

# Oriental Marriage Customs

The Chinese marry their children when very young, sometimes as soon as they are born. The marriage, which is a mere civil contract, is arranged by some go-between or match-maker on behalf of both parties, independent of the consent of the young couple, and they never see each other until the wedding day. Persons bearing the same family name, although not related, are strictly interdicted from marrying each other, says a recent writer. The negotiations for a marriage is generally begun by the family to which the intended bridegroom belongs. The go-between is furnished with a card stating the ancestral name, and the eight characters which denote the hour, day, month and year of the birth of the candidate for matrimony. This card he takes to the family indicated, and tenders a proposal of marriage. If the parents of the girl, after instituting inquiries about the family making it, are willing to entertain the proposal, they consult a fortune-teller, who decides whether the betrothal would be auspicious. If a favorable decision is made, the go-between is furnished with a similar card, and the same consultation of a fortune-teller follows. If this fortune-teller pronounces favorably and the two families agree on the details of the marriage, a formal assent is given to the betrothal. If for the space of three days, while the betrothal is under consideration in each of the families, anything reckoned unlucky, such as the breaking of a bowl or the losing of any article, should occur, the negotiation would be broken off at once.

In modern Egypt a woman can never be seen by her future husband until after she has been married, and she is always veiled. The choice of a wife is sometimes entrusted to a professional woman, who conducts the negotiations for a price. Generally a man inclined to be a husband, applies to some person who is reported to have daughters and desires to know if any are to be disposed of. If the father replies affirmatively, the aspirant sends one of his female relatives who has been already married, to see the girl and report the result. Should the representation be favorable, the intended husband pays the father a stipulated sum, and on an appointed day all parties interested in the event assist at the solemnization of the marriage. On the day before the wedding the bride goes in state to a bath, walking under a canopy of silk which is carried by four men. She is covered from head to foot in an ample shawl, which in size much resembles the Hebrew veil. On her head is a small cap or crown. Following the bath, the bride and bridegroom and their friends have a supper. On the following day the bride goes in procession to the bridegroom's house, where another repast is given. At night the bridegroom goes to prayers at the mosque, after which he returns home and is introduced to and left alone with his bride. Then he lifts the shawl from her face and sees her for the first time.

A woman who lived many years in Japan, in speaking of courtship and marriage among the "little brown people," says that both are very curious ceremonies, and that they still savor somewhat of barbarism. "When a young man," she informs us, "has fixed his affections upon a maiden of suitable standing, he declares his love by fastening a branch of a certain shrub to the house of the damsel's parents. If the branch is neglected the suit is rejected; if it is accepted, so is the suitor. At the time of the marriage, the bridegroom sends presents to his bride as costly as his means will allow, which she immediately offers to her parents in acknowledgment of their kindness in infancy and of the pains bestowed upon her education. The wedding takes place in the evening. The bride is dressed in a long white silk kimono and white veil, and she and her future husband sit facing each other on the floor. Two tables are placed close by; on the one is a kettle with two spouts, a bottle of sake and cups; on the other table a miniature fir tree—signifying the strength of the bridegroom; a plum tree signifying the beauty of the bride, and lastly a stork standing on the tortoise, representing long life and happiness, desired by them both.

At the marriage feast each guest in turn drinks three cups of the sake and the two-spouted kettle, also containing sake, is put to the mouths of the bride and bridegroom alternately by two attendants, signifying that they are to share together joys and sorrows. The bride keeps her veil all her life and after death it is buried with her as her shroud. The chief duty of a Japanese woman all her life is obedience—whilst unmarried to her parents; when married, to her husband and his parents; when widowed to her son.

Until the day of her marriage the East Indian girl has been the spoiled pet of her mother, but the hour that sees her put into a palanquin, shut up tight and carried to her husband's house changes all that was happiness into misery. She becomes from that moment the little slave of her mother-in-law, upon whom she has to wait hand and foot, whose slightest wish is law, and who teaches her what dishes she is to prepare like best, and how she is to husband them. A kind-mother-in-law, is a thing seldom, if ever, met with and rarely does she give the little bride leave to go home and visit her mother.

Of her husband the girl sees little

# ASK YOUR GROGER FOR SALADA

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It is of the same flavor as Japan only more delicious

or nothing. She cannot complain to him of the cruelty of his mother, for he would never by any chance take her part. He sends in to her the portion of the food he wishes cooked for himself, her and the children, and when it is ready she places it upon a large platter and it is sent into his room. He eats all he fancies of it, and then it is sent back to her, and she and the children sit upon the floor and eat whatever is left.

The girls are married as young as three years of age, and should a little boy, to whom such a baby is married, die, she is called a widow, and can never marry again. Married life is hard, but far harder and more sad is the lot of a widow, for she is considered disgraced and degraded. She must eat only the coarsest kind of food and one day in two weeks she must fast for twenty-four hours. Her food must always be eaten away from other women, and she must never dress her hair, never sleep upon a bed and never wear any jewelry.

In Turkey, by authority of the Koran, the sultan is allowed seven wives and every other Mussulman four, and as many female slaves as they please; but in the present day few men have more than one wife each. Polygamy is almost confined to the very wealthy, and is by no means general even among them, probably because a plurality of wives produces a plurality of expenses. All their priests may marry except the dervishes. The Turks can divorce their wives very easily, and are allowed to marry near relations, on the principle that a double tie makes the friendship stronger.

## SPRING SMILES.

So the elopement on the automobile was nipped in the bud? Yes; the old man hid the gasoline can.

What do they mean by "hypothetical question?" Why, it's one of those questions they ask you when you're trying to keep off a jury.

She—I wonder why artists are always so careful to sign their pictures? He—Possibly so's the public can tell the top from the bottom.

Mr. E. Conomy—What do you mean by buying all these things? Mr. E. Conomy—Don't get excited, dear. I didn't buy them. I had them charged.

Customer—Give me ten cents' worth of paregoric, please. Druggist—Yes, sir. Customer, absent-mindedly—How much is it? Druggist—A quarter.

Foster—Do all your employes drop their tools the instant that the whistle blows? Ployer—Oh, no, not all of them. The more orderly ones have their tools put away before that time.

## CHENILLE AGAIN.

Chenille, which has had a struggling and unpopular existence these past few years, for even the chenille curtain has been tabooed for a long time, has once again sprung into marked favor. Chenille dots are in evidence on all manner of fabrics for spring, and are specially smart on lace. Chenille fringe will be more than popular. Modish hats are those with a show of chenille-edged chiffon, with long chenille fringe falling to the hem of one's gown, is the latest, the very latest touch a la mode.

## PEACE AT LAST.

Preacher—What is your highest idea of Heaven? Mr. Hardpushed—It's a place where there's no rent to pay.

## THE END.

Author—I've quit writing things. Editor—What's that for? Author—Well, I wrote a check the other day and the bank rejected it, so I think I have reached the limit.

## Cure Yourself of Rheumatism.

The application of Nerviline—nerve-pain cure—which possesses such marvellous power over all nerve pain, has proved a remarkable success in rheumatism and neuralgia. Nerviline acts on the nerves, soothes them, drives pain out, and so gives relief. Try it and be convinced.

An Education.—Mickey—What yer doin' mudder? Lookin' at de advertisement? Mrs. Mulcahy—Yis; if it wasn't for roidin' in the kyars O'd niver know there was half as many things to ate an' drink.

*"You can mould opinion, you can create political power," says John Bright. But you cannot find a Tea equal to Blue Ribbon Ceylon.*

## GARDENS AT KIMBERLEY.

The gardens of Kimberley are said to be remarkably beautiful. There are in the gardens radiant beds of geraniums, fuchsias, verbenas, heliotrope and mignonette and occasionally a hedge of the great spiky-leaved gray aloes. Many of the houses are covered with beautiful flowering creepers.

## EFFECT OF CLIMATE.

The Great Lakes Influence in Weather Conditions on Southern Ontario.

Variable Nature of Climate in Lake Region the Cause of Kidney Disease  
—Mrs. E. Fitzsimmons, of Nelson, Halton, Co., Cured by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Burlington, April 23.—The County of Halton at the head of Lake Ontario is not the least fruitful field for Dodd's Kidney Pills in the Upper Province. It has its share of Kidney Disease like every other district in the north of this continent. No village, town or city in the northern zones has ever escaped. Climate is the principal cause of Kidney Disease, though of course there are various causes.

In Ontario Kidney Disease in its many forms is the most common ailment, and the commonest cause of Kidney Disease in this province is the variable nature of the climate. These two facts probably explain the case of Mrs. R. Fitzsimmons of this place. Halton County being under the trying weather conditions governed by the Great Lakes. Mrs. Fitzsimmons tells of her experience with Dodd's Kidney Pills.

"Some time ago I got a very bad pain in my side. It was that bad at times I was hardly able to walk, and nothing that I took seemed to do me any good. As it seemed to be getting worse I thought I would try your Pills, and before I had used one box I began to feel better. By the time I had used two boxes the pain all left me, and I felt better than I have for over a year. I tell all my friends of the good Dodd's Kidney Pills have done for me."

## BUILT "LONG TOM."

There are about 14,000 men employed to-day at the Creusot Gun Works in France. This firm will undertake an order for a 13,000-ton ironclad or the re-arming of a nation's artillery. The gun section of the vast business is carried on with the greatest secrecy. The Boer "Long Tom," was put together in these yards.

## TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. K. W. Grove's signature is on each box.

Hicks—How did he ever come to marry her? Wicks—On account of her name, I presume. He's a proof-reader, you know, Hicks—Well, what has that got to do with it? Wicks—Why, her name was Miss Prince.

## THE VICTOR'S CROWN.

Should adorn the brow of the inventor of the great corn cure, Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor. It works quickly, never makes a sore spot, and is just the thing you want. See that you get Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor, the sure, safe and painless cure for corns.

Do you believe in heredity, Mrs. Simpson? Indeed, I do; every mean trait Bobby has I can trace right back to his father. Does his father believe in heredity, too? Yes, he traces Bobby's faults all back to me.

## O'KEEFE'S LIQUID EXTRACT OF MALT

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Hicks—She threatened all sorts of things, and finally he got desperate and exclaimed, Do your worst. Wicks—And what did she do? Hicks—Very coolly, she began to play the piano. Wicks—I see; she took him at his word.

## How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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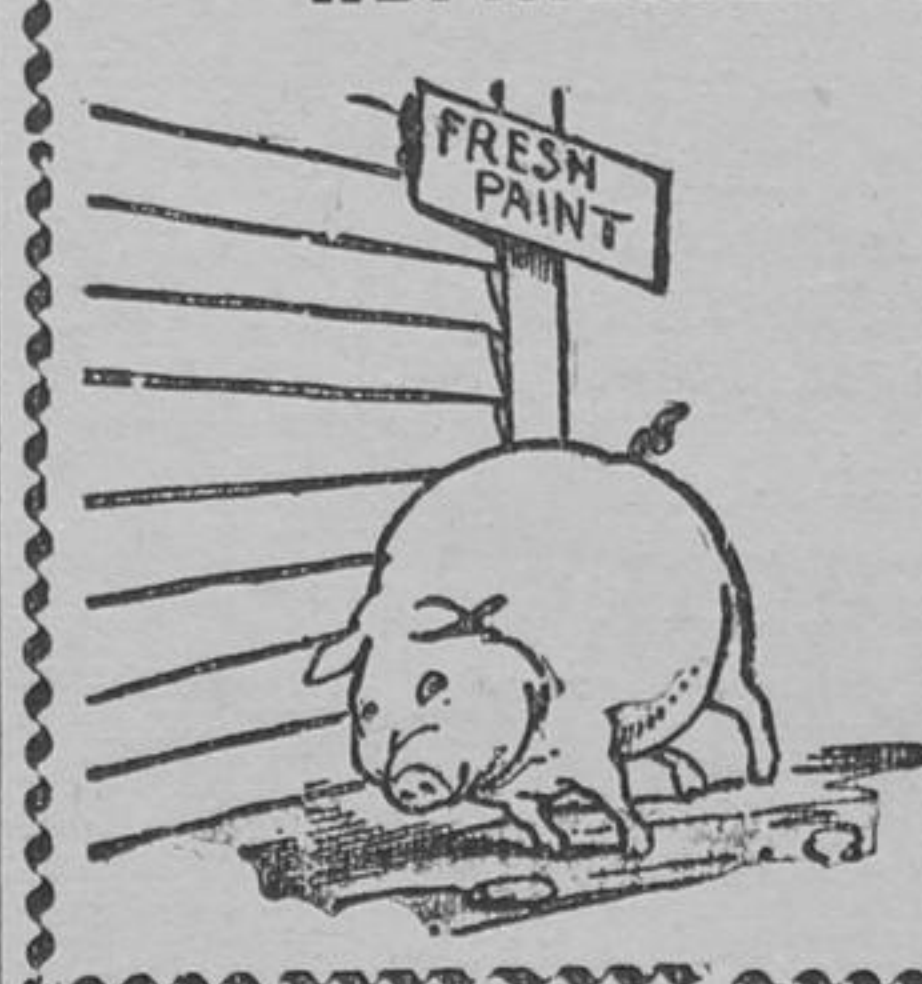
Tess—How's your club getting along? Jess—O! we're getting a big membership now since we reduced the initiation fee. Tess—I told you \$5 was too much to expect any woman to pay. Jess—Yes, we realized that, so we made it \$4.98.

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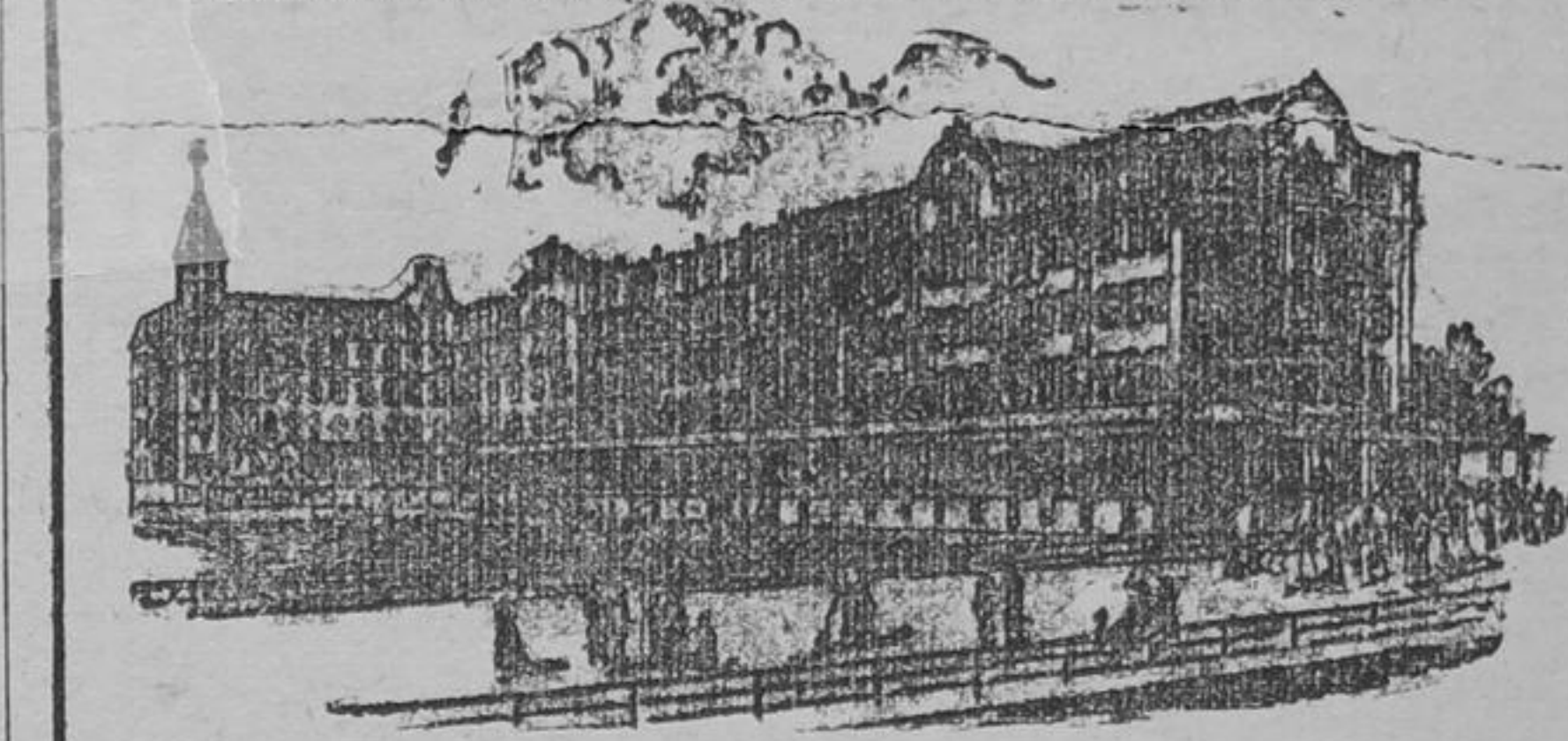
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Mrs. Newbride—You know, John, you promised to let me have all the pin-money I needed. Mr. Newbride—Yes, dear, and you shall have it. Mrs. Newbride—O, you sweet thing! Well I saw a pin to-day with diamonds and pearls in it, and I do want it so.

## "Pharaoh 100."

They say that in time the horse will become practically extinct, said the young woman. Well, answered Broncho Bob, I'm glad to hear it. It'll save a powerful sight o' lynchin's.

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I suppose, she said at the breakfast table, that you know something about the open door policy? He nodded. Am I right in believing that you consider it extremely desirable? she asked. Again he nodded. Nevertheless, she went on, I desire to state that it will be suspended in this house unless you get away from the club earlier than has been your custom.

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