the word of a musty old philosopher for that. But elixir does not agree with everyone. Divorce is its antidote.

Just as marriage customs, however, vary with different nations, so does the divorce code. Some races esteem it no less than marriage. Others seek to suppress it as much as possible. A few governments will not tolerate it at all.

The Moors of the Sahara in the northern part of Africa, have raised divorce to the highest pinnacle, because it is agreed among them that the leaders of fashionable society shall always be of those who have oftenest been divorced and remarried. And it is actually considered low and vulgar for a couple to live too long together.

The Kabyles of Algeria have more scientific methods of divorce than either Oklahoma or South Dakota. If you happen to be a male Keyle you can repudiate your wife in two ways. In the first place you send her back to her people with the dowry that you received with her. In the second case you put a certain price upon her, at which any one can have the woman who is willing to pay it; and if you suspect that any particular person has been flirting with your wife you will make an exception in his case and fix the price at double or treble the ordinary rate.

It is curious that marriage vows are faithfully kept among the Kabyles. In the rare cases in which they are not observed both parties suffer instant death at the hands of their neighbors.

DIVORCE CAUSES IN CHINA.

The Chinese have a beautiful and comprehensive list of causes for divorce. These are in order, childlessness, inattention to parents-in-law, loquacity, thieveishness, ill temper and confirmed illness. One of the ancient commentators on the Chinese law of divorce has laid it down that a wife might be turned away "if she allows the house to be filled with smoke, or if she frightens the dog with her disagreeable noise." There are exceptions to these rules, however, as a Chinese wife may not be divorced at all if she has worn mourning for either of her parents-in-law, if she has no parents with whom to live, or if her husband has grown rich since he married her.

In most of the islands of the world marriage and divorce are about equally easy. In Samoa marriages are often contracted as an excuse for the wedding feast, and if more feasts are wanted, some agreeable swopping of wives can always bring them about.

REMARRYING FORMER WIVES.

The inhabitants of the Maldive Islands are so fond of marrying and divorcing that a man is not uncommonly found married for the third or fourth time to the same wife.

The Singhalese women of Ceylon find it necessary to marry three or four times before they can get a husband to their liking with whom they can permanently settle down. Among the Dyaks of Borneo young women of seventeen or eighteen are often found with their third or fourth husband. In with their third or fourth husband. In Tahati the men and women marry when they have a mind to and go and and marry somebody else when they get tired of each other. Among the Hawaiians, in spite of their nominal conversion to Christianity, the matrimonial arrangements have been described by the phrase "go as you please" for both parties. Marriage has not much interest for the Hawaiian his one sole object in life being to have a fine funeral, which frequent and expensive marriages tend to render impossible.

On the continents of the world divorce is quite as easy to get as on the islands. In Abyssinia, Bruce, the great traveller, says he has seen a woman surrounded by seven former husbands. Nansen says that in Greenland it is quite common for a husband and wife to get a divorce after living together for six months. One of Dr Churcher's servants in Morocco, though only middle-aged was living with his nineteenth wife when the doctor first met him. Among the Tartars, and, indeed, among all Mahometans, divorces are quite frequent and are easily procured. Of course polygamy is practised, or is at least lawful, so that a wife more or less does not make much difference. The only exception to this rule is among the Touaregs, who ruled Timbuctoo until two years ago.

The women of this nation are so jealour of their husbands that they get a divorce if a husband makes any attempt to take to himself a second wife in accordance with the precepts of the Koran.

While divorce was so very easy for both sexes in the later Roman Republic and early empire, the husband was allowed to keep half the wife's dowry, so that it became an object with some husbands to be married and divorced as often as possible. It ought not to be forgotten than even such exemplary "old Romans" as Caesar, Cicero, Cato and Augustus all divorced their wives for slight causes.

LACK OF CLOTHES A CAUSE.

In East Central Africa a woman can get a divorce from her husband if he does not sew her clothes when she wants him to. It is a great blessing for the husband that few clothes go a long way in that part of the world.

In Prussia a divorce may be had for habitual drunkenness, disorderly life insanity for more than a year or by mutual consent when there are no children. In Norway and Denmark mutual consent after three years' separation is sufficient for a divorce.

In Austria Roman Catholics cannot get divorces, but for members of other religious denominations insurmountable aversion on both sides is all that is necessary. Hebrews may obtain divorces in Austria by making special declarations before their rabbis.

"The Commonwealths founded by the Puritans and the parts of other States settled by their descendants seem to be the chief abodes of divorces," says Prof. Theodore Dwight Woolsey, himself a New England Puritan, in his work on the subject.

CAPITAL CRIME AMONG PURITANS.

Prof. Woolsey apparently regrets the time when the early settlers treated infidelity in their characteristic fashion. The first law of Massachusetts made adultery a capital crime. In 1869 the law was changed. A person guilty of the crime had to stand on the gallows with a rope round the neck, be whipped with forty stripes on their way to the gallows and the jail, and then wear for the rest of his life the letter "A" in conspicuous colors sewn on the clothes. The Connecticut laws of 1773 required that the letter "A" should be burned upon the forehead of the guilty person in addition to the whipping and the exposure upon the gallows.

MANY DIVORCES IN AMERICA.

Prof. Woolsey finds that Massachusetts has proportionately four times as many divorces as France, while Connecticut has more than five times as many as Saxony. Chicago, according to Prof. Woolsey, has a higher ratio of divorces to population than any other part of the country, but St. Louis and San Francisco are good seconds and only a short distance behind her in this respect.

OLDEST MARRIED COUPLE.

Just Completed Eighty-Seven Years of Married Life.

Mr, and Mrs Jacob Hiller, who live near the town of La Grange, Ind., have just completed eighty-seven years of married life, and both, the report says, bid fair to live a few years longer. Mr. Hiller is now 107 years old and his wife 105. They claim the undisputed distinction of being the oldest ,or rather the longest married couple in the United States.

The little frame cottage which they now occupy has been their only home for nearly eighty-five years. It consists of but a single room, and contains all the earthly possessions which have served the aged couple throughout so many years of wedded life.

Mr. Hiller is a remarkably vigorous man for one of his extreme age. His eye is as bright, and his step as steady as that of a man of forty, but with old age have come symptoms of second childhood, the most amazing of which is the cutting of two teeth lately. His snow-white hair falls almost to his shoulders. Time has dealt less kindly with the wife. She is sorely bent with the weight of years, and is totally blind. Both are natives of Canada. They were married here when he was twenty years of age and she eighteen. The couple have eleven children, the eldest now being eighty-two years old and the youngest fifty-seven.

How the world has changed since this remarkable couple began housekeeping in that little frame cottage in which they still live! The news of many of the greatest events in all history has come to them as they sat in their humble Indiana home. The two had been married nearly thirty years before Victoria was crowned Queen of England. They have lived to hear the reports of her diamond jubilee. Hiller was twenty-two years old, and he and his bride were well passed their honeymoon when the war of 1812 broke out. He remembered when Canada was little more than a wilderness and when the settled portion of the United States was confined to the far East.

PEDALS WORK THE BAND.

A Mechanical Orchestral Conductor Invented in Italy.

Italian genius has invented a mechanical orchestral conductor which is said to fill a long-felt need in Italy, and would doubtless be as much appreciated here. The directors of the bands in Italian cafes chantants are called upon to play the violin or the piano besides conducting, so the most that they can do is to start the music and then every member of the orchestra continues it in accordance with his own idea of what it ought to be. Two mechanics of Turin have invented a remedy for this lamentable state of affairs which ought to be useful in some of the east side cafes and concert halls here.

This invention puts an automaton in the director's seat, and in his hand is a baton which is operated by the pedals of the piano on which the conductor is playing; or if he happens to be a violinist the pedals are placed near his feet in such a way that he can move the arms of the automaton as freely as if they were his own. The mechanism has already been tried in Turin with success, and the amusement it created would cause the idea to seem an unmixed blessing if it did not appear dangerous to increase the number of mechanical directors by any means.

TUNING UP.

It has often puzzled the uninitiated why musicians tune their instruments in public, and not before they enter the orchestra. If they manipulated them before entering the theater or concert room they might find the temperature different in the place of performance, and the intruments would not be in tune.

AGRICULTURAL

SPECIALTIES IN FARMING.

The most common mistake in modern farming is entire compliance with what used to be the universal rule for farming successfully. The advice to beginners was always to watch the farm methods of those more experienced and copy them implicitly without change. That was, indeed, the way in which farming was almost universally done. There was a regular rotation of crops, each field following in its order. These crops were always planted and grown in the same way. Thus farming became with most a mere round of routine work, says American Cultivator, varying only as the differing seasons provided different tasks. He who could rise early, work most effectively and latest, made the greatest success. Thus farming became what no occupation ever ought to be, a life of monotonous and severe toil, unrelieved by the hope of much improvement, except as failures of crops in other sections, or foreign wars, increased the prices of farm products, and made them profitable. The successful farmers of the present day still have some crops grown after the old methods, and which it is supposed that anybody can grow. So they can, but in those universally grown because easily grown crops there is seldom if ever any profit. All the farmers who make more than a bare living have done so by getting out of the ruts far enough to take some specialty and make it a success. This can only be done by such close study of this specialty that the farmer is enabled to produce it of better quality or more cheaply than can anybody else. It is a common saying of the much-overcrowded professions of law and medicine that "there is room at the top." The same is true in farming, with the advantage to the farmer that there are a great many more chances for his success, working as he does with nature, than there is for the success of those who must win it by sharp competition with their fellowmen. The demand for the farmer's product is universal. One man's success does not, therefore, imply the failure of anybody else. With each farmer devoted mainly to the production of one specialty they may all succeed, for since the world began the food products that the farm has produced have never been more bountiful than the world has required. The usual surplus of food carried over from year to year is commonly only enough to supply the world's needs for a few weeks, so that should a single harvest fail all over the world, mankind would be very quickly confronted by famine. It is the making of specialties of different farms products that has largely in modern times lessened this danger of famine. If farming were altogether routine work it is conceivable that over wide areas where the staple grains are grown, the common routine methods might fail. But the advantage of making a specialty of some crop is not only that the specialist can, in ordinary seasons, produce more cheaply, but that he will be able to make a crop when if he grow only by routine methods failure would be inevitable. To this day in countries like India and Russia, where farm methods, are wholly on the routine plan, famine is frequent. The good farming which the growing of specialties requires always insure a crop of some kind, thus overcoming the unfavorable seasons which are ruinous to the farmer who has used only routine methods.

But it is to the farmer himself that the greatest benefit comes from cultivating some specialty. It becomes necessary for him to study this subject so as to learn thoroughly all that can be known about it. Only doing this can the specialty be made a success. This thorough study of some farm subject has quite as beneficial an effect on the mind as does the thorough study of the professional man which fits him for success in his vocation. The farmer may study nature and nature's laws rather than books, but he will become not merely as well educated but better educated than the man who has studied books alone. The educated man, if he be a philosopher, will find when he talks with a farmer who has been taught by nature to think in the cultivation of his crops, that he is meeting men who have, perhaps, learned to think quite as deeply as himself. The homely wisdom of many a modern farmer easily sets aside the scoffing question of the ancient Jewish writer, who, in the Apocrypha, is supposed to be Solomon; "How shall he get wisdom whose talk is of oxen?" At least the wisdom learned on the farm, in converse with nature, may save the man whom the Jewish king despised from the sensual excesses into which Solomon's pride obliged him to fall. He had written that "pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall," and his life illustrated these proverbs. The practical question of what specialty each farmer shall adapt himself to must be determined by locality and circumstances. Usually each locality is by soil, climate or nearness to market adapted to producing something better than can be produced anywhere else. Thus, when the skill and study of one man makes a great success of anything most of his neighbors will soon be found following him. It is thus that the possibilities of cranberry growing have been developed on marshy lands easily overflown that were formerly thought of little value, but are now held at very high prices. Other localities inland are found to be especially adapted to grape growing, and others still to varieties of the small fruits or to growing of apples, pears, peaches or plums. The low, mucky lands near Kalamazoo, Mich., were believed by a shrewd farmer to be especially adapted to growing celery. Experience since has proved this fact. It requires much knowledge of the best conditions for growing crops to decide what can most probably be grown successfully. But when the crop has been tried, and has proved adapted to the location, the value of all the land in the neighborhood is at once raised. What one man has done others may do. In this way the extensive cultivation of an article in one locality attracts to it buyers from all the world, and that in far greater numbers than if only the originator of the specialty were allowed to grow it. There can be no monopolies in farming. It would do nobody any good if there were. Land can be bought by anybody who has the knowledge of how to make it more profitable than can anybody else. Thus the thorough mastery of some specialty in farming or fruit growing becomes more valuable capital to whoever has it than would large amounts of land with buildings and all the means for cultivating it without the special knowledge how to make the best use of it. There is no kind of practical knowledge about farming that cannot be made valuable to the thinking and energetic farmer. It saves him from the mistakes which many men make in farming because they rely wholly on the expensive method of experience that is essential.

THE HEN AS AN ADJUNCT.

Passing through the country the observing traveler is impressed with the low estimate placed upon the hen. Many only having a few, and these are left to shift for themselves, roosting in trees and out of the way places, and yielding returns just about equivalent to the care given them.

As an adjunct to dairying, the hen, properly treated, cannot be over-estimated. The reasons for this statement will readily present themselves to the thoughtful man. In the first place, the hen will find a way of utilizing many of the by-products of dairying. Skim milk these fowls will devour by the gallon. So with buttermilk. Without question, milk fed to hens will yield a readier and more profitable return than in any other way.

Then, too, butter and eggs go well together when it comes to marketing. How many times when selling butter is the call made for eggs! A few chicks taken along in the fall of the year find ready sale and add to the family exchequer. It is not necessary to buy very much of the feed consumed by poultry. We may raise all the corn, oats and buckwheat we need for this purpose. Warm quarters in houses constructed especially for them; careful attention as we bestow upon other domestic animals; and a little skill in disposing of the egg product will soon convince the most incredulous that hens and dairying go well together.

The garden and other fields near by which are under cultivation should be closely fenced from the hen. Valuable time and loss of patience will thus be saved. A hen out of place, as well as anything else, is a pest. We believe that one great source of the prejudice against the hen arises from the fact that she is not kept in her proper place. The hen is worthy of the farmer's serious consideration. She may be one of his best friends instead of being thought a dire enemy.

THE OAT HARVEST.

I like to cut oats before they are fairly ripe. If harvested when the kernels are just beginning to harden, the straw will be almost as good to feed as hay, and the grain will be bright and rich, says E. L. Vincent, the well-known writer. I usually let my oats lie in the swath for a day or two, until well dried out. Then they are raked, bound and set up in shocks of ten bundles. There is room for a great deal of care in this part of the work. Grain carelessly put up will in stormy weather become wet easily. My way is to set up eight bundles "two and two." Then I take two bundles and standing them on the butt end, split them by pulling the heads down toward the ground until half the bundle has been treated in that way. Then I turn the bundles over the top of the shock, one on one end, and one on the other, butts together. These form a cap which will, after fairly settled, greatly protect the shock from injury by storm. Some hold the bundle against their bodies while preparing them for caps, and others bind part of their bundles with the band nearest to the butt and use these for caps. No doubt they do make better caps. The Dutch cap is made by setting the bundles in a round shock, and opening one large bundle so that it will stand with the butt upward, covering the entire top of the shock. This is a good way to put up grain. After the grain has stood for a week or two, depending upon the weather, it will do to go in. If the shocks seem damp, it may be necessary to set them apart for a few hours in the sunshine. Of course, if one has a large crop, and uses a reaper and binder, it may be necessary to let the grain stand a little longer before cutting, but even then it may be done before the crop is dead ripe. It will not shell then, the grain will be much finer, and the straw a great deal nicer. Oat straw is coming to be valued much more highly than formerly. It used to be common to see great stacks of straw rotting or burning down in the field or near the barn. We have learned that straw has a good market value, and that we may add many dollars to our receipts for the year by cutting oats early and properly caring for them.

INNOCENT.

Little 5-year-old Jennie's mother had gone to church, leaving her and her baby sister with their grandmother. After a while grandma got weary and put the baby to bed. Then she suggested that it would be nice if Jennie also, would retire.

I don't want to yet, grandma, said the little girl.

But see how nicely little sister has gone to sleep, grandma urged.

Oh, well, replied Miss Jennie, she ain't old enough yet to realize that it's not dark!

FIRE IN A COAL MINE.

WATER HAS BEEN POURED ON IT FOR MANY MONTHS.

Appalling Heat from which Miners have to Suffer—Dangers from Collapse—Staggering Like Drunken Men.

There are few people outside, and not so many as one might suppose within the coal regions who realize the dangers with which the miners have to contend in their arduous work, says a Wilkesbarre, Pa., correspondent. Chief of these, and the only one of which I will speak now, is fighting the fire in a burning mine.

It was my good fortune to spend a few hours not long ago with the men who were battling a stubborn fire in one of the largest mines in north-eastern Pennsylvania, and it was an experience not readily forgotten.

The situation was a serious one for the officials to face, and every effort that the experience and ingenuity of the experts could suggest was made to control the fire. The fight was a long and stubborn one, but after two months of hard labor the mine was saved.

It was on the extremely cold day towards the end of winter when I reached the mine. The division superintendent in charge of the work, laid out flannels, overalls, big rubber boots, and the regulation miner's cap, and clad in these we prepared to descned. Holding tight and obeying the timely injunction "Keep your heads down," we rattled—or rather seemed to drop—down the six hundred feet of the lowest level. The air was peculiarly heavy and nauseating.

"There is about six per cent. of fire damp in it," calmly remarked the superintendent, and added with equal calmness, "Ten per cent. will kill."

IN THE GANGWAY

however, the air is purer, and we enjoyed the full force of the sweet current sent down from the surface by the powerful fans.

A turn to the left, and a small airway parallel with the slope was reached just in time to meet three miners who staggered past us like drunken men.

"They come from the "face' of the fire," said the superintendent, (In mining parlance the "face" means the front.)

These men wore overalls, rubber boots, and flannel shirts open at the chest. They were half sick with the heat, and at the turn of the slope threw themselves breathless in a corner where other men dashed cold water over them. At this point the temperature was 100 degrees Fahrenheit. There were 150 men in this part of the mine divided into small gangs of fifteen or twenty, each gang working for ten minutes at a time, it being impossible to labour longer in the great heat.

The place was like, half a hundred Turkish baths combined in one. I plucked the superintendent's sleeve when I felt that for me to stay longer there meant death, and he led the way downward none too soon to please me, for I was piming for the freezing air of the mountain side some 500 feet above. At a delightfully cool spot where the thermometer marked 109 degrees, we sat on a bench to recover.

THE "HELL HOLE"

was in the main slope at the very heart of the fire, which at that place was in the shape of a great V, and the spot to which we were bound was the point of the V. There was fire on both sides and in front of us.

At last we reached the "face" of the fallen roof, and new props were being put in as the men gained on the fire. Here too the slope was blocked and inch by inch they removed the debris to make a passageway. This debris had been piled in heaps at the sides of the slope, and the passage thus contracted to a few feet in width. A four inch stream of water was playing on the blackened and steaming mass, while water from a point 200 feet above found its way through the fire and rushed past us.

In this terrific heat the men were working steadily, remorselessly, like merciless machines directed by a giant hand, toiling night and day, to overcome the fire and gaining on it inch by inch, slowly but surely. We staggered downward as we had seen the men stagger.

From the 110 degrees spot we went downward to the 100 degrees—for the superintendent said we must cool off gradually—and then to the main gangway, where it was about 90 degrees. Finally up the slope we went and made a dash from the head house to the office—it was about twenty-five degrees outside—we stripped, had a bath and the trip was over, I was glad it was.

FREAKS OF RAZORS.

The finest grades of razors are so delicate that even the famous Damascus sword blades cannot equal them in texture. It is not generally known that the grain of a Swedish razor is so sensitive that its general direction is changed after a short service. When you buy a fine razor the grains run from the upper end of the outer point in a diagonal direction toward the handle. Constant stropping will twist the steel until the grain appears to be straight up and down. Subsequent use will drag the grain outward from the edge, so that after steady use for several months the fibre of the steel occupies a position exactly the reverse of that which it did on the day of purchase. If you leave the razor alone for a month or two, and take it up, you will find that the grain has assumed its first position. The operation can be repeated until the steal is worn through to the back.