

SOME ODD WEDDINGS

Countless are the romances that lead to marriage. But if courtship—love—has taken Protean form so has marriage. Comedy, tragedy, and pathos, all that is unique, much that is commonplace, are to be found in the marriages performed by the in the service of the church. Here are some clergymen's narratives of the oddest marriages at which each ever officiated.

"That a minister must be on his guard just the same as other mortals is the lesson conveyed by the experience of one popular clergyman whose church is crowded with representative business men. Moreover, Dr. is a business man himself. For this reason he is supposed to be a little more shrewd than the average man of the cloth. This is the story of a unique wedding at which he officiated:

"One evening the housemaid entered my study," said the clergyman. "She wore a broad grin and carried a card in her hand. 'The gentleman says they are very anxious to see you,' said the girl. 'Whom do you mean by that?' I asked, rather sharply, 'you know I never receive callers on Saturday.' 'It's a gentleman and a lady, sir, and they say they have to catch a train, sir.' 'I sent the servant out, telling her to tell the persons I could not see them. Presently she returned, trying to suppress another grin. She handed me a card, on which was written in a masculine hand:

"Dear Sir—We want to be married and are here only on the evening train out of town. Please, please marry us."

"Well, I did not wish to be disturbed when a man wants to be married, but the best thing to do is to marry him and get through with it as quickly as possible. So I put aside the manuscript of my sermon for the following day, and told the girl to enter the pair into the study."

"The man was a large, fine looking chap, with a well-to-do air, and of the kind you city bred type. From the manner in which he stated the facts relative to the ceremony I felt he was telling the truth. After the ceremony had been performed he called me aside and said in an embarrassed way:

"Doctor, I came over here just for a day's outing, and only brought money enough for the usual necessary expenses. I want to show you that I am a serious young man. I shall have to ask you to cash a check for me, if you will."

"This was rather a strange proceeding, but the man showed me several checks, or, rather, envelopes, addressed to the name he gave. They bore an return card, the names of men well known to me in business. I supposed to have the money he asked for. The check was drawn for \$100."

"Just let me have \$100 on that, Doctor," said the man. "I intend that you shall have \$50 as your fee, if that is satisfactory."

"I realized that \$50 was perfectly satisfactory, and the pair left with my \$100. That half hour cost me just that sum, for the check came back marked 'N. G.'"

"I once officiated at a hoodum marriage," said a minister in charge of a down town congregation. "One evening I was summoned into the reception room of my home and I was confronted by a man who had the designation of 'sporty' written all over him, from the top of his shining hat to the tips of his patent leathers and shiny spats. With him was a much better looking, blind person of the vaudeville type. Twirling his cane between the fingers of one hand, he nudged his partner on the back of his head and tipping forward on his toes he began:

"I did not wish to get married, but I could, by tones asked him why he selected me. 'Without the slightest warning he gave me a tremendous slap on the forehead that almost put me down. 'As come on, Doc,' he bawled cheerfully, 'help a fellow out. This get-together ain't a head case snap. Can't you fix it up quick an' make an angel out of these fellows? I ain't got no money, but I got no choice, can't get no power in my synagogue or Bellevue theaters. I'd a darn sight rather be married in the convention only for one reason, an' this is it: I've got a notion in my head that I want to be married on the 15th day of the month because it is my lucky number. We've been waiting for the 15th of each month, hoping to get married on Friday, the 15th day of any month it would come out. Well, today is Friday, the 15th, so we thought we would try to get hitched on Thirteenth. That's how it was. It's up to you, Doc, all right."

"You could not resist such an argument as that? No matter how free from superstition a man may be, the novelty of such a plan would overcome him. So I suggested them. After the ceremony the bridegroom took out a check for \$100 and followed:

"Now, Doc, what's the racket?" "I know what you mean, but I don't want to let him know I was in collusion with you. So I replied: 'I did not expect to catch your mean trick, but I'll tell you clearly what you mean.' 'What's the to-do? You know well enough what I mean, old man, he answered."

"Well, I realized, if you wish to know who the first man was who gave these fellows a hand, you must know I have married more men than some \$25, some \$20, but not more than the first man."

"If you are a little better, he said, 'handing me a bill for \$100.00. 'If that ain't it, I'll send you to jail. 'After the bill I reached the bill book found it to be \$100.00. The outside was stamped 'I have made it. I was a serious, well-to-do, but I was not the man that you thought I was. I had been an ordinary school-teacher, but I had been a man of means."

Married the Convict.

"One Sunday I was preaching in a jail," said a captain in a Salvation army. "A sweet faced little girl who belonged to the army came with me to play the chapel organ. Among the prisoners was a young man of about 22, who paid very close attention to what I said. He came up to me after the service was over and seemed thoroughly ashamed of the life he had been leading and especially of his position as a convict. His crime was assault, with intent to kill, and he pleaded guilty. As I shook hands with him before leaving he spoke up, 'I want to speak to you a moment, he said. 'I asked him to tell me what he had to say in a few words as possible, and he told me the story of his trouble briefly."

"I ain't sayin' I didn't do it," he concluded. "I was drunk as a fool, and it's a wonder I didn't kill him even if he was twice my size."

"Our little sister seemed much interested in him and asked him many questions. His face brightened as he answered, and I felt then and there that that pair had taken a deep interest in one another. He went to prison, but she wrote to him and once or twice went to see him. He served his term, which was lightened by good conduct, and when he came back to the city he sought me and asked me to aid him in getting work. But it was the little sister who got him his first job, that of janitor in an office building. Within two years he had saved enough to start a grocery. But he always found time to come to the meetings of the Salvation Army. One night he and the little sister came up to me after the service and asked me to marry them. I did so, and while it was a simple ceremony, I want to tell you it was the end of one of the prettiest romances in the history of our organization. That little housemaid is now one of the happiest in the town."

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later extreme union, as it was thought the young man was dying. His first request was to ask me to send for his stepmother. Upon her arrival they both told me they loved each other, and although they had decided that owing to their relationship they could never marry, he felt that since his hour was numbered, he wished to make her his wife, in order that she might inherit his portion of the estate.

"I advised against the marriage, telling them both that it would create a tremendous amount of talk and place the woman in a false light. They insisted, however, and right there in his apartments, I married them. He recovered, partly at least, and lived for several years. They spent their time traveling and trying every available means for the husband to regain his health and strength. They were very happy together. Finally, however, leaving her for the second time a widow with the same name, the only case of its kind that ever came under my observation."

"Oh, those people that want to get married!" exclaimed a clergyman. "One afternoon I was called into my reception room and there I saw a couple whose mission was plain, but hopeless. They looked the part of young persons who are fighting for wedded bliss, but they were evidently young. They stated their ages. He was 19; she said she was 15. I dismissed them with a lecture."

"One night several months ago at the end of the evening service a young couple came up to me and asked me to marry them. They were evidently very much in love, but they were a suspiciously suspicious couple. They stated their ages. He was 19; she said she was 15. I dismissed them with a lecture."

"The competition for existence was not only with the great carnivorous dinosaurs, but with other kinds of herbivorous dinosaurs, the iguanodonts which had much smaller bodies to sustain and a much superior tooth mechanism for the taking of food.

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WINE OF CARDUI. As a superior nerve tonic, well adapted to assist the functions of nature, I consider that Wine of Cardui has no superior. MRS. H. E. SOLOMON, 119 North High Street, Nashville, Tenn. Wine of Cardui has made a wonderful change in my life. LILLIAN HILL, 10 Cypress Avenue, Campbell, Cal. I am enjoying splendid health today and feel that it is all due to Wine of Cardui. SUSANNA MERRILE, 142 West 39th Street, Chicago, Ill. TRY IT TODAY. Have you taken all kinds of treatment and failed to secure relief? Have you been told your case is hopeless? Are you discouraged? If Wine of Cardui has done so much for other women, why won't it cure you? Your trouble, though painful, may yield readily to Wine of Cardui. Wine of Cardui never fails to benefit the worst cases of disordered menstruation, bearing down pains and female weakness. The wonderful healing qualities of this medicine have surprised thousands of dependent sufferers by bringing them quickly to health. It is needless to say that Wine of Cardui has cured thousands of sick women who have been given up as beyond possible recovery. Wine of Cardui is a mild tonic that every woman should take. Every drugist sells \$1.00 bottles. GIVE WINE OF CARDUI A TRIAL TODAY.

THE REIGN OF THE DINOSAUR.

Putting Off Those Giant Reptiles Almost Simultaneously with the World Over.

Henry Fairfield Osborn in the Century.

Never in the whole history of the world as we now know it have there been such ponderable and recent as were presented when the reign of these titanic reptiles was at its climax. It was also the prevailing picture of England, Germany, South America and India. We can imagine herds of these creatures from fifty to eighty feet in length, with limbs and gait analogous to those of gigantic elephants, but with bodies extending through the long, flexible and tapering necks into the distinctive heads, and reaching back into the equally long and still more tapering tails. The four or five varieties which existed together were each fitted to some special mode of life: some living more exclusively on land, others for longer periods in the water.

The competition for existence was not only with the great carnivorous dinosaurs, but with other kinds of herbivorous dinosaurs, the iguanodonts which had much smaller bodies to sustain and a much superior tooth mechanism for the taking of food.

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