CHINA AND ITS PEOPLE.

An Interesting Talk by Mr. Lilley at the Lincoln Club

At the Lincoln Club on Saturday night Mr. Robert Lilley, of the "Century Magaz ine," lecture on "China and Its People," a subject with which he was familiar from many years' residence in the Celestial Empire. The speaker was introduced by Mr. William Berri, president of the club. The attendance was large, and all listened to Mr. really more in the nature of a talk than of a

lecture. He said in part : China has always been a very interesting crushed to death, smothered beneath the country to us, first because there are so weight of the ponderous animal, or mangled American citizen, and I have as much right Sunday School work, and whose death oc many people there, numbering, as they do, out of all likeness to humanity by the terrible to it as the Chief Jastice, and I won't get curred under peculiarly harrowing circum-390,000,000, and in the second place because tusks that we could see flashing in the they are so very industrious. When 13 moonlight. It seemed an age, this agony Justice, 'you hear what she says.' 'Clear years of age a chum and I were talking one of suspense. day of our studies. An uncle of mine, a sea captain, Uncle Limmev we called him asked been day. We saw the elephant tossing the official head struck off.' Moved by the me why I did not study Chica. He sai'ed away strong canvas canopy about as a dog would look, if not by the words, the marshal turnand was wrecked. We heard nothing from worry a door mat. Thurst after thrust was ed to the woman and said: 'Madam, you him for many years. Finally one night after made by the tusks into the folds of cloth. must surrender this seat. If you don't I I had finished a lecture very much like this Raising his huge trunk, the brute would one a gentleman present sent word that he scream in the frenzy of his wrath, and at to remove you by force.' This brought her in her native Swedish tongue, with almost wanted to speak to me. It proved to be the last, after what seemed an age, but in to her feet. 'Take your old seat,' she said unearthly pathos and artless simplicity, a my long lost uncie. The people who come reality was only a few minutes, he staggered with a stamp of her foot and a mounting to this country are not the Chinese to his feet, and rushed into the jungle. as they are found in their own Just then a smothered groan struck like land, but a race by themselves, a a peal of joy-bells on our anxious ears, and sigh of triumph, echoed by the marshal's sort of alien element, as it were. There is a muffled voice was neard from beneath the sigh of relief." some reason to believe that the Chinese date folds of the shamiaha : "Look alive, you back to the time of Cain. Certainly they fellows, and get me out of this, or I shall have the popular mark upon the forehead | be smothered !" mentioned in the Bible. We can best ap. In trying to elude the first rush of the preciate the size of the great Chinese nation | elephant his foot had caught in one of the if we bear this first in mind: If its terri- tent ropes, and the whole falling canopy had tory were cut into strips a mile wide and then come bodily upon him, hurling the placed end to end, it would take a man camp table and a few care chairs over him. avelling thirty miles a day 500 years to Under these he had lain, able to breath, but walk the length of the land. The country not daring to stir. is rich in coal iron, gold, silver and lead, His escape seemed miraculous. The cloth sented by them to her, and for which they but owing to the low state of their mechani- had several times been pressed so close over | hold her receipt dated February 11. A cal arrangements, these sources of wealth his face as nearly to stifle him. The brute are practically valueless. Everything is in one of its savage, purposeless thrusts, had done by hand. The mines, if such they may pierced the ground between his arms and be called, are dug a few feet below the sur- his ribs, pinning his Afghan choga or dressface. Then they fill up with water and the ing gown deep into the earth; and he said work has to cease. A Chinamen who had he felt himself sinking into unconsciousness, travelled through England and France was | when the brute happily got up and rushed off. asked what was the most wonderful thing he had seen. It was a man working a common wooden pump. The public officials in China are notoriously corrupt. When we were trying to get a mine we were "struck" by various dignitaries before we were allowed to go on with the enterprise. Towns and cities are everywhere. There are no fences about for my pipe, which had dropped someand no farms, as we know them. Farmers where near when I tripped on the ropes. I live in the villages and walled towns and go seemed, too, to have a quick review of all to their work in the country with their the actions I had ever done, and was just plows strapped upon their backs. In dropping off into a dreamy unconsciousness, the southern part of the country the after pulling a desperate race against Oxford favorite vehicle for travel is a wheelbarrow- with my old crew, when your voices roused like structure. In the northern part people | me to sensation once more." ride in a basket hung on poles, between two mules, in tandem rig. The Chinese are very much afraid of the "foreign devile," as they call all Europeans. They will scatter like sheep if you turn around suddenly. When you go to an inn you are sure to be followed and watched by a large and curious erowd. " Have you brought your tea with you ?" the proprietor will ask. Every gentleman carries his own tea, so boiling water quantity. and cups are brought in and the beverage prepared. When you want to go to bed you will have hard work to get rid of the throng. They do not know what sort of being the " foreign devil" is. The cities, towns, and, us, and we ourselves waste not a little that of course, houses and inns are closed at sunset. Everyone who is abroad after that hour is on no good errand. I remember how one night the only way I could get accomodations was to threaten to die on the premises, when, according to Chinese law, the innkeeper would have had to bury me, pay my transportation home and support my family the rest of their lives. It is a common method of revenge there for a man to call upon an enemy, pretend to be reconeiled, and when he has been invited to stay all night hang himself in his bedroom. The Chinese are very superstitious and they are very, very curious. They were constantly asking how we got into our narrow trousers, some of them suggesting that we must have been born in them. They commonly ask the ladies how old they are. The usual answer is more than twenty. They think it strange that we wear no pigtail, but as they have only worn it since the middle of the Seventeenth | ties, and some by not insisting on regular Century, as a sign of their conquest by a foreign tribe, I had only to mention the fact to shut them up completely. A point that I want to touch upon to-night, is this: There is no danger that we or any other it at a fearful rate in their rounds of pleasnation shall be overrun by the Chinese. At no time have there been more than 105,000 in our total population of 60,000,000. In ness. the first place it is against their law to leave home for more than three years; in the second, there are certain duties that broken sleep, night exposure and the con must be performed at home in order to insure their own happiness in the world to come. Third, and last, but not least, of all, they have to perform certain sacrifices to keep the spirits of their ancestors in a state of happiness. A great point against their coming here, too, is that they want to keep The Growth of Forestry in Victheir friends in large number at home. They think that a man is reckoned in the next world by the ado that is made over him as he leaves this. If there is a great wailing | correspondent of the San Francisco Chronicle here they say, "Here comes a big man" and prepare accordingly. If there is no noise colonies. This is so for two reasons: First, echoed from this side the river of death they say, "He is no good, let him alone." For this to stay at home and cultivate a large circle of acquaintances."

Semething Saved.

Solon was the name of a certain old colored man, who was so named, perhaps for his import most of the sleepers required for want of wisdom. His observations were scarcely as weighted with knowledge as the words of his namesak:, the wise man of Greece. One day Solon heard one of the men on the plantation say:

"There's a man down on the Roger's plantation who has just had his thigh amputat-

"Why, cut off."

A most successful fancy dress costume made by Worth was a Gipsy dress in which the Duchess de Mouchy appeared as a flower basket. The corsage of the dres from which a cascade of flowers fell over the n't do all that to-night. It's getting too stoppages at all points, and give other inskirt.

How He Felt.

When an elephant goes mad, he makes things lively. A company of Englishmen were out on a tiger-shooting expedition, and all at once were startled by a shout from one of their servants: "Run, run, Sahiba! the tusker has gone mad. He has broken loose." Most of the company got out of the beast's way, but one fellow was still in the tent.

Over the river we could see the brute in a frenzy of rage, kneeling on a shapeless Lilley with close attention. His effort was digging his tusks with savage fury into

the hangings and canvas.

"How did you feel ?" I asked. "Well, I can hardly tell you."

"It must have grazed your ribs?" "It did. After that I seemed to turn quite unconcerned. All sorts of funny ideas came trooping across my brain. I could not for the life of me help feeling cautiously | being of gold."

Storage of Life.

Within each ton of coal was stored, long before the creation of man, a definite amount of heat, which, by the chemical process of combustion, may be made available for man's use. A barrel of wheat contains a fixed amount of food. Electricity can now be stored, and bought and sold in measured

Each person has a definite amount of stored life, normally equal to about one hundred years, but, in most cases, our ancestors have equandered much that should have come to we actually inherited.

This wasting of our store of life is as serious a thing as it is common. It may be done thoughtlessly or ignorantly, but the waste is just as irretrievable. Tens of thousands of children die annually, and as many more survive, with a sadly wasted vitality, simply because their mothers do not excercise enough care in the matter of food, cloth iug, pure air and sunshine.

Our schools waste this store by drawing too largely on the brain and nerves of their pupils through the competitive systems, the worry of public examinations; shrough exacting the same tasks of the bright and dull, and through lack of adequate and persistent attention to the sanitary condition of

the school-rooms. Some parents allow their children to waste their supply of nervous force by the incessant reading of sensational books, or by frequent attendance at exciting evening par-

and sufficient sleep. Women waste it by overwork and worry in their homes, and it is a very rapid waste. Gay young ladies and fast young men waste ure. Only next is the waste of high-living conjoined with excessive devotion to busi-

Of all the professions, the medical wastes the life store most rapidly by irregular and stant drain on the sympathies and the nerv ous system. It seems a pity that those whose great work is to save and prolong the life o others should have to do it at the expense of their own.

I have been quite interested in the state forest administration of Australia, says a South Australia distinctly leads the other that colony is more in need of trees, and in the second place it has a more wise and of foresters. He has been especially trained matter, backed by an unbounded enthusiasm. Practical results are being obtained in various railway construction; she now supplies all her own needs, some 500,000 sleepers having been obtained from one reserve during the last seven years Mr. Brown has had blanted 9,000,000 of timber producing trees, and arrangements are now conpleted for planting 1,000,000 more each year. The department favors and encourages tree planting by farmsupplying plants without charge fron the agr cultural holdings increased.

A Gentle Reminder. - It was about eleven o clock, and the head was where it should be at that bewitching hour. "Tell me, was covered with gilt wicker work and re- Lulu," he said softly in he ear, "how much violet ink on hand-made paper with gilt presented a basket turned upside down you love me." Oh, George, darling, I could- edges. They contain the exact time of the

late."

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

AN IRREVERENT WOMAN.

A Washington letter to the Philadelphia "Record" says :- "When Chief Justice Chase left his seat and stepped forward to | the great Swedish prima donna, Coristine administer the oath to President Grant, an | Nilsson. Miss Ni sson was accustomed, unknown woman stepped out of the crowd | when in New York, to attend service at the behind the chair and took his place. When humble little Swedish chapel on East he turned to resume his seat he saw that it | Thirty-ninth Street. was occupied. Beckoning the Marshal of the Supreme Court, he said : 'Clear my heap of cloth, furniture, poles and ropes and seat.' 'Madam,' said the Marshal, turning of the church. Never elsewhere did she politely to the woman, 'you have taken the seat of the Chief Justice, and he wants it We had little doubt that poor Mac lay again.' 'I don't care,' she responded sharply, not budging an inch; 'I am a free-born | lady who had been prominent in church and up.' 'Your honor,' he said to the Chief stances. my seat,' said the chief justice firmly, and Everything showed as clear as if it had with a look that meant, 'or I'll have your shall have to summon two negro messengers color in her cheek, as she disappeared in the crowd, while the chief justice took it with a

THE BUSTLE AT THE WHITE HOUSE The great bustle manufacturing industry of America is now getting its full share of protection and encouragement. The bustle policy of the new Administration seems to be no half way halting affair. A manufac turing company in Marion, Iowa, advertises the fact that Mrs. Harrison wears a pefect poem in steel springs and cream satin prebustle architect in Shelbyville, Indiana, publishes a letter of acknowledgment and thanks from Mrs. Harrison's secretary. This second bustle is described as "of medium size, covered with fine white satin and it is a work of art." A Connecticut art. ist announces that he has received from Mrs. Harrison "a most gracious acknowledgment" and letter of thanks for the most wonderful bustle ever constructed by human skill. It is of "blue satin, trimmed with rich lace, and furnished with gold mountings, all of the metal parts which are exposed

EVEN GOLD SOMETIMES DISCOLORS.

The "Jewellers' Review" tells the story of a young man who purchased a fourteencarat gold necklace for his best girl, and a few days after rushed into the store and throwing the present on the counter, declared that he had been swindled. He exclained that the owner wore the necklace at a reception, and after the first dance, finding it had made a black mark on her neck, she immediately went home, and the next day returned the piece of jewellery, with a note that "she did not like his brass." The jeweller assured the man that the article was as represented, 14-carat, and while testing it, a young physician, who was standing near and had overheard part of the story, asked to be told it all, as he believed he could throw some light on the subject. Pretty soon he laughed outright, and said : "Why, sir, the trouble is with your girl and not the necklace. She has two much sulphur, iron, mercury, salt or acid in her blood, and as any of these substances has an affinity for gold the explanation is clear. I have patients for whom mercurial medicines have been prescribed, and the result is that their fingers upon which rings are worn are discolored at once." The customer cooled off and carried his purchase away.

WORTH, THE " MAN MILLINER."

Charles Frederick Worth, the famous "man milliner" of Paris, relat es the history of his establishment. He thus explains his

The rumour that my house was founded mainly through the influence of the Princess de Metternich is wholly inexact. The lady was at the outset of my career one of the best and most appreciative of my customers, as she has since always continued to be; but that was not all. Iwo things at the beginning of the empire combined to give to feminine dress an added importance. One was the invention of the crinoline and the

other was the rage for fancy costume balls. Of ex-Empress Eugenie he says :- "I have dressed many lovely wemen but never a lovelier one than the ex Empress of the French. The hooped skirt was invented by the Empress. The amplitude given to the skirts of ladies' dresses by the new invention was something extraordinary. Ten breadths of satin or velvet became necessary to fashion the simplest skirt, and in lighter materials, where flouncing, ruching, etc., were used as trimmings, we hesitated to promise a sec ond dress out of a pattern of 60 or 67 yards till the first was finished. Once I made a dress in whose construction 100 yards of silk were employed. It was in light glace taffetas in three shades of purple, from delicate lilac to deep violet; the whole skirt was covered with close full ruchings in the three shades, and when completed the dress looked like a huge bouquet of violets."

KISSES WITH A MORAL.

A nice young fellow loved two girls, one reason it becomes necessary for a Chinaman business like conservator of forests. This stately and dark, aged twenty; the other gentleman, J. E. Brown, comes from a family | delicate and blonde, aged seventeen. He had been in the habit of kissing the dark in the subject, and he is well up in the girl as often as a hundred times at a single sitting. She liked it and so did he. But the little blonde lay low. One night as ways. At one time South Australia had to the young man was bidding her good night he lifted her fingers swiftly to his lips and kissed their small, cool tips. She drew her hand quickly away, gasped, and said :-"Why, what are you doing?"

Then she fled like a bird and the young

man departed.

Six menths later these two were married. The stately, dark girl wondered how it had been accomplished, She would have wager-"What's dat-amfercated?" asked Solon. ers and other land owners. This is done by ed that her kisses were the finest in the market. Very likely they were, but they grew to be a drug, as peaches sometimes do got de knee and de foot lef' fer to walk wid." being beautified, and the value of many of its is where the delicate blonde had the excellently large intelligence.

Among the curiosities of the Queen's railway journeys are the time tables supplied to her Majesty, these being printed in

Singing Over the Coffin.

In an article upon the churches of denom inations but little known, of which there are many, in New York, the Minneapolis Tribune relates a very pleasant anecdote of

She was very regular in her attendance, and usually occupied a pew near the centre seem to sing so sweetly.

One Sunday afternoon she was present at the funeral of a generally beloved young

At a point in the ritual where a hymn is sung, just before the body is borne away to the cemetery, Miss Nilsson slowly walked from her pew down the aisle, paused on the platform at the side of the casket, and laid upon it a simple but beautiful wreath of flowers; then facing the congregation, with beautiful funeral hymn:

"Oh! angels of immortal light, In robes of dazzling radiance bright, On wings of love, come! bear away Our sister's form of senseless clay; Watt, kindly wings, oh! waft away, Our sister, to eternal day."

When she had concluded, and the notes of the organ accompaniment had died away, there was a silence so profound as to seem awful. It was some moments before the pastor could recover from the spell, and utter the few closing words of the service.

Carried Under.

were obliged to depend upon the forests for | checks the change of tissue necessary to the their supply of meat; and hunting was a physical development of youth. But there profitable business with them. These early will be many who deplore the tobacco habit huntsmen had many stirring adventures. amongst boys who will question the wisdom Asa Comstock, with the aid of his dog, one of the law recently passed by the Connectiday drove a large buck into the river opposite out Senate, which imposes a fine on persons where the Presbyterian church, at Su que- selling tobacco to a minor, and makes it a hanna Depos, now stands.

current carried the dog and deer down the the old blue law of the same State, which instream, until they came to firm ice in the structed the town constable to arrest any bend of the stream. Mr. Comstock ran along, person, old or young, found amoking or encouraging the dog with, " Hold him, Tige, | chewing the weed. hold him! Good dog, good dog!" When he saw the animals had lodged against the ice, struction in New York reports that the rural against the sharp edge of the ice, or at least to choke the creature insensible,

he fairly realized what had occurred, man, under the ice. He was fully alive to the in my life," he said afterward, "and you can wasn't all in my mind !"

His hope of escape rested on coming to an air hole in the ice. They were hurried downward for several rods. Comstock kept his eyes open, and, seeing a light place ahead, he swam toward it. It was an air-hole and he climbed out through it upon the solid ice.

"I lost that buck," he said, "but then l reckoned I was moderately lucky to get out o' that scrape alive."

Lapps.

Facts relating to the Lapps are of interest to Canadians for the reason that the Eskimos of this continent resemble that race very closely. But the Lapps come more in contact with civilized people than do the Eskimos and more is known of their past history and present condition.

The Russian Geographical Society has tion relating to these inhabitants of the North. Their numbers are estimated at twenty-eight thousand. Of these twentyfive thousand are living in the territories of Sweden and Norway; three thousand live in Russia and Finland. Almost all of lead a wandering life. Of those in Norway ous. about one-half live a settled life. The Lapps of Finland are settled, and many of them have given up the keeping of reindeer. A school was opened for them last year.

The Lapps live farther north in Finland than they do in Norway. This is because in Finland the pressure of civilization is stronger. As fields are enclosed and cultivated, the range of pasture for the reindeer is made less. Tais forces the Lapps north. Their former dwelling-places were farther south in all that part of Europe.

The Lapps find their chief occupation in sea fishing. At the end of summer they move inland, and fish in the lakes till winter sets in. Their winter home is near the bogs and marshes where the reindeer find the moss which is their fodder.

It has been a common belief that the Lapps are dying out. This is not an exact statement of the case. It is true that they are disappearing as a race, but this is because they are being steadily absorbed by the Finns. What the future promises for them in Norway and Sweden is not so clear.

Say "Yes."

be his lawful wife.

bride said :

up louder.

dey's one great cons'lation fer de po, man: 200,000 plants were gratuitously distributed in August. The delicate blonde's remained repeated the question in a much louder fornian solon who introduced this measure ef he on'y had de figh amfercated, he done and by this means the face of the country is curious until after the ceremony. And that tone. The bridegroom put one hand to his thinks he can alter the shape of a lady's hat loud voice, "Hey?"

> white gloved hands on the bridegroom's financier and endeavoring to enrich the munishoulder and her lips to his ear while she cipal treasury by the fines of ladies who, screamed:

"Why, of course; what else am I here court,

for?' responded the bridegroom, in a surprised tone. And, although the reply was not quits in form, the ceremony proceeded to the end.

Another self-possessed bride once came to the parsonage with a diffi lent and nervous bridegroom. They came alone. While they were waiting for the minister to appear, his wife, sitting in a room adjoining the parlor, heard the young woman speaking words of encouragement to the young man and instructing him in the part he was to take in the ceremony.

" Now be suce that you don't let yourself get sc befuddled as to say 'no' at the place you'd ought to say 'yes,' John, for then we'd have to be married all over again; and, like as not, he'd charge double.'

The double charge was not made, however, for John said "Yes," in a bashful manner, when the time came for him to declare

PASSING NOTES.

The trend of legislation on the liquor quesher arms crossed upon her breast, she sang tion on this continent is snown by the bill introduced in the Michigan legislature to raise the liquor license fee to \$1,000 State prohibition in Michigan was defeated two or three years ago by a narrow majority, the prohibitionist majority of 24 000 in the state outside of Detroit being submerged by the large vote the other way in that city. Unable to secure prohibi ion some of its friends have turned to high license, with the view of crippling the traffic, and it appears that they will be successful. In Ponnsylvania the order of things is reversed. High license was adopted two years ago, and now a vote on state prohibition is about to be taken.

Whatever may be said for and against the use of tobacco, the general consensus of opinion is that its use by boys is in the main pernicious, and this opinion would appear to The pioneers of the Susquehanna Valley be sustained by the theory that tobacco crime for a minor to use tobacco in any pub-The river was not all frozen over, and the thic place. The law is rather suggestive of

The State Superintendent of Pablic Inhe ran up to them and impulsively seized the schools suffer a great deal from the parsideer by the horns, thinking to cut his throat | mony of trustees. He says that while all teachers are entitled to consideration because of their trying work, the "cross roads" But the buck was yet fresh and gamy. teacher is most to be commiserated. Atten-He gave a sudden jerk with his head, and dance at the cross roads or rural school is Comstock was drawn into the river, and, ere | irregular, so that much of the teachers labour is virtually thrown away. The dog and deer were borne by the swift current | trustees drive hard bargains in regard to his salary. He is usually hired by the term, danger of his position. Fortunately he was | indeed the trustees frequently undertake to a good swimmer and, though terrified at hire him by the day or week, in order that finding himself under the ice, did not lose they may be free to effect a change at any his presence of mind. "I never felt cooler | time. The number of young persons seeking employment as teacher is very large, and believe, in that icy water, that the coolness this competition, of course, favours the niggardliness of the trustees. All this is equally true of the condition of the rural teacher in Ontario. The rural teacher is, perhaps, the most important of public servants, and he is certainly the most unfortunate.

The people of Servia have lost nothing directly by the abdication of K ng Milan. Nor can the brotherhood of European monarchs have anything to regret in the retirement from the stage of so disreputable a representative of royalty. It is hard to conceive of a more pitable sight than that of one who might have enthroned himself in the hearts of a grateful people, going into obscurity bowed down physically and mentally under the burden of his own vices, and followed by the execrations rather than the regrets of a people who could no longer tolerate him as their sovereign. What the effect will be upon the status of the kingdom and the "situation" in Eastern Europe remains recently published some interesting informa- to be seen. Much for the present depends upon the character of the regent-a rather frail support, it is feared. In the not improbable event of the restoration of Queen Natalie, and the preponderance of Russian influence, the danger of trouble with Austria, and the possible precipitation of the long those in Sweden are nomads; that is, they looked-for European conflict will be seri-

> Mr. Charles Dudley Warner has stirred up a hornet's nest in British Columbia by stating, in his article on Canada in the March number of Harper's, that "Vancouver has taken away from Victoria all its importance as a port." The Victoria Colonist, in the course of an article headed "A Stuffed Tourist," says that "no one but a Vancouver boomer with a cheek of brass would have the impudence to attempt to cram such a statement as that down an unfortunate tourist's throat." The same paper asserts that Mr. Warner was also grossly misinformed as to other matters relating to Victoria, the work of the "Vancouver stuffer"being here again apparent. It would seem from this that Mr. Warner heard, or paid attention to, only one side of the story. But tourists who make flying visits to foreign countries for the purpose of "writing them up" cannot be expected to furnish accurate information about them. The only wonder is that Mr. Warner made so few mistakes as he did.

Even the "free west" of California is affected by the craze for regulating overything. A bill has been introduced in the A minister's wife tells some funny stories | Legislature to abate the nuisance of big hats about young couples who have come to her in theatres. Section I reads: "It shall be husband to be married. On one occasion unlawful for any spectator in ary public there came a young couple from the coun- place of smusement to wear a covering for try accompanied by several friends. The | the head which shall reach more than three bridal couple took their places before the inches above the crown of the head or more minister, and all went well until the bride | than three inches beyond the lateral circumgroom was asked if he took this woman to | ference of the head; and any person wearing such a covering for the head shall be guilty There was no response, and the silence of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined in a had lasted for a few seconds, when the sum not less than \$5 nor more than \$10, or be imprisoned in the county jail not less than "He's a little deaf; you'll have to speak | two days nor more than six days; provided that this Act shall not apply to females more The minister, a grave, dignified man than thirty-five years of age." If the Calied the powers of resistance of the so-called Then the bride, who had remained self- weaker sex. The hat won't be crushed possessed throughlit all, straightened matters down in that fashion. Perhaps he knew out by raising to her tiptoes, putting her that and was simply playing the role of a rather than confess to being within five "He says do you want-to-marry-me?" | years of forty, would admit judgment in