

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS.

Red is the Wedding Color of the Celestials.

CHILDREN ARE BETROTHED.

An Exceedingly Interesting Account of Queer Customs Still Observed in the Far East.

Every man in China is expected and expects to get married at a rather early age, and it is not unusual for the young men in school to go home for a week or ten days for this purpose and then come back and resume their work.

Frequently the boy is betrothed while yet a mere baby and most of them are married before they even see their brides. In some cases, of course, this leads to discontent and unhappiness, but the parents have seen and made the choice, or if the parents are dead, then the oldest member of the family living has matters of this nature in charge.

On two occasions that have come within my knowledge here the Chinese have made propositions of betrothals of the foreigners. Of course they were refused and in spite of any explanation made by the foreigners to the effect that these matters were in the hands of the individual concerned after they had been made, the Chinese did not fully understand it and felt hurt, thinking that this was merely some subterfuge to avoid granting their request.

Here, as everywhere else, the middle man is the one through which all arrangements are made, and it is not unusual that the proposition is made by the girl's parents. In fact nothing is thought of such proceeding and it probably comes as often that way as being made by the boy's parents. On the occasion of the completion of all the arrangements a feast is given by the young man and all his friends are invited in to rejoice with him.

The young man and his father and friends are allowed to wear semi-official robes at this time and at the time of the marriage.

This feast may sometimes be many months or years before the actual marriage or it may in other cases be only a very few months; this depends upon the age at which the betrothal is made.

Custom here is something that cannot be disregarded and it is a custom for the man to send six things, usually pieces of jewelry of gold or silver, according to the wealth of the family. Sometimes less expensive things may be sent, but the number must be observed.

Following this comes the exchange of their polo or eight characters, telling of the year, month, day and hour in which each was born; these things each has its own significance for they determine whether or not the man will be a happy or a fruitful one. Luckily combinations are always sought after and the greatest blessings are sure to follow when they are obtained. Some days before the wedding little gifts, including a piece of the wedding cake (about 9 inches long, 5 inches wide and 1 inch thick) may be sent, with a number of fruits in it, very gummy) in a red pasteboard box specially made for the purpose, a small pewter can filled with tea and a red paper bag containing some watermelon seeds, which are considered very good for the health of the Chinese. When this is brought in you are expected to pay the bringer of it about 10 per cent. of its value as his tip, but it is said here that a larger part of the pay of most of the servants in large families comes from the tips given by guests at the reception of the Chinese that does not do it is at the mercy of the servants. Foreigners are not held strictly to this rule as most of them have thrown this off in the very beginning of their intercourse with the Chinese.

Soon after the present comes you may expect a red envelope, addressed to you as "great old father," which is the most honorable title you can give you. Now presents are in order and they pour in thick and fast up until the very last day before the wedding, after that time it is not considered good taste to send them. The presents range about as they would in America, but in some cases the money is given, and you must give at least one dollar, and it should be wrapped in red paper. Money is not given as a rule to the more wealthy couples, but it does come in very conveniently in cases of the less well-to-do in Chinese society circles. The bride's father often makes very extensive preparations for the wardrobe of his daughter and even at times furnished much of the lighter household furniture; this usually comes to the groom's house a day or two before the marriage. The bride's dress is provided by the groom and she sends him his hat and shoes for his special occasion.

At last the day has arrived and all stir and bustle in the room's home for all day long and most of the night there will be feasting and revelry there. At noon or before the guests begin to come and they continue until late in the evening. From about 12 o'clock until 3 in the afternoon little groups of guests are seated about in the different little reception rooms to dine on 20 or 25 courses, so of course, trains of servants are all of the time pouring back and forth through the house.

At 5.30 p. m., the bride is to arrive so the chair is sent out to her home and return by the appointed hour. The chair is a large red one decorated with mirrors, tinsel and gilded wood and is closed tight so as to prevent the curious eyes along the street from gazing into it, and it is accompanied by a lot of loafers and beggars who have donned a red conical cap for the occasion and who beat boards with Chinese characters on them, many of which are covered with red, large brass gongs, etc. A lot of small boys also are arrayed in red in honor of the occasion are the music makers and with their shrill flutes, brass gongs and other crude instrument could succeed in raising a mob in any country village, much less a large city. All of this heterogeneous mass follows and thus lengthens out the procession to quite a long one at times.

At the booming of firecrackers the chair arrives and then a search is made for the groom, while the bride, heavily veiled and shut up in the chair, where candles have been burning since her start, is almost suffocating. When things have quieted down

CONVICT ESCAPES.

But is Captured by One of His Own Race.

Douglass Williamson, a negro convict who bears a bad reputation, quietly walked away Friday and gave the penitentiary guards a bad quarter of an hour. The convict effected his escape with much ease, and but for the fact that he happened to meet one of his own race who happened not to be so sympathetic to escaped convicts, he would now in all probability be on the high road to liberty.

The fashion in which Williamson got away is more than passing strange and yet simplicity itself. He, with some other negroes, was doing some work in the toilet room of the captain, Joe James, the guard in charge, happened there to see for a moment, and the negro slipped down the corridor and out on Senate street. He made no effort to run but strolled down the street just as if he was on business bent for the State.

As it is a common thing to see convicts on the streets of the capital, no one paid any attention to him and he went east along Senate street without being molested by any one until he was out of sight.

THE GUARD MISSED HIM ABOUT five minutes after he escaped and hurriedly telephoned to the penitentiary for dogs. They were not forthcoming however, as they had been sent to Lexington and there are no other hounds here at present. In fact, every dog in the city receives regular requests for hounds which he cannot honor. Sheriff Coleman has two hounds but they were not available Friday.

So the dogs had to be dispensed with. Somebody saw the convict down the Southern railroad, but deeming him a trusty he did not disturb. Somebody else, according to reports, saw the fellow near Brown's store in the eastern suburbs.

It was about 8 o'clock Friday morning when the convict decided to take French leave. Scores of citizens were on their way to business and many of them must have noticed the supposed "trusty" wandering leisurely along. Williamson is a tall, graceful negro, black as a sole, with anything but a criminal face, and perhaps some of the glances his way were more sympathetic than otherwise.

In any event no one said him nay and for the nonce he was as free as a bird. It was evidently Williamson's plan to travel until he met some friendly negro who would give him a change of clothes and enable him to escape. But the fates were against him and more remarkable than his escape is the fact that he managed to get five miles away from town without being so much as questioned. After he left Senate street he must have circled round the city and struck out down the South Carolina railroad. Having traveled five miles down the road he ran into perhaps the worst negro in the State to further his purposes.

Williamson is a young man named Alex Goodwin, something over 30 years of age, who at one time belonged to Joe Wade Hampton, and who it seems had rendered valuable service to the State as a penitentiary guard when Col. Lipscomb was superintendent of the penitentiary.

In some way Goodwin had heard about the convict escape, and with true "nigger luck" the convict figuratively walked into his arms. That is, the old negro was standing near the railroad when he saw Williamson hurrying along. He quickly armed himself and his two boys, one about 15 years old and the other yet a youngster, and went in pursuit of the convict who was scurrying down the railroad with all the speed that he had left in his tired body. Goodwin finally overtook him and called to him to stop. The convict replied that he would not and that Goodwin had better not worry with him.

COMMANDED TO SURRENDER. Goodwin told him that unless he gave himself up he would shoot him and he and his two boys raised their guns threatening. Williamson was inclined to show fight but seeing that he had no chance against the three guns that were pointed at him he finally consented to return to town.

When the first fire engines arrived fully 700 feet of the pier was blazing from the water's edge to the top. Tugs of all sorts and sizes threw water into the fire, but this seemed to have little effect. The fire was very badly hampered in reaching the place.

The flames spread as rapidly as when the North German Lloyd and Scandinavian piers burned three years ago. There were three explosions, apparently caused by barrels of some inflammable material. After each the flames spread rapidly.

The heat was intense and many firemen dropped into the river for relief. The slight wind carried the flames toward the Tietjen and Lang dry docks, containing a score of vessels. Those which could be gotten out were towed away. A near-by bathhouse was crowded with women, girls and children, who fled without waiting to dress. Two children were slightly hurt in the crush.

Within three-quarters of an hour after the fire started it was under control. None of the workmen on the pier were injured.

THE LARGEST HOTEL EVER erected for an exposition will be within the world's fair ground at St. Louis. A contract has been signed for the construction of this mammoth building the rates in which will be controlled by the Exposition. Rooms will be divided into four classes according to size, not less than 500 rooms of each class. The rates will be, on the European plan, for each person \$1, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00 per day.

Safe Robbers at Work. A special from Spartanburg to the State, says that a robbery was attempted on an account which Shadden was trying to collect from the negro. The negro made his escape, but the sheriff and a posse are in pursuit. A lynching is probable if the negro is caught.

Killed by a Negro. Arthur Shadden, a prominent young planter living about four miles south of Osceola, Ark. was shot and killed by a negro tenant on his farm at an early hour this morning. There was trouble between them in regard to an account which Shadden was trying to collect from the negro. The negro made his escape, but the sheriff and a posse are in pursuit. A lynching is probable if the negro is caught.

OFFICER LYKE'S ILL.

Washington correspondent in the New York Sun says the fondering of the British monitor Scorpion off George's shoals last week while being towed from Bermuda to St. John, N. B., where she was to be broken up as old metal, marks, perhaps, the passing of the last relic of the navy of the Confederate government.

The Scorpion and her sister monitor, the Wivern, were constructed by Laird Bros., of Liverpool under the supervision of Capt. James D. Bullock of the Confederate navy, an uncle of the President Roosevelt. The President called and asked that the warrant, which had been sworn out against Reed and Perry, by Constable Lykes, charging them with hindering a dispensary officer in the discharge of his duty be amended by charging them with hindering the officer, holding that in driving over the constable Lykes committed an assault and battery with intent to kill. Magistrate Rouse said that he would amend the warrant and would ask the sheriff to use great care in holding the prisoners, for it is not known how the illness of Lykes will terminate. Col. Seaton said that he would advise the constable from Columbia Lykes was in a serious condition. If he should die from the injuries, Perry and Reed will be held for murder.

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There was some delay in the work, and it was not until May 27, 1863, that the Confederate officers who were to man the new boats ran the blockade at Chatham, and started for England. Those who were to man the monitors were Matthew F. Maury, John R. Hamilton, Capt. Littlepage, Dan Trigg, H. H. Marmaduke and Capt. James North. Capt. Bullock was to command one of the monitors and Capt. North the other.

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FATHER OF 48 CHILDREN.

Also Grandfather of More Than Three Hundred.

The statements heretofore appended are not of fancy bred, nor are they creatures of a disease imagination. On the other hand, they are facts, hard and true, and every planter and inhabitant of Beech Island, S. C., just inland of the Savannah river from Augusta, will vouch for the accuracy and truth of the story says the Augusta Herald.

The hero, if hero he be, is known far and wide in the locality where he dwells, and a great many citizens of this city know him both personally and by reputation.

The writer takes pleasure in respectfully referring the matter to those two gentlemen, the President of the United States and the president of Yale University—they having been credited with the loss of some sleep on account of the dying out of the human race.

The facts, briefly, are these: An individual of Afro-American extraction, who works on the plantation of Mr. Hammond, in Beech Island, and who is now nearing 90 years of age, has during his life become the father of 45 legitimate children, the greater number of whom are alive, and a great number of whom are now in the footsteps of their illustrious father and have immensely large families.

It ought to be explained right here that the progenitive person about whom this story is written has been married twice, and has had three or more children, and that the 45 are not equally divided among the wives.

A Beech Island citizen of an investigating turn of mind has recently made an attempt ascertain the exact number of grandchildren and great grandchildren of the eminent race multiplier, and at 2 per cent. have more than 300 ceased his labor, having satisfied himself that the Beech Island negro had laid all other persons in the shade who dwell in the lands where polygamy is forbidden.

The name of the hero and friend of civilization is Alexander Lark, and his children range in age from 70 years to six months—in fact, his two youngest children are twins and have not yet learned to toddle. In the family are several other pairs of twins. The infants six months old have nephews and nieces who are 45 and 50 years of age.

Corn Crop Less. Preliminary returns to the chief of the bureau of statistics of the Washington department of agriculture show the acreage of corn planted to be about 39,800,000 acres, a decrease of about 4,200,000 acres, or 1.2 per cent., over the area planted last year, as revised in December. The average condition of the growing crop on July 1 was 79.4, as compared with 87.5, on July 1, 1902. The average condition on July 1 of spring and winter wheat combined was 80.8 as compared with 82.9 on July 1, 1902, and 91.1 on July 1, 1901. The amount of wheat remaining in the hands of farmers on July 1 is estimated at about 42,500,000 bushels, equivalent to about 9.3 per cent. of the crop of last year. The average of tobacco is about 7,000 acres, or 0.7 per cent. greater than that of last year, and the condition is 85.1. The acreage of potatoes, including sweet potatoes, is about 49,000 acres, or 1.6 per cent. less than of last year. The average condition of potatoes on July 1 was 88.1, as compared with 92.9 on July 1, 1902.

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The Scorpion and her sister monitor, the Wivern, were constructed by Laird Bros., of Liverpool under the supervision of Capt. James D. Bullock of the Confederate navy, an uncle of the President Roosevelt. The President called and asked that the warrant, which had been sworn out against Reed and Perry, by Constable Lykes, charging them with hindering a dispensary officer in the discharge of his duty be amended by charging them with hindering the officer, holding that in driving over the constable Lykes committed an assault and battery with intent to kill. Magistrate Rouse said that he would amend the warrant and would ask the sheriff to use great care in holding the prisoners, for it is not known how the illness of Lykes will terminate. Col. Seaton said that he would advise the constable from Columbia Lykes was in a serious condition. If he should die from the injuries, Perry and Reed will be held for murder.

Soon after the battle between the Monitor and the Merrimack in Hampton Roads in 1862, the Confederate government ordered from Laird Bros. two monitors and sent Capt. Bullock to England to superintend their construction. The contract price was \$1,375,000, or about \$408,750 apiece. The monitors were to be completed in March, 1863, and the other two were to be completed the same year. They were known as the Wivern and the Scorpion.

There was some delay in the work, and it was not until May 27, 1863, that the Confederate officers who were to man the new boats ran the blockade at Chatham, and started for England. Those who were to man the monitors were Matthew F. Maury, John R. Hamilton, Capt. Littlepage, Dan Trigg, H. H. Marmaduke and Capt. James North. Capt. Bullock was to command one of the monitors and Capt. North the other.

PRELIMINARY RETURNS to the chief of the bureau of statistics of the Washington department of agriculture show the acreage of corn planted to be about 39,800,000 acres, a decrease of about 4,200,000 acres, or 1.2 per cent., over the area planted last year, as revised in December. The average condition of the growing crop on July 1 was 79.4, as compared with 87.5, on July 1, 1902. The average condition on July 1 of spring and winter wheat combined was 80.8 as compared with 82.9 on July 1, 1902, and 91.1 on July 1, 1901. The amount of wheat remaining in the hands of farmers on July 1 is estimated at about 42,500,000 bushels, equivalent to about 9.3 per cent. of the crop of last year. The average of tobacco is about 7,000 acres, or 0.7 per cent. greater than that of last year, and the condition is 85.1. The acreage of potatoes, including sweet potatoes, is about 49,000 acres, or 1.6 per cent. less than of last year. The average condition of potatoes on July 1 was 88.1, as compared with 92.9 on July 1, 1902.

Dr. Biggers Huckleberry Cordial, for the Bowels and Children Teething. It is THE GREAT SOUTHERN REMEDY for the bowels. It is one of the most pleasant and efficacious remedies for all summer complaints. At a season when violent attacks of the bowels are frequent, every mother should be at hand. The wearied mother, losing sleep by nursing the little one teething, should use this medicine.

FROM HENRY W. GRADY. The Constitution Editorial Rooms, Atlanta, Ga., May 23, 1887. Dear Walter A. Taylor, Atlanta, Ga.: I have read your article in the Southern Review, and I have given a certificate on merits of an excellent one. I take pleasure in breaking my rule on this subject in behalf of your Biggers Huckleberry Cordial. It is the best medicine I have ever used in my family. Fifty cents invested in a bottle of this medicine, and put on a shelf convenient for use in the beginning of any bowel trouble, will often save the mother a great deal of anxiety. I have a friend whose life, in my opinion, was saved by the prompt use of this cordial. I ought to be in every family in the land, especially at this season of the year. I take pleasure in thus testifying to its merits.

Very truly yours, HENRY W. GRADY. For sale by all druggists, 25c to 50c. per bottle.

Haltiwanger-Taylor Drug Co., Proprietors, Atlanta, Ga. Great Good News. The United States has not abandoned its endeavors to get Gaylor and Green, the two fugitives from justice, across the line for trial before its court. A cablegram received from Quebec, says the petition has been presented to the privy council in England for leave to appeal to that body from the decision rendered by Judge Caron there last fall, which gave the two men their liberty in the dominion. The argument on the appeal will be heard in the latter part of July and Mr. Tascheran, counsel for Green and Gaylor, will sail Saturday for London. A big fight will be made against possible extradition. Mr. McMaster of Montreal is now in England representing the interests of the United States. Green and Gaylor are wanted in the United States in connection with alleged stealing of millions in the federal improvements in Savannah harbor. Capt. Carter is now in a military prison for his connection with the case.

Free to You. If you are not well and want to know the truth about your troubles, send for our free examination blanks. They will tell you if you are suffering from (Sexual Weakness, Neuritis, Prostatitis, Gleet, Stricture, Nocturnal Emission, Kidney and Bladder Complaints, etc.) and if you are suffering from any of these troubles, we will send you a full and complete course of treatment, and if you are not well, we will send you a full and complete course of treatment.

Murdered and Robbed. Mrs. Benjamin Lowry, a well-known and highly respected old lady, living alone near Good Hope C. H., in Madison county Va. was murdered at some recent date not definitely known, and her body was found lying on the floor of her room almost in a complete state of decomposition. The body of the old lady was found lying on the floor of her room almost in a complete state of decomposition.