

The Chance a Man or Woman Has to Marry

By JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD.



JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD.

The young American who is the "coming man" as a writer of fiction.

THERE is no doubt that the most important problem which faces the average girl or woman is that of marriage. It must be conceded that man, even though he be of gorilla-like ugliness, has a tremendous advantage over the opposite sex in the matter of securing a life partner. While he, on the one side, stands upon a Gibraltar of certainty, the woman has more or less of a fight to achieve the goal of marital life. She is handicapped from the beginning by several conditions which might quite fittingly have been reversed by nature. In the first

place, there has always been, and probably always will be, a preponderance of females, and, in addition to this, statistics covering a period of a half century show that throughout the English-speaking race there is a far greater tendency to remain single among men than among women. And this difference between what might be called the supply and demand of the sexes is constantly growing greater. In other words, in spite of the increasing tendency of women to become self-supporting, the girl who was born in 1812 had approximately a thirty per cent. greater chance of securing an eligible husband than the girl who has attained a marriageable age in this year of 1912. In the days of a century and a half ago, the gentler sex held the whiphand. There was then, from all that we can discover, no lack of what Micawber has called "marriageable lumber."

What has brought about the difference in conditions since then is largely a matter of conjecture, but in all probability education has been the greatest factor. Statistics of progress point out many curious facts, and chief among these is that while men have, according to statistics, done but little to increase the percentage of their "batting average" in the matter of education, the mental development of the opposite sex has been of astounding

times as much to a woman—as a marrying man—as a bachelor between the ages of thirty-four and forty-two.

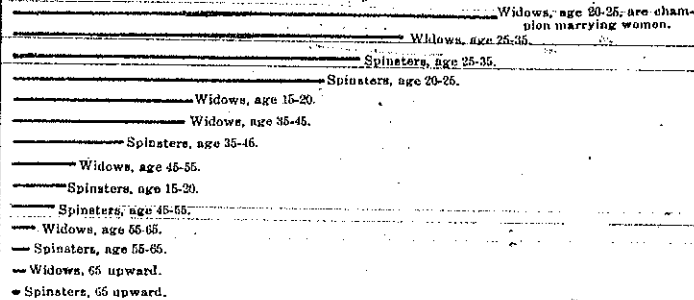
Before going on with those figures which point out the ages at which man is most filled with the home-making instincts, it is important to show those ages at which a girl or woman is most attractive to a man and at which her chances of securing a husband are greatest. It will undoubtedly be considered a surprising fact that only one girl in about seventy marries between the ages of fifteen and nineteen years. A still more surprising fact is that she has not attained her year of greatest advantage between the ages of twenty and twenty-four, during which period one unmarried woman in about every thirteen secures a husband. It is quite popularly believed that the girl who reaches the age of twenty-five without marrying is seriously handicapped by her younger sisters and that her great opportunities for securing a husband have passed. In spite of this wide belief, however, women between the ages of twenty-five and thirty hold their greatest fascination for men, and during this period of their lives one out of every eight finds her goal of happiness in married life.

follow, she has but one chance in twenty-three—as an average that is carried fairly well through the years from thirty-five to forty, during which one woman in twenty-eight marries. From this point figures are relentless and tell her with almost cool directness that her chances are practically gone. For from forty to forty-five only about one spinster in about fifty marries, from forty-five to fifty-five one in one hundred and ten, from fifty-five to sixty-five one in three hundred and sixty-five.

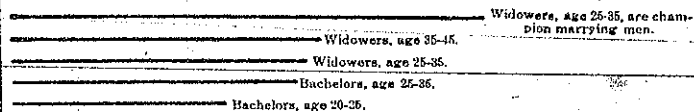
In summing up these facts, the best advice that can be given to young women between the ages of twenty and thirty is, "Make hay while the sun shines." Don't frivol with young men not likely to marry, for these are years of opportunity that will never come again. For during these years time expended upon young men of twenty or younger is practically wasted, as one unmarried man between the ages of twenty and twenty-four is worth as a marriageable "chance" just thirty-six men of twenty or under. In men between twenty-five and thirty-five, however, lies the greatest hope of achieving married happiness; for the man anywhere between those ages is just about twice as likely to take a wife as the man between twenty and twenty-four, while the bachelor between thirty-five and forty-five is less than one-fourth as valuable. From forty-five to fifty-five he is only one-sixth of a chance as compared with a man of from twenty to twenty-four. Between the ages of from fifty-five to sixty-five he falls to about one-twentieth.

The value of these comparative statements as to the respective value of bachelors at different ages is apparent, and the information may be regarded both as a warning and as a guide. For a regrettably large number of men, especially young ones who are really almost worthless as marrying men, not infrequently mislead the young woman who wishes to marry, owing to an entirely fallacious opinion aroused in the woman's mind as to the value or "sincerity" of the bachelor who is occupying her time. Many thousands of women lose their chance of marriage during the very best and most attractive periods of their lives, owing to this mistaken direction of their energies toward men who are practically of very small value as possible husbands. While these so-called

THE CHANCES OF WOMEN IN MARRIAGE, ACCORDING TO AGE.

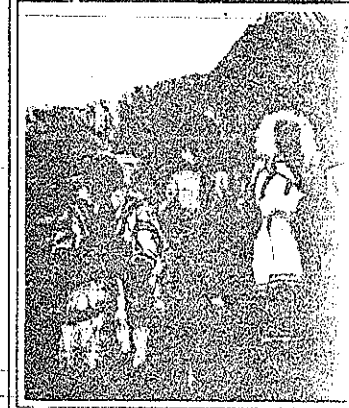
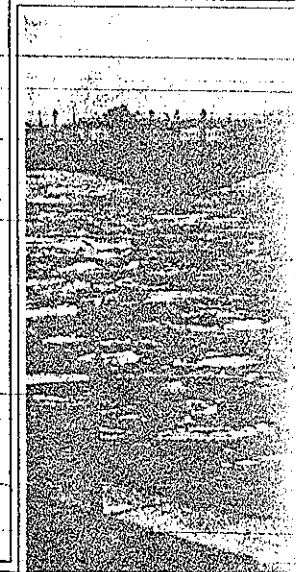


WHEN MEN ARE LIKELY TO MARRY.



Russia

By REV. DR. F.

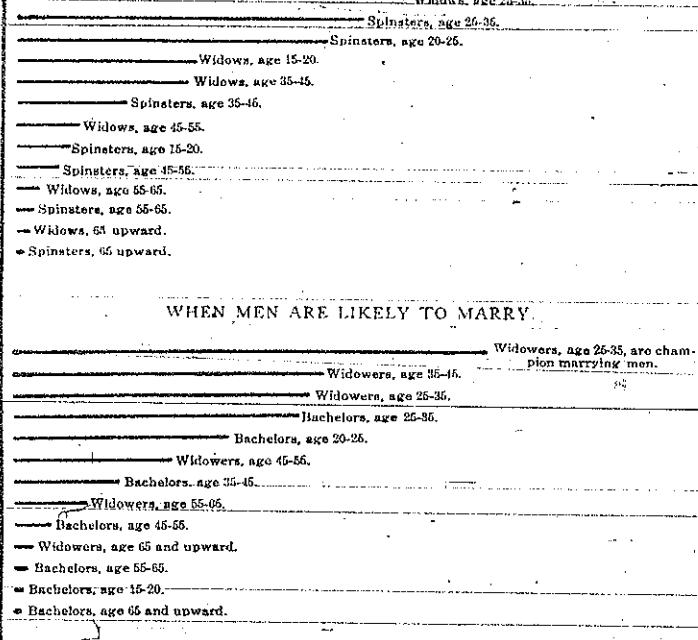


woman to become self-supporting, the girl who was born in 1912 had approximately a thirty per cent. greater chance of securing an eligible husband than the girl who has attained a marriageable age in this year of 1912. In the days of a century and a half ago, the gentler sex held the whiphand. There was then, from all that we can discover, no lack of what Micawber has called "marriageable lumber."

What has brought about the difference in conditions since then is largely a matter of conjecture, but in all probability education has been the greatest factor. Statistics of progress point out many curious facts, and chief among these is that while men have, according to statistics, done but little to increase the percentage of their "batting average" in the matter of education, the mental development of the opposite sex has been of astounding proportions. While the girl of seventy-five or a hundred years ago had little difficulty in finding about her many young men who could be classed as eligible in her particular case, it is a far more perplexing problem that a young woman faces to-day. It is particularly in the smaller towns and cities of the country that the girl or woman of 1912 face this problem in its most unpleasant form, for it is chiefly there that unnumbered thousands of attractive and refined young women, who prefer matrimony to a single life and who are held within environments from which they cannot, like a man, remove themselves at will, look about them in vain for good marriageable material in the other sex. On the other hand, statistics show that the city girl has fully a twenty per cent. advantage over her small town and small city cousin.

In view of this feminine problem of getting married, it is the writer's purpose to call the attention of his feminine readers to a number of little known and unusual facts which may be of some value as well as interest. Every problem deserves a careful analysis by those whom it most deeply concerns, and no problem is without its solution. Cold statistics tell the story and offer a key that is worthy of trial. While these statistics cannot be taken from any single year, they collectively go to show that a vast amount of what might be called "home-seeking energy" is misdirected and wasted by our present generation of girls and unmarried women. It seems like a slup in the face of romance and sentiment to bring the matter of husband-getting down to a basis of mathematical calculation, and yet that is the one solution which the statistics of the two English-speaking races offer to those hundreds of thousands who, generously fitted by nature and desire to be home lovers and the mothers of children, find themselves left behind in what Queen Victoria once said was the "sweetest, purest and holiest game in all life"—the getting of a husband.

For instance, an approximation of statistics covering a period of a number of years show that one young man ranging anywhere in age from twenty-five to thirty-five years is worth to a woman—as a marrying man—fifty younger men whose ages range from fifteen to nineteen years. In other words, if this girl possessed fifty-one male acquaintances, all of them nineteen years of age or under, with the exception of one older man, the one is worth as much to her as a marriageable possibility as the other fifty combined. These same statistics show that a bachelor ranging from twenty-five to thirty-five years is worth three



The value of this information cannot be over-estimated; as it shows that the years between twenty-five and thirty are ones of golden opportunity—years in which, if she has not been previously successful, a woman should exert to her utmost her home-achieving energies. For the age of thirty marks the Rubicon. When she has passed that, and for the five years that

known, astonishing as it may seem, that widows are the champion marrying women of the English-speaking races, and widowers are the champion marrying men. In spite of the fact that both widows and widowers have already had one or more life partners each, they almost hopelessly handicap the bachelors and spinsters in an even race. The widow between the age of twenty and twenty-five has an advantage of fully thirty per cent. over the spinster of the same age. In other words, if one hundred widows and one hundred spinsters of that age set out to marry, six widows would find husbands to every four of the spinsters. Even between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five, the widows are still more successful marrying women than the spinsters of any age, and this advantage continues without exception through the years, the largest advantage being between the ages of thirty-five and forty-five, when the widow has an advantage of fully forty per cent. over the spinster of the same age. It is not only of interest, but of considerable value to those who wish to take advantage of these practical hints and figures to find that the majority of widows turn once again to the bachelors, and that the majority of widowers find their second loves among those who have not been previously married.

In view of this fact, a marriageable young woman may find it to her advantage to know that, between the ages of twenty and twenty-five, a widower is just about fifty per cent. more valuable as a marriageable proposition than a bachelor of the same age. Between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five his value increases ten per cent. more, while between thirty-five and forty-five one widower is equal to three bachelors of the same age. Between forty-five and fifty-five he is worth approximately five bachelors. The widower between twenty-five and thirty-five is the greatest marrying man on earth.

While the widow is not numerous enough to seriously threaten the chance of the spinster, it is quite interesting to note that, up to a certain age, both spinsters and widows go after the man who has never

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Laplanders Defiant of Cold
Happy Lapo family who live in a tent of reindeer in the long, cold Russian winter, with the temperature 50 or 60 degrees below zero.

RUSSIA is emphatically "The Father of the Ice," for from early October until late April, and even into May, Jack Frost gets in his work and an "eager and snipping air" blows "shrill" across the great plains. In October last I found Riga and St. Petersburg under a white pall of snow, though a few hundred miles to the south winter did not set in until some three months later.

In midwinter the streets of St. Petersburg are bitterly cold, and furs and heavy gloves and ear laps and even nose guards are necessary to keep the breath of life in the traveler. Children are kept in the house and are not allowed to go to school or church. The poor people who are obliged to be on the street often suffer horribly. The droshky drivers are especially to be pitied, for, in spite of their enormously heavy cloaks which they wear winter and summer, they pierce to their very marrow as they sit in their cabs waiting for a "fare" or as they blast as they cross the Neva on the ice one part of the city to the other. Even I have crossed the great river on the ice when the wind has been so keen and strong it seem to blow the driver off his perch as he gets out of the sleigh.

The droshky driver, however, is not alone. Friends, and either the city or benevolent set great iron braziers at the street corners where the poor coachmen and other warm their benumbed hands. Sometimes houses are built in the open squares, where men can be sheltered on tempestuous nights.

There are many compensations for the weather which is the normal condition in Russia during seven months of the year are warm and cozy, often steam heated coal fires blaze on the hearth. Out of the classes are protected by such heavy fur

USELESS RIMENT.

Suppose a few young women, under the stimulus of a test, were able to live on seven cents a day each. What particular value is that to the fami-
the poor, battling with the high cost of
Several young girls connected with the
ti Kindergarten Training School, being
a hotel that for demonstration purposes,
own house-keeping, marketing and pre-
their meals on a seven-cents per day basis
individual. We give a sample menu:
fast—Cornmeal mush and milk, brown
toast, coffee or cocoa.
noon—Peanut sandwiches, bread and jelly
fruit.
Split pea soup, creamed codfish on
le dumplings with sauce.

Knox's Great Peace Mission.

Is certain that the politicians of the
other countries will have their ears to
the ground for every whisper from Gua-
temala while Mr. Knox is President
Cabrera's guest. In many ways the
United States has tried to show its
friendliness for Guatemala, which it de-
sires to have reciprocated. The visit of
the Secretary will be a strong accentua-
tion of that good-will, and naturally the
President's reception of the proffered
friendship will be watched closely.
For Costa Rica there is the welfare of
the Central American Court of Justice,
an institution in which Secretary Knox
takes the deepest interest. The court is
an outgrowth of the Washington con-
vention—the pact signed by all the Cen-
tral American countries in Washington
for the preservation of Central Ameri-
can peace. The building for the Court
of Justice, which was given by Andrew
Carnegie, was destroyed in the last
Costa Rican earthquake, and plans are
under consideration for the reconstruction
of the building. In San Salvador the
Secretary will be the guest of Presi-
dent Simon Araujo. In the visits to
these countries also Mr. Knox, by his
furtherance of good relations, should
give considerable impetus to our com-
merce with them, which, as he has
pointed out in several of his speeches, is
by no means inconsiderable. In 1909
the total foreign commerce of the Cen-
tral American countries amounted to
\$60,000,000, about one-half of which
was with the United States. This
amount would be greatly increased by
the establishment of peaceful conditions
in those countries.
In South America the Secretary will
visit Colombia, possibly, and Venezuela.
In the West Indies his trip extends
through Haiti to the Dominican Repub-
lic, with which country the United
States has now a loan agreement similar

to those it is proposed to make with
Nicaragua and Honduras and Porto Rico
and Cuba.
The visit to Havana will rival in in-
terest those made to Honduras and
Nicaragua. The appearance in Cuba's
capital of the man who so recently ex-
ploded the Veterans' agitation and by
his famous note initiated the "preventive
policy" is certain to quiet the unrest
which inevitably followed the deliv-
erance of the necessarily distinct hint to
President Gomez. There is a presiden-
tial election to take place in Cuba next
fall, and, though it appears that the
Secretary's ultimatum to President
Gomez effectively dissipated the danger-
ous phases of the Veterans' movement,
yet it is most fortunate that the Sec-
retary will have an opportunity in person
to smooth out any misapprehensions
that may exist in Cuban minds.
Generally, the visit of the Secretary
of State to these countries at this time
will center interest in the United States
upon the vitally important question
pending with regard to them, will force
discussion, and by that concentration of
attention will erase the blur of mis-
understanding that more than all else
hampers those who carry interests into
foreign fields.
Several of the republics which Mr.
Knox intends to visit have manifested
their satisfaction over his coming and
have prepared to give him a most hos-
pitable welcome. But Senor Pedro Nel
Ospina, the minister from Colombia,
sent a letter to the Department of
State, plainly intimating that the Sec-
retary's visit to Colombia would be un-
welcome. This letter, which was re-
garded as an insult to Mr. Knox, was
prompted by the writer's resentment
over the Panama incident. He stated
that a note which he sent three months
ago to the department, demanding that

DO WOMEN DESTROY CREDIT?

The credit of Western cities, claims Frank S. Grant, corporation counsel of Portland, Ore., is being destroyed by women juries, women chiefs of police and woman suffrage in general. Eastern capitalists, it seems, are more ready to buy the bonds of those municipalities which are not experimenting along these lines, so that cities where woman suffrage is in vogue are paying a higher rate of interest than even smaller cities in the same sections which have not made the innovations. But is it surprising, in view of the conservatism of the East and the fact that woman's

whom it is a struggle to maintain their place in society, realized the added cost of the upbringing of a family to-day, and, having a commendable ambition to educate their children and give them a fair start in life, small families have become the rule. Dr. Sprague also holds woman's entrance into business and professional life responsible for the disinclination on her part even to enter the married state. "The professional woman," says Dr. Sprague, "has money of her own. She need not get it from a husband. Why should she marry? She has a nice home and good clothes and all she wishes. Is it any wonder that she greeds to exchange it for depending on a husband with an income perhaps smaller than her own, the monotony of a home and the cares of babies?" On the basis of economics as here presented, we confess we can see no reason why a woman should tie herself to a man with less income than she herself is receiving. But women have not always married simply to get a home. A large part of marriages have been for love, notwithstanding the record of the divorce courts and the heiresses who sell themselves for empty European titles. We very much fear that men and women will marry in the future when they love one another, whatever the economic conditions may be.

the questions of the secession of Panama from Colombia and the claim of an indemnity therefor be submitted to arbitration, had been ignored. This act of Senor Ospina, it is believed, will end his diplomatic career.

The Chance To Marry.

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been married. Between the ages of twenty and twenty-five, for instance, ninety-five out of one hundred spinsters and eighty-five out of one hundred widows marry bachelors. There is not much change in this ratio until between the years of thirty-five and forty-five, when forty-five spinsters and fifty-five widows marry widowers. During the next ten years the widower is in high demand, for during that period seventy-five spinsters and eighty widows take widowers for husbands.
It is quite popularly believed that to be an eligible husband a man must be some years the senior of the woman, and because of this entirely fallacious belief probably nine out of ten young women misdirect a large amount of their marriageable energy. In other words, the young woman of twenty-one looks to the men who are considerably older than herself for mating material—a fact which handicaps her at the start. For figures which cover a period of many years show conclusively that up until the age of thirty a woman's greatest chances of marriage lie with men of her own age. In other words, between the ages of twenty-one and thirty, approximately seventy per cent. of the women who take husbands marry men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty—a suggestive fact which may be pointed out as a last hint to women who wish to marry.

TOO MUCH KNOCKING.

William S. Hawk, President of the Ohio Society, ARE regaled with everything from Dr. Wilson's soothing syrup to Colonel Harvey's cough drops. What we need is less hot air, more boosting, and less kicking. A knocker is a good thing on a door, but it is a nuisance anywhere else.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

Governor Dix of the State of New York, AT THIS very time we are suffering from a plethora of laws and regulations aimed at the conduct of business. What with new interpretations of existing laws, additions without number to the statute-books and attempts to regulate and supervise every effort of human endeavor, can we wonder that business enterprise is discouraged and checked, the field of employment diminished, the rewards of labor decreased and the financial and industrial future rendered unstable and insecure? America needs economic peace. We need a cessation of demagogic attacks and appeals to class prejudice.

THE COMING SOUTHWEST

B. F. Yoakum, Chairman St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. MISSOURI, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, 459,000 square miles in area, have only twenty-five per cent. of their tillable lands under cultivation. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, 179,000 square miles in area, have over sixty per cent. of their tillable lands under cultivation. When the four Southwestern States have as large a percentage of their land under cultivation, proceeds from agriculture in those States will be several times what they are to-day. This will make the Southwestern section the greatest wealth-producing territory in the world.

PROSPERITY'S ONLY OBSTACLE.

Theodore N. Vail, President American Telephone and Telegraph Company. COURTS are beginning to define and business is beginning to learn what can and what cannot be done under the anti-trust laws, and business is shaping itself in accordance. The only obstacle to a recurrence of general prosperity is the fear of a lot of new indefinite laws, difficult of both interpretation and application. The socialism which is believed to prevail in the West is superficial. Farmers in automobiles indulging in pessimistic talk

SHADOW OF THE S...
President Ripley, Aichison, Mo.
Railroad.
THE ATTEMPT to limited competition agreements or restriction of competition the fabled effort to keep with a broom. The shadow man law hangs over everybody knows what it means until after his particular passed on by the court, yphasize its findings with sentence; yet everybody spirit if not the letter of lated daily and hourly altry, and that it always wter what laws are made.

SPECULATION NOT

Investment is the consisting of the purchas for the purpose of inc tion is an operation cond and is based on knowle sight; it is not gambling i the word. Gambling con a chance with absolutely of the qualities of the st but merely a hope of returns. Make investm means if you can, but securities you buy are s ductive. Speculate if y knowledge and can affor money. Never gamble.

SOME DANGERS

Presiding Judge Knapp, United Commerce. OUR WHOLE nation depends upon the so problems of interest. If we are to go forward, (the railroads should be su such a return upon honest investment that capital may be attracted for the construction and extension of rail- ways and the de- velopment of re- gions that await us. The revenue should be large enough to pay all employes wages which will make national prosperity. I see serious dan- gers in the present condition. Con- gress is constantly agitated. So are the Legislatures of all the States. Forty States are wrestling with the sul- is the menace of stubborn tween the railroads and (the lion organized employes. E is a menace of political i the regulation which is no- be enforced shall be found government ownership of is the only alternative.

MARK

President States.