The Chance a Man or Woman Has to Marry

By JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD.



TAMES OLIVER. CHRWOOD The young American who is the "coming

fiction.

writer of

HERE 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 gorillalike ugliness, has a tremendous advantage over the opposite sex in the matter of securing a life partner. While he. 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 rewersed by nature. In the first

place, there has always been, and probably always 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 "hatting average" in the matter of education, the mental development of the opposite sex has been of astoundtimes as much to a woman-as a marrying mar-as follow, she has but one chance in twenty-three-an a bachelor between the ages of thirty-four and forty-

the ages at which man is most filled with the homemaking 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. on the one side, stands upon a Astill more surprising fact is that she has not at can be given to young women between the ages of Gibraltar of certainty, the taited her year of greatest allvantage between the twenty and thirty is, "Make hay while the sun shines," 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 twinty-five without mar-rying 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 will be, a preponderance of females, and, in addition 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.

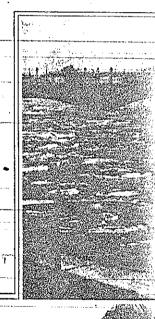
average that is carried fairly well through the years from thirty-five to forty, during which one woman in Before going on with those figures which point out twenty-eight marries. From this point figures are relentless and tell her with almost cool directness that her chances are practically gone. For 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 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 voung 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 hetween twenty-five and thirty-five, however, lies the greatest hope of achieving married happiness; for the man anywhere between those access 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 fortyfive 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 rewarded 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 oftheir energies toward men who are practically of very small value as possible husbands. While these so-called

By REV. DR. F





THE CHANCES OF WOMEN IN MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO AGE

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WHEN MEN ARE LIKELY TO MARRY

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- What has brought shout 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 "latting 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 thou-

sands 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 hus fully a twenty per cent, advantage over her. When she has passed that, and for the five years that 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 these 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 shap 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 hus-

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-live 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-live to thirty-five years is worth three

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The value of this information cannot be overestimated; as it shows that the years between twentyfive 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.

Notable Articles by a Gifted Writer.

Once more there has appeared a star of the first magnitude in the firmament of American literature. Although he is only thirty-three years old and but a few years have passed since he made his debut as an author/James Oliver Corwood; of Detroit, Michigan, has won a nation-wide reputation as a writer of fiction. Many of his stories have been printed in the leading monthiles and weeklies, including Legist's, and they have made a deep and favorable impression on the reading public

Mr. Curwood has already published several "Best seller" books, and one of the most prominent publishing firms in New York is soon to issue two new volumes written by him. Mr. Curwood is generally recognized as "the curring man" in American fiction. His stories have remarkable virility and dramatic power. Their acenes are, for the most part, laid in the vast wilderness of arctle British America. with which region Mr. Curwood is thoroughly familiar, as he was for years an exploration writer for the Canadian Ciguarnment

LESUIE'S has secured from Mr. Curwood a number of his best stories, which are to appear in future issues of this paper. Mr. Curwood has also undertaken to prepare for LESIJE'S a series of descriptive sketches dealing with various phases of tife in the wilderness. No man is so well fitted by gift and experience to impart to the world a vivid and accurate idea of what is being thought, said and done among the hardy, rude. and primitive people in the remote northland. His notable contributions will be perused with intense interest by all of LES-LIE's readers. Here are the titles of those already in hand:

Fish Hooks for Wives. A Census in the Wilderness.

A Wilderness Barbecus. When Fate Plays its Hand,

A Florence Nightingale of the Wilderness.

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..In_the_above_comparisons_of_the___ relative value of marriageable men and women at various ages, those figures relating to widows and widowers have nurposely been omitted. For be it

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 widowbetween 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 spineters. 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 thirtyfive and forty-five one widower is equal to three bachelors of the same age. Between forty-five and fiftyfive 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

(Continued on page 246.)



Laplanders Defiant of Co Happy Lapp family who live in a tent of reindeer the long, cold Rossian winter, with the temper 50 or 60 degrees below vero.

USSIA 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 a nipping sir" 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 which they wear winter and summer, pierce to their very marrows as they si their cabs waiting for a "fare" or blasts as they cross the Neva on the ice i one part of the city to the other. Even I have crossed the great river on the icthe wind has been so keen and strong it seem to blow the driver off his perch as gers out of the sleigh. The droshky driver, however, is

friends, and either the city or benevole set great iron braziers at the street conhuge fires of wood are kept burning throwhere the poor coachmen and other w warm their benumbed hands. Someting houses are built in the open squares, wh men can be sheltered on tempestuous no

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

op claim to help themselves. Indisate giving to street beggars who appeal to ampathy may occasionally relieve actual at usually it may be counted upon as being million. Such practices will never be broken ong as people allow sympathy to get the of Indement.

LUELESS RIMENT.

Suppose a few younge 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 ati Kindergarten Training School, being I a model flat for demonstration purposes, e own housekeeping, marketing and preneir meals on a seven-cents per day basis individual. We give a sample menu:

fast-Cornmeal mush and milk, brown bust, coffee or cocoa.

mon-Peanut sandwiches, bread and jelly

c. Split pea soup, creamed codfish on ade dumplings with sauce.

Johnson's hearers. Women will after a while learn not to grow angry at unjust criticism. But the fact that the speaker had been invited to discuss "good roads" is rather convincing evidence in itself that the women were interested in something else besides the extension of equal suffrage. Quite apart from the question of suffrage, we think the record of village and town improvement societies throughout the country justifies the conclusion that women are doing their part in looking after practical affairs in their own communities.

DO WOMEN DESTROY CREDITY

The credit of Western cities, claims Frank S. Grant, corporation counsel of Portland, Ore., is heing 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, realize 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 herown. 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 areads 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 .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

Knox's Great Peace is certain that the politicians of the to those it is proposed to make with the questions of the secession of Panama summed from page 2267 *

an family.

ar message which the Sectate will carry in person to dies-that their prosperity are identical with our own as therein lies the surest . protection for our interests burhood of the canal.

that we may hope to have by this trip-probably the ant point to be watched for aced upon the Central Amers and that their people are ... is a perversion of truth. thi more clearly bring to ... attitude of these countries e loans than the personal Secretary. It will be seized the friends of the loan and and the question will be . to force the truth before a public,

asituation will be presented. rated assertions of Presia Cabrera, of Guatemala, ts only to mind his own

the ground for every whisper from Gua- and Cuba. temala while Mr. Knox is President atin-American neighbors in Cabrera's guest in many ways the terest those made to Honduras and Senor Ospina, it is believed, will ender them to meet their just friendliness for Guatemala, which it de-

and to keep out of trouble. sires to have reciprocated. The visit of see them prosper, and their the Secretary will be a strong accentuabut also by all members of President's reception of the profered friendship will be watched closely.

For Costa Rica there is the welfare of the Central American Court of Justice, that, after all, helping is an outgrowth of the Washington-con-Gomez effectively dissipated the danger much change in this ratio until between of Justice, which was given by Andrew Carnegie, was destroyed in the last Costa Rican earthquake, and plans are of State to these countries at this time assertion that these loans under consideration for the reconstruction of the building. In San Salvador the Secretary will be the guest of President Simon Araujo. In the visits to discussion, and by that concentration of these countries also Mr. Knox, by his furtherance of good relations, should give considerable impetus to our commerce with them, which, as he has foreign fields. pointed out in several of his speeches, is by no means inconsiderable. In 1909 coly to issue, which is al- the total foreign commerce of the Central American countries amounted to \$60,000,000, about one-half of which ... to Guatemala, it is likely was with the United States. This as or at least a more crit- amount would be greatly increased by the establishment of peaceful conditions

in those countries. of Central America, and it States has now a loan agreement similar ago to the department, demanding that marry.

other countries will have their cars to Nicaragua and Honduras and Porto Rico

United States has tried to show its Nicaragua. The appearance in Cuba's his diplomatic career. friendliness for Guatemala, which it decapital of the man who so recently exploded the Veterans' agitation and by by reflex action, is felt not tion of that good-will, and naturally the ive policy" is certain to quiet the uprest which inevitably followed the deliverance of the necessarily distinct hint to been married. Between the ages of an institution in which Secretary Knox fall, and, though it appears that the and eighty-five out of each one hundred takes the deepest interest. The court Secretary's ultimatum to President widows marry bachelors. There is not vention—the pact signed by all the Cen- ous phases of the Veterans' movement, the years of thirty-five and forty-five, tral American countries in Washington yet it is most fortunate that the Secrefor the preservation of Central Ameri- tary will have an opportunity in person widows marry widowers. During the that may exist in Cuban minds,

Generally, the visit of the Secretary will center interest in the United States upon the vitally important question attention will erase the blear of misunderstanding that more than all else

Several of the republics which Mr.

from Colombia and the claim of an indemnity therefor be submitted to arbi-

The Chance To Marry.

(Continued from page 230.)

President Gomez. There is a president twenty and twenty-five, for instance, tial election to take place in Cuba next ninety-five out of one hundred spinaterswhen forty-five spinsters and fifty-five can peace. The building for the Court to smooth out any misapprehensions next ton years the widower is in high demand, for during that period seventyfive spinsters and eighty widows take widowers for husbands.

It is quite popularly believed that to be an eligible husband a man must be pending with regard to them, will force some years the senior of the woman, and because of this entirely fallacious belief probably nine out of ten joung women misdirect a large amount of their hampers those who carry interests into marriageable energy. In other words, the young woman of twenty-one looks to the men who are considerably older than Knox intends to visit have manifested herself for mating material-a fact their satisfaction over his coming and which handicaps her at the start. For have prepared to give him a most hos- figures which cover a period of many pitable welcome. But Senor Pedro Nel years show conclusively that up until Ospina, the minister from Colombia, the age of thirty a woman's greatest sent a letter to the Department of chances of marriage lie with men of her State, plainly intimating that the Secre- own age. In other words, between the tary's visit to Colombia would be un- ages of twenty-one and thirty, approxi-In South America the Secretary will welcome. This letter, which was remately aeventy per cent. of the women visit Colombia, possibly, and Venezuela. garded as an insult to Mr. Knox, was who take husbands marry men between cares only for the peace of In the West Indies his trip extends prompted by the writer's resentment the ages of twenty-one and thirty-a rica and the friendship of through Haiti to the Dominican Repub over the Panama incident. He stated suggestive fact which may be pointed states, are not believed in lie, with which country the United that a note which he sent three months, out as a last hint to men who wish to

musicated by the history of Hol- SHADOW OF THE SHI land, as well as the smals of free President Ripley, Archison, Indiana, states in the ancient and the medieval world, to suffer from the transports of THE ATTEMPT to blind feeling which sometimes seize the minds of their citizens. Servants of the people are often made aware of the striction of competition fluctuations of public favor under the the fabled effort to kee, impulse of unreasoning emotion. It with a broom, The shad should be the office of liberal institu- man law hangs over evtions to train the judgment of the citi- body knows what it mean zen, school him in self-restraint and arm until after his particular him against appeals addressed to prejudice and discontent.

TOO MUCH KNOCKING.

William S. Hawk, President of the Ohio Society. TE 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 Sereno S. Pratt, Secretary New Commerce. 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. T THIS very time we are suffering sight; it is not gambling from a plethora of laws and regue the word. Gambling conlations aimed at the conduct of a chance with absolutely business. What with new interpreta of the qualities of the sto tions of existing laws, additions without but merely a hope of L number to the statute-books and at returns. Make investor tempts to regulate and supervise every means if you can, but be effort of human endeavor, can we woner securities you buy are so der that business enterprise is discour- ductive. Speculate if y aged and checked, the field of employ-knowledge and can afforment diminished, the rewards of labor money. Never gamble. decreased and the financial and industrial future rendered unstable and insecure? America needs economic peace. We need a cessation of demagogic at- Presiding Judge Knapp, United tacks and appeals to class prejudice.

THE COMING SOUTHWEST

B. F. Yoakum, Chairman St. Louis and San AISSOURI, Arkansas, Oklahoma such a return upon and Texas, 459,000 square miles honest investment in area, have only twenty five that capital may be per cent. of their tillable lands under attracted for the cultivation. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, 179,000 square miles in area, have over sixty per cent. of their ways and the detillable lands under cultivation. When ways and the tillable lands under cultivation. the four Southwestern States have as large a percentage of their land under cultivation, proceeds from agriculture should be large in those States will be several times enough to pay all what they are to-day. This will make the Southwestern section the greatest which will make wealth-producing territory in the world.

PROSPERITY'S ONLY OBSTACLE.

Theodore N. Vail, President American Tele-phone and Telegraph Company. NOURTS are beginning to define and agitated. So are business is beginning to learn the Legislatures of what can and what cannot be done all the States. Forty State under the anti-trust laws, and business are wrestling with the sulis shaping itself in accordance. The is the menace of stubborn only obstacle to a recurrence of general tween the railroads and the prosperity is the fear of a lot of new, lion organized employes. indefinite laws, difficult of both inter- is a menace of political is pretation and application. The social-the regulation which is no ism which is believed to prevail in the be enforced shall be found West is superficial. Farmers in auto- government ownership of a mobiles indulging in pessimistic talk is the only alternative.

limited competiti agreements or ng. passed on by the court, phasize its findings with sentence; yet everybod spirit if not the letter of lated daily and hourly all

SPECULATION NOT

try, and that it always w

ter what laws are made.

TNVESTMENT is the sisting of the purchas for the purpose of inc tion is an operation conde and is based on knowled

-SOME-DANGERS.

UR WHOLE nation: pends upon the se problems of interst.

If we are to go forward, the the railroads should be sui-

construction and gions that await us. The revenues national prosperity, I see serious dangers in the present condition, Congress is constantly