

GERMAN COURTSHIP.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FRAULEIN'S ENGAGEMENT.

How the Question is Popped—Performing the Marriage Ceremony—Greeting the Bride and Groom—Strange Sight for American Eyes—Contentment.

At the end of the second week the lover came in one morning, and presented himself before the young lady, who was in my room, and asked for a few moments' private conversation. I stepped out to give him the floor, and this is what, she afterward related, transpired: The young man advanced toward his beloved and handed her a note, in which were written a few lines from her mother, saying that the beaver was about to propose in good form, and for her to accept him. As she finished reading an agitated voice from the vicinity of the door was heard, for the young man was exceedingly nervous on this occasion. "Most gracious and respected fraulein, I have the honor to offer you my heart (and he clapped his hand over that organ) and hand in holy matrimony."

Her emotion checked him, but not the young lady, who was 29 years old. "Most esteemed Herr Von H—," she said, "I thank you for a proposal, which I do myself the honor to accept." Herr Von H— bowed, kissed the young lady's hand and retired, and the latter came out and threw herself on my neck, exclaiming, "I am engaged!" in a voice which plainly implied, "At last, at last!"

Well, they were married, but first mamma gave several parties in their honor, and there we saw them sitting side by side on the sofa, getting acquainted. Some said they were discussing whether to have dinner at noon or night, after they were one, but I doubted that report, as Herr Von H— had suddenly developed an unmistakable air of appropriation of his beloved and a "Marin-black-my-boots" tone when he spoke to her. I think there is little question in the minds of those present but that "nubly" would have dinner before breakfast if he should so choose as soon as they were married.

The marriage ceremony in itself was an occasion. Being an officer, the event took place in the military church in Berlin. The place was filled with spectators and friends. The front pews were occupied by gorgeous brother officers, sparkling and glittering with brass buttons and gold braid, and near them sat the "specially invited" guests. Just before 12 o'clock, for the ceremony was in the morning, the minister entered and took his place. Immediately all was hushed, but for the low voices of the old organ. Eight bridesmaids then came in from the front and advanced to meet the bride, who had just appeared on the horizon in the rear, bearing on the arm of some relative unknown to us. She passed between the rows of white robed maidens and led the way to the altar, followed by the groom and his train. Here she stopped, and they all took chairs, making themselves quite comfortable, while the minister set a yard and a half marriage ceremony before he could bring himself to the point. At last the "I will" portion approached, the young couple rose, swore and were blessed.

The crowd dispersed, and the married pair drove away to a large hall, engaged for the occasion, where the wedding breakfast was laid. Here they wandered about, and got better and better acquainted every time the servants turned away their heads, and waited for their guests to appear. As these entered, all parties bowed, and the men and old men advanced to kiss the bride on both cheeks; the younger men were restricted to her hand. The groom kissed all the matrons and several comrades, and pressed the fingers of all the pretty girls to his lips. Then each lover, unmarried, offered his arm to some lovely maid selected by his good friend, the bridegroom, and led her to the table. Eating and drinking continued till 3:30, then came the toasts, and as each health was drunk, it was etiquette to fill your glass, rise and pass round the board, clinking your goblet with your neighbor's across the table.

When this was over, then came the strangest of the customs for the American eyes. The doors were opened and the servants of all the guests came trooping in, bringing mysterious packages and bundles. We all received innumerable presents from personal friends, though the latter were unannounced with the bride. That is the custom. When one hears that a friend is about to attend a wedding, it is the correct thing to send him a present during the breakfast. Of course the bride is left out, as she has received her share at her own house, so while her guests are making merry over their gifts and counting how many "friends" they have, the young married couple take their departure; that is the last one sees of them. Our host and hostess left then, according to custom, about 4 o'clock, leaving us to hold high carnival. We danced till 12, with several interruptions for refreshments, for the German digestion is inexhaustible, and sang and danced again till the cocks began to crow. I doubt if the neighbors in the surrounding houses enjoyed it as they should have done.

So it goes with the upper classes, and about the same style of carousal is observed among the lower grades, though Hans and Gretchen do it in a simpler way. Their wooing is short and ardent. They make love incessantly, and it is quite the same to them whether they are observed or otherwise. It is quite the common thing to see those lovers walking hand in hand up the street, stopping at every corner for a kiss, while Hans' brother walks along with them, and is in no way embarrassed. Contentment reigns.—Boston Transcript.

The So Called Grape Cure. Among the most ancient of the methods of treating disease by specific modes of diet is the so called grape cure, which may be traced in history since the days of Moses. In the time of Nero the curative virtues of grapes were highly lauded by one of the best medical writers whose works have come down to us. But grapes were not the only fruits given with a view to their medicinal effects. In the Middle Ages we find mention of maniacs cured by a diet of cherries, while strawberries are credited with having effected many wonderful cures. Later, in the course of our own civil war, a diet of ripe peaches has often succeeded, after all medication had failed to cure the obstinate bowel troubles so common among the volunteer soldiers.—Globe-Democrat.

Good in Either Case. House Hunter—It isn't a bad looking house for the rent you ask. Real Estate Man—It is given to you, you may say. The rent is ridiculously low, but the owner cares more for having a good tenant than for getting rich out of it. H. H.—What kind of a neighborhood is it? R. E. M.—Unequaled. Is your wife a borrower or a lender? H. H.—What do you mean? R. E. M.—If she's in the habit of lending groceries and domestic utensils to her neighbors, she can have a rest, for there are no borrowers. On the other hand, if she is in the habit of borrowing she will have a monopoly of the entire neighborhood. So you see it is a desirable locality any way you take it. Boston Courier.

THOMAS L. KIMBALL.

The Well Known Railroad Man Who Succeeded the Late Mr. Potter.

One of the best known railroad men in this country is Thomas Lord Kimball, recently made vice manager of the Union Pacific, vice Thomas J. Potter, deceased. He was born in Buxton, York county, Me., Oct. 1, 1831, and lived with his parents on a farm until he was 17 years of age. He then entered upon a course of academic study, and taught school during his vacations until his 21st year, when he engaged in commercial and express business, in which he continued for four years. In 1856 Mr. Kimball visited most of the western states, and a year later removed with his family to the western reserve in Ohio, and resided there until early in 1859, when he located in Cincinnati. During the following year he turned to account his earlier experience as an amateur newspaper writer and reporter, and published a series of articles on the west and in the interests of the Pennsylvania Railroad company. He was employed in the service of that company for three years as its south-western passenger agent, five years as assistant general passenger agent and three years as general western passenger agent. In March, 1871, Thomas A. Scott was elected president of the Union Pacific Railway company, and Mr. Kimball, who had been intimately associated with him in the service of the Pennsylvania company for twelve consecutive years, was appointed by Mr. Scott to the position of general passenger and ticket agent of the Union Pacific. During the same year Mr. Kimball went to Omaha, where he has ever since resided. During this long period—nearly seventeen years—Mr. Kimball has remained with the Union Pacific throughout all changes of administration. For ten years he filled the office to which he was first appointed—general passenger and ticket agent. He was then promoted to be assistant general manager, which office he filled for four years. The next three years he was the general traffic manager of the Union Pacific system, which had grown to vast proportions and required a man of great executive ability, such as Mr. Kimball is acknowledged to be, at its head. On Sept. 1, 1887, he was appointed assistant to First Vice President Potter, and on the death of the latter was made general manager. Mr. Kimball is a very thorough and systematic railroad man. He is master of every detail, and in the science of railroading, especially from a commercial standpoint, he has but few equals in this country. His long connection with the Union Pacific attests the high esteem in which his services are held. Mr. Kimball was married in 1854 to Mary P. Rogers, daughter of Nathaniel P. Rogers, Esq., of New Hampshire. They have four children.



THOMAS L. KIMBALL.

A MAN OF OTHER DAYS.

George Rex Graham, the Founder of Graham's Magazine.

Forty years ago no man was better known in literary circles than George Rex Graham. His name was a household word. He was the projector and owner of Graham's Magazine. Although a writer of prose and verse, Mr. Graham never made any pretence to be, strictly speaking, a literary man, but he was a generous employer, and in many instances was also the discoverer of our best known and greatest writers. He was the first American publisher to pay respectable prices for literary wares. Bayard Taylor, whose earliest poems he published, was amazed when Graham tendered him a \$25 check for two poorly priced poetic effusions. For his "Spanish Student" Longfellow received \$150 from Mr. Graham, and for "The Village Blacksmith" \$50. Fenimore Cooper once called on him in answer to a note. Graham wanted him to write ten novel stories. "I can't write for you," said Cooper, rather contemptuously, adding, "you can't pay me enough."

"How much do you want for each story?" asked Graham. "One hundred dollars—in advance," was Cooper's reply, pausing before uttering the two last words, as if he thought they would end the matter. Without a moment's hesitation Graham wrote out and handed Cooper a check for \$1,000. The stories were written and published, but Mr. Graham believes they did his magazine no special good. His fame as a large handed publisher spread, however, and did him great service. His friends told him his liberality would ruin him. On the contrary, it won him a fortune in a few years, as he confidently expected it would. Mr. Graham is now 73 years old. For three years he has been an inmate of an ophthalmic hospital. He had catarrhs removed from both eyes. For two years he was totally blind, but thanks to good treatment his sight has been partially restored, and he has left the hospital to begin life anew. He has made and lost two fortunes, and now at the age of nearly fourscore years he is about to take up his pen and try to make a new fortune. He is not at all cast down, although he hasn't a penny in his name. The restoration of his eyesight has made him as happy as a boy chasing a butterfly. This sudden restoration to the light of day, after a period of nearly five years of partial and total blindness, is like a new birth—it is being born again; the happiness of early manhood is being restored, and old age itself is unfeeling. It is a renewal of youth and of hope for the future.—New York Mail and Express.

How Clothespins Are Made. Clothespins are made in the lumber regions. They are usually made of white ash, sometimes of beech, black and white birch and maple. The wood is taken to the factory in logs and cut into lengths of thirty-one inches by circular saws. These lengths are then cut into blocks and the blocks again cut into sticks. The sticks are placed under another saw, and cut into the required lengths. Next the turner takes a hand at them and from there they go to the slotting machine. They are placed in troughs by the operator, the machine picking them up and slotting them. They are then placed in a revolving pipe-drier going thence to the polishing cylinder and then to the packer.

Each pin passes through eight hands. A single pin consists of board saw, gang splitter, gang chucker, turning lathe, drying house and polisher, and costs from \$7.00 to \$12.00. The machines working are very interesting. The little blocks of wood five and a half inches long are placed on an endless belt, which feeds the blocks automatically into the lathe. As the lathe is turned the pin is taken automatically from the spindle and placed on a turntable and carried to a circular saw, which whittles out the slot in the pin. It is then finished and thrown out of the turntable by the same appliances that puts the pins on the table. Falling, they are caught in a basket or barrel and are then taken to the drying house for ten to twenty-four hours, or until dry. The polishing cylinder or rubber holds twenty to forty pins; this is run at a slow speed, about thirty turns a minute, and by simple friction and contact they become polished.—New York Mail and Express.

Fascination of Counterfeiting. That old saying, "Once a counterfeiter always a counterfeiter," is true in 699 cases out of every 1,000. There is a fascination about the manufacture of spurious coin that when a man follows it for a while and gets rid of his stuff he becomes bolder, until he is finally captured. Long years of imprisonment do not seem to wear out the ardor for the counterfeit mold. There is counterfeiting carried on in a mild degree all over the country. We find the young "cross roads" man making a little occasionally with his plaster of paris molds, and then we find that some stereotyper has applied his art with paper mache and turned out a very good looking dollar made of type metal. By the stereotyping process a better mill-dollor is secured than by any other process, but that class of men very seldom go beyond the experimental stage. They may make one or two, and then find they can do so and quit through fear. Starvation sometimes drives a man into the business of making spurious coins, but this is not often. The case is very rare that a counterfeiter ever escapes detection; in fact, at this age of the world it is simply impossible for them to escape for any length of time.—United States Agent in Globe-Democrat.

The Drummer Got Left. A Scotch story is that of a diminutive drummer in a local brass band, who was in the habit, when out parading with his comrades, of walking by sound and not by sight, owing to his drum being so high that he was unable to see over it. The band on Saturday afternoon, paraded usually in one direction, but the other day the leader thought he would change the route a little, and turned down a by street. The drummer, unaware of this movement, kept on his accustomed way, drumming as hard as ever he could. By and by, after finishing his part and not hearing the others, he stopped, and, pushing his drum aside, he looked to see what was the matter. His astonishment may be imagined at finding that he was alone. "Hae!" he cried to some bystanders, "has my o' yeseen a hand hereabout?"—The Argonaut.

Champagne "Sensitiveness." When Mr. Lincoln made his visit to Gen. Grant's camp at City Point, Va., in 1864, he was met by the general and his staff, and, upon being asked how he was, said: "I am not feeling well. I got pretty badly shaken up on the bay coming down, and am not altogether over it yet." "Let me send for a bottle of champagne for you, Mr. President," said one of the staff officers; "that is the best remedy I know of for sensitiveness." "No, no, my young friend," said Mr. Lincoln; "I've seen many a man in my time seick ashore from drinking that very article."—Chicago Journal.

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