

BAB ON CUPID AND HYMEN.

SEE CHATS BRIGHTLY ABOUT WEDDINGS AND HONEYMOONS

Something About Bridal Veils—The Modern Modes of Periods—Miss Shabby Gentee's Experience—In the Days of Good Queen Anne—When Wealth Was Hoarded At—Man as the Unsymmetrical Minister to Woman's Refinement.

As there are weddings and brides and suggestions of brides and weddings everywhere, one is forced to wonder what the new woman will assume in place of the wedding veil. Naturally, she won't want to wear that frivolous white tulle thing fancied now, for it is too feminine. Its very origin is essentially womanly. It is claimed for it by the Orientals that it is a remnant of the Eastern canopy, but it is also claimed for it that it had its origin in the behavior of Penelope, who, when she was asked by her father whether she would leave him and go with her husband, did not answer but drew her veil over her face to hide her blushes; this device was equivalent to the Yes which is said by the modern maiden, only more audibly, and at the altar. There is no doubt about it that the most becoming veil is the soft one of shimmering tulle, that is cream white in shade, and cloud-like in effect. A bride wants to seem enveloped in it; it must fall behind her and fall in front of her, like part of the heavens, surround her until she really seems a something entirely too good for every-day food, or an ordinary man. The lace veil inherited from our grandmothers, which is frequently bought from a smart, second-hand shop, is expensive but not becoming. It makes a girl look matronly, and it will suggest the lace lappets worn by Her Royal Highness, Queen Victoria of England, a lady for whom I have the utmost respect, but whose appearance is not suggestive of a bride.

Although you and I would think a bride looked awful in anything but a white veil, opinions differ. The happy Roman bride hid her blushes under a veil of deep yellow. The Persian girl intensified her modesty, as painted on her cheeks, by wearing a veil of rose color; the Greek girl went her one better, and made her blushes look almost fierce by wearing a veil of bright red, while the young lady of Turkey put blushes and eyes and every body else under cover, that is, as far as seeing anything was concerned, by assuming a veil of brocade, seeded with pearls. The last-named may be magnificent, but it suggests coquetry.

A girl in a brocade veil? Think of a newly-covered sofa! But wherever the bride is there should be some kind of a veil, although, personally, I should prefer the brocade of the Turkish lady to the black one worn by the Spanish girl. It may be coquettish, but it certainly will bring bad luck. I never could fancy a bride without a flesh color veil. Even down on the West, the young woman who hires a white satin gown not quite new, orange blossoms that have been used before, gets a new veil by paying a little extra.

You and I are inclined to scoff at the girl who hires her white satin wedding frock. There is a good bit more sense in that, however, than in getting one after the fashion of Miss Shabby Gentee. She has very little money and an immense capacity for getting into debt. She reads of the gorgeous wedding frocks worn by women who have millions of their own and who wear millions; then she elects to wear a frock as near like that of Miss Bullion as she can; so, instead of putting her money in a neat little walking suit that will be of use to her afterwards, she buys a cheap, cotton black satin, lined it with cotton flannel, gets a gorgeous train of orange blossoms, a superb veil of white kid gloves, white silk stockings and white satin slippers, and the consequence is, in a month's time, Miss Shabby Gentee has nothing to wear. She is not invited to houses where white satin is the rule, and in time she realizes exactly how foolish she has been. While she has the doubtful pleasure of wearing her old frock and weeping over her folly. Of course, a wedding frock can always be cut to advantage to make a baby's cloak, but—well, some people are sentimental.

HEALTH AS A VULGAR BLESSING. During the days of good Queen Anne it was the thing for a lady never to be quite well. Although the ladies of those days drank and ate until they hid their fiery cheeks, not to mention noses, under powder and rouge colors, still health was counted a vulgar blessing, and those of the court never confessed to possessing it. I only wonder one thing, and that is, how did the men behave in those days, or have they changed, or were they particularly angelic during the reign of good Queen Anne? I think they must have been, or else the ladies of the era would not have had so much pleasure in being not quite well. Nowadays, if a woman who is in the habit of making death in the face, the average man regards it as a personal insult. He flies from illness as he might from an invading army, and he is a great deal more afraid of a bad headache or a fever than he is of one of those new guinea shots about a million people at once. When he asks how you are, it is in an aggrieved tone impossible to describe, and if you happen to have enough strength left to argue a little, and mention to him that you think it strange he did not send you a few flowers or some dainties, he remarks: "Oh, well, if you were really dying, would probably care a great deal about it all because, of course, I am really very fond of you, but when you are only a little bit sick, well, it seems so unnecessary, and I would rather not be around. Then, too, why didn't you ask for what you wanted?"

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an dies a hundred deaths from headache, and heartache, and rheumatism, and diseases that verge on pneumonia, but don't quite reach it, and every-day life that is unpleasant and not dangerous. And these occasional deaths are the ones which she would like to have a little thought given to her. When she is absolutely dying, she doesn't care. She is not troubling herself about men, then.

It is while she is living that she would like to be remembered; when she is under the weather, as were those ladies in the days of good Queen Anne when perhaps, morals were not quite as good as they are now, but mauders us that during those days the Duchess of Marlborough frequently had straw laid in front of her house so that she might not bear the carriage by whom she had the headache; and that once, when she was near a garret, she asked that the morning and evening shooting be stopped, as it hurt her like to have it. Next to a few things, do you think the Stocck Exchange would stop its hallabaloo because a woman had the headache? Do you think that the absolute expression wags would stop running at night because some other woman had the headache? Or do you think a man would stop a game of billiards, because some woman had a wretched cough, and was nervous? There is nothing quite as inspiring to anybody who is a game of billiards. Next to it, indeed, comes the noise made by a man who is practicing a horn that is to be attached to a four-in-hand in the early June days—both horn and man, I mean. I don't think anything, generalizing, would stop because a woman was ill. And yet, it ought to. Miss of us women try pretty hard to keep well, and we start handicapped, being women.

THE BABY AND THE DOG. We do not get very much sympathy from anybody except a baby, or an affectionate dog. You see, a baby has a way of crawling up to you when it knows you are in the room, and it will lie on the foot of the bed and look up at you, and at intervals will come up and lick your hands to tell you how sorry he is for you; and he will never be frisky at all until he begins to notice a bit of meat on your tray, and then he realizes that you are that you might share some of the good things with him, and he is very knowing as a dog. He always feels sorry for a woman. I sometimes think he reads her better than a man can. Occasionally when a man don't see tears in a woman's eyes a dog will, and he will stand beside her and brush against her skirt, and do his very best to make her see him, so that she will comprehend she has a friend, and a very sympathetic friend, just at her side.

And a friend, too, who will not tell her secrets. A dog can be confided in. You can sit him in front of you and you can tell him exactly how happy or unhappy you are; exactly what worries you, and you can shake paws with him and pat him on the head, and somehow feel better for it; then, when you meet him in the company of some two-legged puppies, you can look at each other and think how much you know, both of you, and he will shake paws again, as much as to say, "Well, I know, but I am not going to tell, I have never told anything for hundreds and hundreds of years." The truth is that it has been many thousands of years since a dog talked, and this is how he was made to keep quiet.

THE LEGEND OF CANINE MISTRESS. Away off in the East, in one of the wonderful countries that Moore wrote about, there was a beautiful maiden who loved an equally handsome youth, who was below her in rank, inasmuch as she was a Princess. And every day her favorite fox terrier went to him with a message of love, and every day he came back with another message of love. Now, one of the queer Eastern customs was for her to be betrothed to a man she refused and said she would only marry the man she loved. And she sent word by the little fox terrier for her lover that she would die for his sake, but that she would never become the wife of another man.

And the lover whispered something to the little fox terrier and hid a quaint little bottle in the collar of the dog that was about his neck. That was the day the Princess heard that a beautiful youth, who was of no standing, had been found dead on the street. Then she permitted her maid to fetch her for her wedding. And the little dog asked her if she were going to be unfaithful. And she looked at him as dogs look at women nowadays. When they fetch her into the temple in all her bridal finery and left her alone to pray, she took from one of the gorgeous jeweled pockets that swung at her side the little bottle that her lover had hid there. She swallowed its contents. She came to look for the bride, but they found a dead maiden, while a sides her was a little dog crying as if his heart would break. And he wicked father called a cure on him, and said that, from that day on until the end of the world, no dog should speak except through his eyes. And if you have a bit of doubt about this story you need only, some day when you are in trouble and a little dog who is fond of you and whom you love is near you, look at him and you will see all that a friend says, but it will be with his eyes. True? Or will it be in his ears. If you have any doubt at all about it, it is any further doubt, you need only go to a small village 400 miles from Calcutta and the truth will be sworn to by several priests in the temple there. And when the clergy swear to anything it must be true. Even truer than when women announce certain facts as truths. But this is enough about dogs. Let us return to women.

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POSSIBILITIES OF AN ACRE.

One of York County's Foremost Farmers Believes There is No Limit. Toronto Enquirer.

How much cotton or corn can be raised on an acre of land? That is a question that gives the average farmer but little concern. As a rule, he figures that land is cheap, and the quantity of produce that can be raised on an acre is small matter. Rather than increase the productivity of an acre, he prefers to increase the number of acres. That is, however, is a losing game, all of the more advanced farmers are now fully satisfied, and probably so in this county or even in the State, has made more headway in this direction than Major A. H. White of Rock Hill.

A representative of the Enquirer went to see Major White recently for the express purpose of getting some reliable information on this interesting subject. The major was at home. It developed that this very matter is the hobby of his life, and during a pleasant drive over a well arranged farm that was at the time being carefully prepared for various crops, the newspaper man was treated to some pearls of experience that are well worth the careful study of all farmers who may not have given the subject discussed the same amount of study on their own responsibility.

"What was the most profitable crop you ever raised, major?" was out of the question asked. "An oat crop in 1894," was the unhesitating reply. "It was on a field of sixteen acres. I followed an oat crop of 1894 with peas. In 1895, I planted corn, during the second week in August, I raised 1,012 bushels of corn, for which I received 75 cents a bushel, and it was all profit. I sold one-half of the straw for enough to pay all expenses. Exclusive of the other half of the straw, which was clear, my profits amounted to \$47.93 an acre. That was about the most profitable crop I ever made."

"Now I would like you to tell me about your big cotton crop of 1894." "That is rather an old story. It has already been printed once or twice. The crop was 22 bales on twelve acres. The land was in good fix to start with, in fact it is my rule to see to it that my land is in better fix when a crop comes off than when the crop went out. That year, the only fertilizer I used was three 3-horse loads of stable manure to the acre. The sales averaged 400 pounds per acre, and the cotton some at 6 and some at 8 cents a pound on calculation of all expenses, exclusive of interest on land, stock and tools, etc., developed that the cost of the crop will not exceed 25 cents a pound. I made no estimate of course, as to the value of the fertilizer in the soil when I commenced; but, as is my invariable rule, I estimated the value of the seed planted at 50 cents a bushel, rather high for cotton seed."

"That is what mine are worth, and if I can't get it I don't soil them." "You must have a fine variety of seed. What is it?" "I call my seed 'White's Improved,' and I think they are as fine as any other variety known. I have been working on them for more than a dozen years. I make it a rule to go out into the cotton field every fall when the crop is at its very best, select with the greatest care and pick enough cotton to yield two bushels of seed. These I always plant on a separate acre, and the next year select the best from it. I started originally with what was known as Thomas seed; but they are now very much improved."

In answer to another question on the value of the seed, Major White said he did the same thing with corn. He has two varieties, one white and one other yellow. The white variety is from an ear that was sent to him by a friend in 1877. He has been improving it every year. It is his custom to select the top ear from stalks having long good, healthy ears, plant the select corn on a separate acre, and then plant the main crop from seed of that acre. It has been improved to such a point that 100 pounds of the cob will net 50 pounds of shelled corn, and the grain averages 65 pounds to the bushel, a standard weight of a bushel, it will be remembered, is 56 pounds. The next inquiry of Major White was intended to bring out his views in regard to fertilizers.

FEAR OF ORGANIZATION.

For the Government of the Farmers and Conventions of the Democratic Party of North Carolina. Gastonia Record.

We publish herewith a carefully corrected copy of the Democratic Plan of Organization in North Carolina, as amended and changed at the recent meeting of the Executive Committee. All Democratic conventions hereafter will be held and all Democratic candidates will be nominated according to this amended plan, and therefore every Democrat should read it and learn its provisions. It is as follows:

1. The unit of county organization shall be the voting precinct. In each precinct there shall be an executive committee, to consist of five active Democrats, who shall be elected by the Democratic voters of the several precincts in the meetings first called by the county executive committee. And said committee so elected shall elect one of its members as chairman, who shall preside at a committee meeting.

2. The chairman of the several precinct committees shall convene the county executive committee, which shall meet at the same time and place as the county convention first held in each election year, and elect a chairman of said county committee, who need not be a member of the committee, and he shall preside at all held his place until his successor shall be elected. A majority of said precinct chairmen, in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum. The county executive committee shall likewise appoint a central committee of five, who shall act in its stead when the county committee is not in session.

3. In case there shall be a failure on the part of any precinct to elect its delegates to the county executive committee, the county executive committee shall appoint said committee from the Democratic voters of said precinct.

4. The members of the precinct committee shall elect to any vacancy occurring in said committee.

5. The county executive committee shall call all necessary county conventions by giving at least ten days' notice by public advertisement in three public places in each precinct, at the corner house door, and in any Democratic newspaper that may be published in said county, requesting all Democrats of the county to meet in their respective precincts on a certain day therein stated which said day shall not be less than three days before the meeting of the county convention, for the purpose of electing their delegates to the county executive committee. The meeting so held shall elect their delegates to represent the precincts in the county conventions from the voters of the respective voting precincts, which delegates, or such of them as shall attend, shall vote the full Democratic strength of their respective voting precincts on all questions that may come before said county conventions. In case no meeting shall be held in any precinct in pursuance of said call, or no election shall be made, the county executive committee shall appoint such delegates.

THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

Called to Meet in the City of Raleigh June 25, 1896.

A Convention of the Democratic Party of North Carolina is hereby called to assemble in the city of Raleigh on the 25th day of June, 1896, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor and the other State officers and Presidential electors for the State at large; for the purpose of electing delegates to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before it.

The several counties of the State will select delegates to the State Convention in accordance with the plan of organization this day promulgated. Done by order of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

JAMES H. FOR, Chairman, Smithfield, N. C. WILEY RICE, Secretary, Asheboro, N. C.

An Apology that Won't Satisfy. Charlotte Observer. The Asheville Citizen thinks there would be a great deal of difference between Democratic-Populist fusion this year and Republican-Populist fusion in 1894. In that the two former parties are at once on the free exchange of silver while no principle was involved in the fusion of two years ago. The apology won't stick. The pretence, in 1894, that the fusion was for honest elections and local self-government, is a lofty issue than gold or silver. Here is another question of government policy: there was the question of human liberty itself. Democrats could not make half so good an excuse for fusion with the Populists this year as the Republicans can for fusion with them in 1894—or as the Populists can for fusion with the Republicans then.

"I believe in commercial fertilizers," said Major White, unhesitatingly. "and I believe that the highest priced goods are the cheapest; but my experience in this direction is not worth a great deal. I fertilize mostly with the manure and cotton seed. Cotton seed is always a good investment. No matter how much you use, you will find it profitable; but you can't tell exactly how much they are worth. It takes something like three years before you can get all there is in them, though they will pay even the first year. However, with me, stable manure ranks ahead of anything else. I buy all I can get at \$3 a load, about a ton to the load. It will do for any kind of a crop and invariably makes the land better. In my opinion it is the very best fertilizer known, as well as it is complete in itself, and when you mix the two, you have a very near approach to perfection."

"Now, major, just one more question. In your opinion, how much cotton is it possible to grow on an acre?" Major White grew still more interested in the conversation. The subject was one to which he had carefully given a great deal of careful thought, and the facts and figures were ready on the tip of his tongue. "That is a matter about which we can only speculate," he began. "No man can tell the possibilities of an acre. Take York county over, for instance, and the average is about a third of a bale to the acre. My crop of 1894 was six times that. If it is possible to go six times over the average, why is it not possible to go twelve

THE BEST SPRING MEDICINE.

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