The Chance a Man or Woman Has to Marry

By JAMES OLIVER CURWOOD.



TAMES OLIVER CURWOOD.

The young American who is the "coming man as a writer of hetion.

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, on the one side, stands upon a 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 re-

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 astound-

HERE is no doubt that times 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-

Before going on with those figures which point out 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 neventy marries between the ages of fifteen and nineteen years. A still more surprising fact is that she has not at-Gibraltar of certainty, the tained her year of greatest allvantage hetween 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 rying is seriously handicapped by her younger sisters and that her great opportunities for securing a husversed by nature. In the first band 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 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 area of 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 girl who reaches the age of trointy-five without mar- 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 infan 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

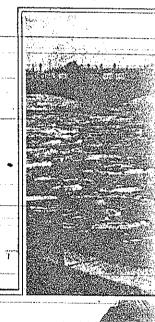
statements as to the respective value of bachelors at different ages is apparent, and the information may be rewarded both as a warning and as a guide. For a regrettably large number of men, especially young ones who are really almost worthless as marrying men, not infrequently mislead the young woman 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 of

their energies toward men who are

practically of very small value as pos-

sible husbands. While these so-called

By REV. DR. F





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Widowers, age 35-45.

Widowers, age 25-35.

Bachelors, age 25-85.

Bachelors, age 20-25.

women to become self-supporting, the girl who was born in 1812 had approximately a thirty per cent, greater chance of securing an eligible hashand 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 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 has fully a twanty per cent, advantage over heremall 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 slap 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-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

Spinsters, age 25-36.

Spinsters, age 25-36.

Spinsters, age 25-26.

Spinsters, age 20-25.

The value of these comparative

Vidowers, age 25-35, are cham-

Widows, age 15-20.

WHEN MEN ARE LIKELY TO MARRY

Widowers, age 35-46.

Widowers, age 25-35

Ruchelora age 96-85

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-vears

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

Notable Articles by a Gifted Writer.

nitude in the firmament of American literature. Although he

is only thirty-three years old and but, a few years have passed

since he mude his debut as an author, Jumes Oliver Curwood,

of Detroit, Michigan, has wen a nation-wide reputation as a

writer of fiction. Many of his stories have been printed in

the leading monthlies and weeklies, including LESLIE'S, and

they have made a deep and favorable impression on the read-

sellor" 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 vant wilderness of arctic British America,

with which region Mr. Curwood is thoroughly familiar, as he

was for years an exploration writer for the Canadian

best stories, which are to appear in future issues of this paper.

Mr. Curwood has also undertaken to prepare for LESLIE'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 con-

tributions will be perused with intense interest by all of Lag-

LIE's renders. Here are the titles of those already in hand:

Fish Hooks for Wiven

A Wildernoss Barbecus,

A Census in the Wilderness.

When Fate Plays its Hand.

A Florence Nightingale of the Wilderness

LEBLIE'S has secured from Mr. Curwood a number of his

Mr. Curwood has already published several "best

Once more there has appeared a star of the first mag-

■ Bachelora ave 20-25.

Widowers, are 45-55.

Rachelors, ave 35-45.

Widows, age 35-45.

Spinaters, age 35-46.

Widows, age 46-55-

-- Widowers, age 55-55.

Bachelors, age 45-65.

- Bachelors, age 65 and upward.

Bachelore, age 55-65.

· Bachelors: age 15-20.

- Widowers, age 65 and upward.

Spinsters, age 15-20.

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Widows, ave 55-65.

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statements as to the respective value

of bachelors at different ages is appar-

In. the above comparisons of the relative value of marriageable men and women at various ages, those figures relating to widows and widowers have purposely been omitted. For be it known, astonishing as it may seem, that widows are

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

the champion-marrying women of the English-speak-

ing races, and widowers are the champion marrying

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 theages 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

(Cartle 1



Laplanders Defiant of Co Happy Lapp family who live in a tent of reindeer the long, cold Russian winter, with the temper 30 or 60 degrees below zero.

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 -

In-midwinter-the-atreets-ofSt. 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 bouse-and are not-allowed to go to school or church. The poor people who are obliged to be on the street often suffer hieribly. The droshky drivers are especially to be pitied, for, in spite of their enormously here

are especially to be pitied, for, in spite of their enormously heavy in which they wear winter and summer, pierce to their very marrows as they sit their cabs waiting for a "fare" or a blasts as they cross the Neva on the ice in 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 as

gers out of the sleigh.

The droshky driver, however, is friends, and either the city or benevole set great fron braziers at the street conhuge fires of wood are kept burning throwhere the poor coachmen and other warm their benumbed hands. Sometime houses are built in the open squares, who

men can be sheltered on tempestuous m. There are many compensations for weather which is the normal condition. Russia during seven months of the year are warm and cozy, often steam heated coal fires blaze on the hearth. Out of diclasses are protected by such heavy for

ate giving to street beggars who appeal to "iv continuities, indis-Ampathy may occasionally relieve actual at usually it may be counted upon as being sition. Such practices will never be broken rong as people allow sympathy to get the of Judgment.

JUELESS. 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, buttling with the high cost of Several young girls connected with the ati Kindergarten Training School, being d a model flat for demonstration purposes, or own housekeeping, marketing and pretheir meals on a seven-cents per day basis individual. We give a sample menu:

.. fast - Cornment mush and milk, brown loast, coffee or cocoa.

acon-Peanut sandwiches, bread and jelly

r-Split pea soup, creamed codfish on ple 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 affuirs in their own communities.

DO WOMEN DESTROY CREDITY

The credit of Western cities, claims Frank S. Grant, corporation counsel of Portland, Ore., is being 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

society, realize the added cost of the unbringing 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 babies?" 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 in-A large part of marriages have been for love, notthe 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

whom it is a struggle to maintain their place in

come than she herself is receiving. But women have not always married simply to get a home. withstanding the record of the divorce courts and

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

demnity therefor be submitted to arbi-The visit to Havana will rival in inatin-American neighbors in Cabrera's guest In many ways the terest those made to Honduras and Senor Ospina, it is believed, will end

camued from page 2267

ar message which the Sec-

dorhood of the canal.

ant point to be watched for assertion that these loans aced upon the Central Ameres and that their people are om is a perversion of truth. ald more clearly bring to ... attitude of these countries · loans than the personal Secretary. It will be seized the friends of the loan and and the question will be

... public. into Guatemala, it is likely was with the United States. This situation will be presented. rated assertions of Presia Cabrera, of Guatemala, ts only to mind his own

other countries will have their cars to Nicaragua and Honduras and Porto Rico from Colombia and the claim of an inthe ground for every whisper from Gua- and Cuba. temala while Mr. Knox is President toward good government United States has tried to show its Nicaragua. The appearance in Cuba's his diplomatic career. them to meet their just friendliness for Guatemala, which it deand to keep out of trouble. sires to have reciprocated. The visit of ploded the Veterans' agitation and by see them prosper, and their the Secretary will be a strong accentua- his famous note initiated the "preventby reflex action, is felt not tion of that good-will, and naturally the ive policy" is certain to quiet the unrest but also by all members of President's reception of the profered which inevitably followed the deliverfriendship will be watched closely.

olics-that their prosperity an institution in which Secretary Knox are identical with our own takes the deepest interest. The court Secretary's ultimatum to President that, after all, helping is an outgrowth of the Washington con- Gomez effectively dissipated the danger much change in this ratio until between us therein lies the surest tral American countries in Washington protection for our interests : for the preservation of Central American peace. The building for the Court that we may hope to have of Justice, which was given by Andrew by this trip--probably the Carnegie, was destroyed in the last Coata Rican earthquake, and plans are 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 these countries also Mr. Knox, by his furtherance of good relations, should give considerable impetus to our commerce with them, which, as he has pointed out in several of his speeches, is. by no means inconsiderable. In 1909 andy to issue, which is also the total foreign commerce of the Cento force the truth before tral American countries amounted to \$60,000,000, about one-half of which

in those countries. In South America the Secretary will 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 rica and the friendship of through Haiti to the Dominican Repubsover the Panama incident. He stated suggestive fact which may be pointed

For Costa Rica there is the welfare of President Gomez. There is a presidencate will carry in person to the Central American Court of Justice, tial election to take place in Cuba next ous phases of the Veterans' movement, yet it is most fortunate that the Secretary will have an opportunity in person that may exist in Cuban minds.

Generally, the visit of the Secretary of State to these countries at this time will center interest in the United States upon the vitally important question be an eligible husband a man must be pending with regard to them, will force discussion, and by that concentration of attention will erase the blear of misunderstanding that more than all else hampers those who carry interests into

foreign fields. Several of the republics which Mr. Knox intends to visit have manifested their satisfaction over his coming and have prepared to give him a most hostary's visit to Colombia would be unof Central America, and it States has now a loan agreement similar ago to the department, demanding that marry.

The Chance To Marry.

"Continued from page 230.)-

ance of the necessarily distinct hint to been married. Between the ages of twenty and twenty-five, for instance, ninety-five out of one hundred spinsters fall, and, though it appears that the and eighty-five out of each one hundred the years of thirty-five and forty-five, when forty-five spinsters and fifty-five widows marry widowers. During the to smooth out any misapprehensions next ten years the widower is in high demand, for during that period seventyfive apinsters and eighty widows take widowers for husbands. It is quite popularly believed that to

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 marriageable energy. In other words, the young woman of twenty-one looks to the men who are considerably older than herself for mating material-a fact which handicaps her at the start. For figures which cover a period of many pitable welcome. But Senor Pedro Nel years show conclusively that up until as or at least a more crit- amount would be greatly increased by sent a letter to the Department of chances of marriage lie with men of her Ospina, the minister from Colombia, the age of thirty a woman's greatest State, plainly intimating that the Secre- own age. In other words, between the ages of twenty-one and thirty, approxiwelcome. This letter, which was re- mately seventy per cent. of the women liates, are not believed in lic, with which country the United that a note which he sent three months out as a last hint to men who wish to

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 atriction of competition fluctuations of public favor under the the fabled effort to kee, impulse of unreasoning emotion. It with a broom, The shadshould be the office of liberal institutional law hangs over every tions to train the judgment of the citi- body knows what it men. 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 try, and that it always w 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 Second S. Prau, Secretary New 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 reguil the word. Gambling conlations aimed at the conduct of a chance with absolutely business. What with new interpretar of the qualities of the si-

number to the statute-books and at returns. tempts to regulate and supervise every means if you can, but be effort of human endeavor, can we won securities you buy are so der that business enterprise is discour- ductive. Speculate if aged and checked, the field of employ-knowledge and can affor ment diminished, the rewards of labor money. Never gamble, decreased and the financial and indus-

trial 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 projudice.

. . _____ THE COMING SOUTHWEST

B. F. Youkum, Chairman St. Louis and San Francisco Railrond. #ISSOURI, Arkansas, Oklahoma such a return upon and Texas, 459,000 square miles honest investment in area, have only twenty-five per cent, of their tillable lands under cultivation. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, 179,000 square miles in area, have over sixty per cent. of their

tillable lands under cultivation. When the four Southwestern States have as large a percentage of their land under cultivation, proceeds from agriculture in those States will be several times what they are to-day. This will make the Southwestern section the greatest 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 sul is 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 interal 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 anto- government ownership of mobiles indulging in pessimistic talk is the only alternative.

hand, as well as the annals of free President Ripley, Auchieus, Lo. mastraced by the matory of moi- Shadow of the Shi limited competiti agreements or ag.

passed on by the court, phasize its findings with sentence; vet everybod spirit if not the letter of ; lated daily and hourly all ter what laws are made,

> SPECULATION NOT TNVESTMENT is the sisting of the purcha

for the purpose of intion is an operation condtions of existing laws, additions without but merely a hope of Make investm

---SOME-DANGERS

UR WHOLE nation. pends upon the s problems of interst. If we are to go forward, () the railroads should be sur that capital may be

attracted for the construction and extension_of railways and the development, of regions that await us, The revenues should be large enough to pay all employes wages which will make

national prosperity. I see serious dangers in the present condition. Congress is constantly