

A Matrimonial Entanglement.

In "Chapters From My Diplomatic Life," which Andrew D. White, the United States diplomatist, is contributing to "The Century Illustrated Magazine," there occurs an interesting reminiscence regarding the working of the German marriage laws:—

"One morning a man came rushing in exclaiming: 'Mr. Minister, I am in the worst fix that any decent man was ever in. I want you to help me out of it; and he then went on with a bitter tirade against everybody and everything in the German Empire.

"When his wrath had effervesced somewhat he stated his case as follows:—'Last year while travelling through Germany I fell in love with a young German lady, and after my return to America became engaged to her. I have now come for my bride. The wedding is fixed for next Thursday; our steamer passages are taken a day or two later, and I find that the authorities will not allow me to marry unless I present a multitude of papers such as I never dreamed of! Some of them it will take months to get, and some I can never get. My intended bride is in distress; her family evidently distrust me; the wedding is postponed indefinitely; and my business partner is cabling me to come back to America as soon as possible. I am asked for a baptismal certificate—a Taufschein. Now, so far as I know, I was never baptised. I am required to present a certificate showing the consent of my parents to my marriage—I, a man thirty years old, and in a large business of my own! I am asked to give bonds for the payment of my debts in Germany. I owe no such debts; but I know no one who will give such a bond. I am notified that the banns must be published a certain number of times before the wedding. What kind of a country is this, anyhow?'"

"We did the best we could. In an interview with the Minister of Public Worship I was able to secure a dispensation from the publishing of the banns; then a bond was drawn up, which I signed, and thus settled the question regarding possible debts in Germany. As to the baptismal certificate, I ordered inscribed, on the largest possible sheet of official paper, the gentleman's affidavit that in the State of Ohio where he was born no Taufschein, or baptismal certificate, was required at the time of his birth, and to this was affixed with plenty of wax the largest seal of the Legation. The form of the affidavit may be judged peculiar, but it was thought best not to startle the authorities with the admission that the man had not been baptised at all. They could easily believe that a State like Ohio, which some of them doubtless regarded as still in the backwoods and mainly tenanted by the aborigines, might have omitted in days gone by to require a Taufschein, but that an unbaptised Christian should offer himself to be married in Germany would perhaps have so paralyzed their powers of belief that permission for the marriage might never have been secured.

"In this and various other ways we overcame the difficulties, and though the wedding did not take place upon the appointed day, and the return to America had to be deferred, the couple at last after marriage first before the public authorities and then in church, were able to depart in peace."

The Blighting of His Fame.

"Ruined!" he cried, as he dashed a paper to the floor and trampled upon it. "Ruined, disgraced! My fair fame blasted! My honor gone!"

"Dearest, what disaster is this?" It was his fond wife who gasped the question, in tones of anguish.

"A disaster which is irretrievable; a calamity which will crush me to the earth!" He ran his white, thin finger through his luxuriant crop of long and lanky hair, black as the raven's wing, at ten-and-a-half the bottle of black, warranted to defy detection—not a dye, not a stain, but a harmless liquid that merely has to be combed into the hair. (Wide advt.)

"Heavens, Horatio, tell me what has befallen thee!" The fair girl turned her horror-full eyes upon him. Her young soul, aged thirty-eight, shared his agony.

"Felicia," he cried, "do I look like a humorist?"

"The fates forefend!"

"Do I strike you at all as being a funny man?"

"Anything but that!" she shuddered.

"Am I not known as a serious author?"

"You are," she admitted.

"Do I not paint the serious side of life?"

"You do," she interjected.

"Am I not a novelist of grave and serious endeavor?"

"You are," she whispered.

"Does not my fame depend on my reputation as a man that abhors a jest as a writer who revels in the darkness of despair and the greyness of existence?"

"If doth!" she moaned.

"Then listen to this," he faltered.

"These are the words that should have wound up the 'Poupenney Monthly':—

"As the light flickered out, she bent her queenly head and kissed him in the dark!"

"Beautiful!" she ejaculated, enraptured.

"Yes, but listen to what the printer has made of it—'She bent her queenly head and kissed him on the beak!'"

"Oh, Horatio!" she murmured, and swooned.

"The horror of it!" he wildly cried.

"The public will take me for a new humorist!"—"Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday."

"Ah, yes," said Miss Backbay, "Emerson appeals to us women of Boston; although he has passed beyond we always keep him in our hearts." "You don't say?" replied Mrs. Wash. "I wonder how it feels to be k at in cold storage like that, after death."—Philadelphia "Press."

For the Farmer.

Thousands of tons of grass (and even weeds) go to waste annually along the roadside which might be easily utilized. A farmer lately made a few movable hurdles, in which he placed sheep, and pastured them along the road, the farm fence forming one side of the hurdle. The hurdles were moved forward daily, and the result was that the roadside was cleaned off wherever the sheep were hurdled, while quite an amount of mutton was secured at a trifling cost. It is worth practicing by others.

"A cheap preparation which will keep flies off horses in pasture is made by mixing crude carbolic acid with fish oil, in the proportion of two table-spoonfuls of carbolic acid to one quart of oil," says a horseman. "This should be applied to those parts which the animal cannot reach with its head or tail. The preparation can be applied to the young foals as well as the brood mares. Crude carbolic acid should be used, as it is stronger than the solution usually sold by druggists."

When to Breed Heifers.

With those who value size principally in their cows, the theory and practice are not to breed until the heifer is 20 or 24 months old. There is no doubt that the heifer will make a larger growth under ordinary treatment if bred at such age, but there is danger in this method, in our estimation, of promoting a beefy tendency in the heifer. With dairy cattle the main purpose is to promote as much as possible a predisposition to milk-giving. For this purpose we breed for milk, feed for milk, and in the care and handling we give the animal we endeavor to promote the milk-giving function all we can, consistent with health and constitution. It has been noticed by close observers that if heifers, or cows even, become too fleshy, they are apt to fail in breeding, or if they do conceive and have a calf, there occurs, somehow, a "set back" to their full and free milk-giving function. "Fat and fertility are at the antipodes of each other," says the author of "The Transmission of Life."

When heifers are kept till they are two years of age before getting bred, they are quite apt to contract a fleshy habit or tendency. But, if the process of gestation is going on with them at the same time, it counteracts the flesh-making tendency, and establishes the milking temperament within them. It is true that the bad results of late breeding in checking the milking tendency are not nearly as apparent in thoroughbred dairy cattle as they are in dual-purpose or beef cattle. The reason for this is that the "dairy temperament" is more thoroughly established in them, by long heredity in that direction, and so holds them more steadily to the central purpose for which they are bred. But there is a constant tendency to "reversion" in the very best of families.

So if we keep alive and strong the dairy temperament, we should start the heifer in that road, as soon as she is 15 months of age. What we are after in this matter of breeding dairy cattle is to constantly establish and enlarge the dairy individuality of our animals. We like to feel that all our methods of breeding, feeding and handling are doing their best to make of each heifer, if possible, a little better cow than her mother. That is the road of dairy progress. Branching off from it and leading away from the great central purpose are other paths, such as "dual purpose," the "color craze," and an un-economic demand for "size," etc.

A writer in The Jersey Bulletin of July 29, speaking on this question, says: "We like them (the heifers) to drop their calves at two years of age. Would prefer them to freshen at twenty months than to go over two years. Heifers bred ever so early with us give from 28 to 2 lbs. per day, and improve generally until the third calf. To be sure, they will not get their full growth until they are four or five years old, and possibly may never be quite so large as if they dropped first calf at three years, but most of us know that size does not stand for everything in a Jersey cow."

Sufficient size, say, 900 to 1,000 pounds, can be attained more surely by seeing to it that the heifer is kept growing and thrifty from the time she is born.

Ropy Milk.

Concerning the trouble, which is caused by an outside germ which gets into the milk after it is drawn, Prof. Farrington recommends the following:—

The best way to overcome this trouble is to carefully wash the cow's udder and brush her legs, afterwards drying both with a clean towel; then the milk-er should wash his hands, thoroughly steam the pail into which he milks, and after throwing away the first streams of milk drawn, milk the cow with dry hands into this clean pail. The milk should be protected as carefully as possible from dust and then strained into the cans in which it is to be transported or in which it is set for cream rising. The strainer cloth, carrying cans and separator, if one is used, should be given an extra washing and scalding in order to destroy any of these germs which have been the cause of the ropy milk. There is no doubt that this trouble may be overcome in this way, and the success one has in doing it will depend entirely on how carefully he protects the milk from the germs, which must get into the milk after it is drawn from the cow.

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