

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.

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 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 astound-

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.

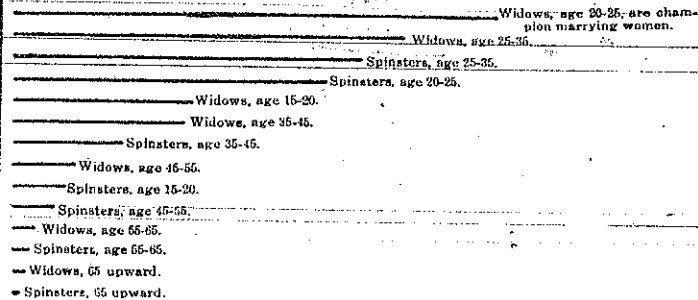
follow, she has but one chance in twenty-three—an average that is carried fairly well through the years from thirty-five to forty, during which one woman in twenty-eight marries. From this point figures are relentless and tell her with almost cool directness that her chances are practically gone. For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

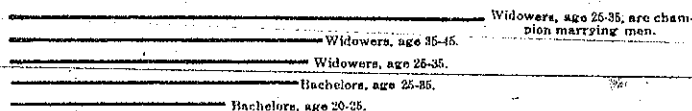
twenty and twenty-four, while the bachelor between thirty-five and forty-five is less than one-fourth as valuable. From forty-five to fifty-five he is only one-sixth of a chance as compared with a man of from twenty to twenty-four. Between the ages of from fifty-five to sixty-five he falls to about one-twentieth.

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

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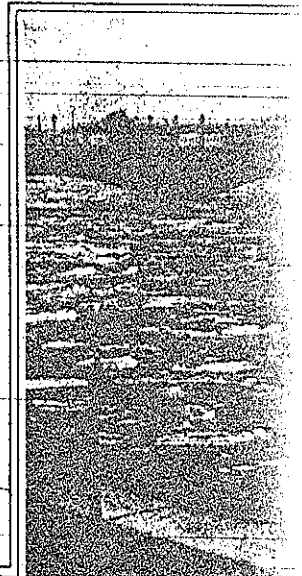


WHEN MEN ARE LIKELY TO MARRY.



Russia

By REV. DR. F.

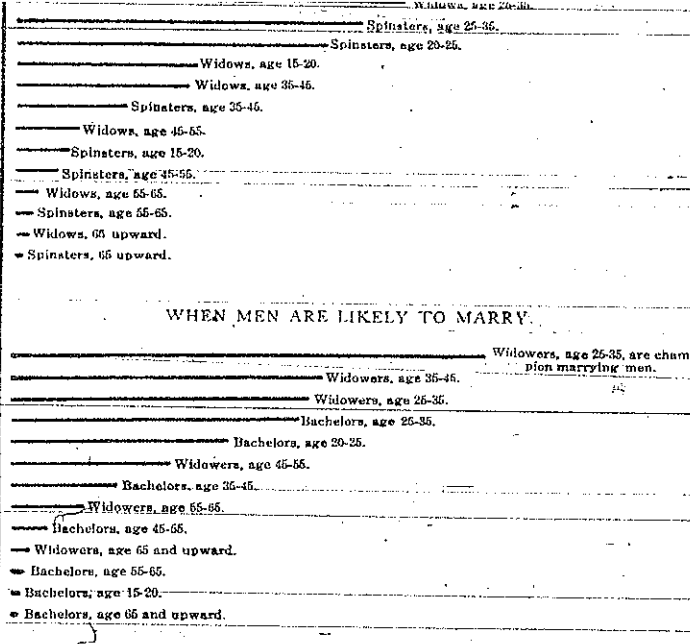


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What has brought about the difference in conditions since then is largely a matter of conjecture, but in all probability education has been the greatest factor. Statistics of progress point out many curious facts, and chief among these is that while 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 slip 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

(Continued on page 246.)



Laplanders Defiant of Cold.
Happy Lapp family who live in a tent of reindeer during the long, cold Russian winter, with the thermometer 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 a nipping 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, the wind has been so keen and strong it seem to blow the driver off his perch and gers out of the sleigh.

The droshky driver, however, is not alone. His friends, and either the city or benevolent, set great iron braziers at the street corners, and huge fires of wood are kept burning there where the poor coachmen and other wretches warm their benumbed hands. Sometimes the 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. They are warm and cozy, often steam heated, coal fires blaze on the hearth. Out of the classes are protected by such heavy fur

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 Curwood, of Detroit, Michigan, has won a nation-wide reputation as a writer of fiction. Many of his stories have been printed in the leading monthlies and weeklies, including LITTLE'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 coming man" in American fiction. His stories have remarkable virility and dramatic power. Their scenes are, for the most part, laid in the vast wilderness of arctic British America, with which region Mr. Curwood is thoroughly familiar, as he was for years an exploration writer for the Canadian Government.

LITTLE'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 LITTLE'S a series of descriptive sketches dealing with various phases of life 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 pursued with intense interest by all of LITTLE'S readers. Here are the titles of those already in hand:

- Fish Hooks for Wives.
- A Census in the Wilderness.
- A Wilderness Barbecue.
- When Fate Plays its Hand.
- A Florence Nightingale of the Wilderness.

