

**English Girls Who Marry Foreigners.**

**HOW THEY ARE CHEATED.  
THE SOCIAL WRECKAGE OF  
DIVORCE.**

The eminent lawyers who were assembled in London at the International Conference in August found the subjects of marriage and divorce so fascinating that their discussion strayed from strict law and precedent, and entered the bounds of psychological examination. Mr R. B. D. Adams, K.C., read a paper contrasting divorce in Canada and in the United States. In Canada, he said, the ancient view of marriage as a lifelong union of a man and a woman still held the field, whereas in the United States marriage was coming to be regarded as a contract of a much less permanent character, which might be terminated without much difficulty by either party. So far from the cause of greater frequency of divorce lying in greater liberality as to the grounds, he said the fact was that British Columbia, where divorces were most frequent, was the very part of the country in which the grounds of divorce were most restricted. As the American statistics showed, there was something in the air of the West which stimulated married persons to seek for freedom.

**Over A Million Marriages Dissolved.**

Such cases as one in which it was admitted that a man might have one lawful wife in Connecticut and another in New York had no parallel in Canada. During the forty years in which Canada had slowly been compiling a beggarly total of 430 divorces, the States of the neighbouring republic had dissolved 1,274,841 marriages. The popularity of divorce in the United States was increasing at a very rapid rate—about three times as fast as the increase in the population. Professor Lichtenberger, of the University of Pennsylvania, for example, looked upon increased divorce, as well as increasing

**Insanity, Suicide and Crime**

as part of the social wreckage which strewed the path of advance. It was significant to notice that in Canada more than a half of the divorces were at the instance of the husband. There was probably no other country where an active and intelligent woman could so easily support herself. To a considerable extent this may account for the readiness of American women to seek for divorce. But many other causes were at work. "Probably the greatest of all is the impatience of all restraint which is characteristic of the present generation," he said. "The conviction that we ought to have anything we want seems to be becoming the main article in the working creed of a large part of the population. A young woman brought up to think that nothing ought to stand in the way of the gratification of her caprices is pretty sure to find it irksome to have to consult the wishes and convenience of a husband. Mr J. K. Levy complained that women were shut out from the discussion of these matters. Did they think the result was a very happy one? Sir John Gray Hill said it was certain we could never arrive at an absolute dissolving of the difficulties and the establishment of one universal and international law on the subject of divorce. There were other

**Great Religious Difficulties.**

There was a part of Christendom which held divorce to be unlawful in any circumstance, and there was the Mohammedans, who held it to be lawful without any cause whatever. In a paper emphasising the hardships inflicted upon parties to "international" marriage by the difference in the laws of various countries, Dr. Gaston Deleval (legal adviser to the British Legation) instanced the case of an English girl marrying, in London, a young Belgian without the formal consent of the latter's parents. After a few weeks the husband wished to repudiate the girl, and confessed the whole story to his father. The latter, believing, perhaps rightly, that the young English girl knew perfectly well that the boy's parents would have refused their consent, and that he was under age, wanted the marriage to be declared void. If he brought the case before the English court he could not succeed, such marriage being valid according to English law. If he brought it before the Belgian court or any other Continental court, the marriage was sure to be declared void. But, then,

**A Weighty Question.**

A Paris fashion paper has instituted a correspondence on the subject of love. A woman who signed her letter "Love or Death," explained that she loves the wrong man, and she hates the man who loves her, and whom her parent want her to marry. Shall she marry the man she hates, or die a maid? The immense majority of the ladies who reply say in substance, "Marry the man you hate. Love is not of the slightest importance for getting married." "Rainbow" advises, "You have no sympathy for the young man, but if you marry him he will certainly cease to be indifferent." Another adviser writes:—"You have no idea what a bore an affectionate husband becomes. Marriage and love don't agree for any length of time. Mutual esteem is the real foundation of marriage." "Marry by all means," says a lady who signs herself "Shy Daisy"; "don't let the chance go by. Don't sniff at it. In a few years your romantic notions will pass away, and you will acknowledge that romantic passion is all nonsense, and that the only real happiness is to have a comfortable home. I know from experience." Only two correspondents advise "Love or Death" to "die a maid rather than marry a man she doesn't care for."

**The Passion for Game Preserving.**

None too soon protests are being raised against the way in which the army manoeuvres are being hampered, year after year in England, by the refusal of land owners to allow the troops to pass through their game preserves. That a farmer should be anxious about his fences, and about any crops still unharvested, is quite intelligible, says the "Daily Graphic," though the military authorities do their best to make good any damage done. But pheasant-shooting is not a serious industry; it is a pastime, and the people who indulge in it usually have a good many other opportunities of amusing themselves. They might surely risk for one autumn the success of their shooting in order to add to the success of the army manoeuvres. The preservation of the country is somewhat more important than the preservation of game. Unfortunately, of recent years the passion for game-preserving has grown—especially among the newer type of landowner—till it has become almost a mania. Men who have made money in business and bought "a little place in the country" at once set up as sportsmen, and in order to have a large stock of tame birds to shoot for a week or two in the autumn shut up for the whole year woodlands previously open to the public. One wrong is no excuse for another, but in practice when landowners abuse their privileges they run the risk of losing their rights. Very short work would, one imagines, be made of this class of landowner in New Zealand.

**What Would Become of the Girl?**

By her marriage she had become a Belgian, but the marriage being void in Belgium and everywhere else, except in England, she retained her British nationality. If she wished to remarry, the English courts, holding her marriage as being valid, would treat her as a bigamist. If she sued her husband for divorce she was probably certain to be unsuccessful, because: (a) in Belgium and other Continental countries, the marriage having been declared void there could be no question of divorce; (b) in England, the husband being a Belgian domiciled in Belgium, the English courts had no jurisdiction. The consequence was that the poor English girl, thanks to the British laws, had all the burdens of marriage and none of its compensations. He suggested as a remedy that either the English jurist should change his views on this point of international law and agree with all Continental laws, or, this sacrifice being too great, then, at least, English authorities should never allow a marriage to take place in England between an English girl and a foreigner unless the latter had satisfied the British authorities that all conditions necessary had been complied with so as to render the proposed marriage valid in his own country.

**Orange Blossoms.**

**NOTICE TO OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.**

All copy intended for publication in these columns must reach the office, not later than Saturday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

**BECKETT—BAGNALL.**

A VERY pretty wedding was solemnised in the Victoria Hall, Turua, on Tuesday, 18th October, when Miss Ella, eldest daughter of Mr. R. W. Bagnall, of "Linton," Turua, was married to Mr. Cecil Beckett, of Te Anau, East Coast. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. W. R. Woodley, uncle of the bride. The bride was attended by her sisters, Misses Shirley and Edith Bagnall, Mr. E. V. Quick acting as best man, and Mr. S. W. Bagnall, brother of the bride, as groomsmen. The bride wore a very dainty gown of cream tulle, with the customary veil and orange blossoms, and carried a beautiful bouquet of wasonias and orange blossoms. The bridesmaids wore very pretty white muslin gowns, and carried bouquets of blue Argentine pea and asparagus fern. The hall was filled with guests and others interested in the happy event.

**MUNRO—STIRLING.**

The Napier Cathedral was well filled on Wednesday afternoon on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Sarah Mary Katherine Stirling and the Rev. Hine Piri-Munro, both of whom are well known in connection with Maori work in this district. The service was a full choral one, and the Rev. F. W. Chatterton, of Te Rau College, Gisborne, presided at the organ. The ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Waiapu, assisted by Bishop Williams and the Rev. F. A. Bennett. The bride, who was given away by Mohi Te Atahikoia, chief of the Pahipaki natives, wore a gown of white silk voile, with veil and orange blossom, and carried a lovely bouquet of white roses and lilies of the valley. The two bridesmaids, Misses Eva Wi Repa

and Mere Hall, were daintily attired, the former in a lilac gown with white hat trimmed with sprays of lilac and black velvet, the latter in white muslin and white hat trimmed with pink roses and black velvet. Mr. Whet Werobis, of Te Aute College, was best man. As the bride left the church, she wore a lovely Maori mat across her shoulders. After the ceremony a reception was given to the newly-married pair by Bishop and Mrs. Averil at Bhopour, at which a number of natives from the various settlements in Haake's Bay were present.

**KNIGHT—HINDMARSH.**

A wedding of great interest was solemnised at All Saints' Church Taradale, on November 2, when Mr. Abner Bower Knight, eldest son of Mr. W. F. Knight, of Tahorite, was married to Miss Barbara Adelaide Hindmarsh, third daughter of Mr. John Hindmarsh, of Ngawiro, "Green Meadows." The Rev. Edward Robertshaw, uncle of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. A. J. Clarke, performed the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a lovely gown of soft white satin and pearl trimming, with veil and orange blossom, and carried a beautiful shawl bouquet. She was attended by her sisters, Misses Meg and Cicely Hindmarsh and Miss Mary Tweed, of Wellington as bridesmaids, attired in white silk with chiffon overskirts, black hats lined with pink and turned up with pink roses, and carried bouquets of pink carnations and sweet peas. Mr. Dudley Tce, of Wellington, was best man, while Messrs. Wilfred Knight and St. John Hindmarsh, acted as groomsmen. The wedding guests were afterwards entertained at the residence of the bride's parents.

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