

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR.

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Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name, as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

DIVORCE BY CANDLE

If the Burmese husband and the Burmese wife come to the conclusion that they are not suited to each other, their procedure is simple and direct. The wife does not go to her solicitor, but to the tallow chandler. From him she obtains two little candles. These she brings home, and she and her husband sit down on the floor, placing the candles between them. One candle represents the husband, one the wife. They are lighted at the same moment, and the owner of the one that goes out first leaves the house, taking only his or her clothes, while the owner of the more enduring candle remains also the owner of the house and all that therein is.—*Everyday Life*.

EVERLASTING LEAP-YEAR

So far as proposals of marriage are concerned, in New Guinea it is always leap-year, for in that island the men consider it beneath their dignity to notice women, much less to make overtures of marriage. Consequently, the proposing is left to the women to do.

When the ebony belle falls in love with a man she sends a piece of string to his sister, or, if he has no sister, to his mother, or another of his lady relatives.

Then the lady who receives the string tells the dusky masher that the particular damsel is in love with him. No courting follows, however, for it is considered beneath a New Guinea gentleman's dignity to waste time in such a pursuit.

If the man thinks he would like to wed the lady, he meets her alone, and they

decide straight away whether to marry or drop the idea.

In the former case the betrothal is announced. The man is then branded on the back with charcoal, while a mark is cut into the woman's skin.

No breach-of-promise actions are possible in New Guinea, though if the lady is jilted her friends may hunt her lover up and "go" for him. On the other hand, if the dark damsel proves faithless she is liable to be beaten by her betrothed if he catches her.—*Ibid.*

BRIDAL CUSTOMS

The Japanese bride follows the custom which prevails in the Western world, that of wearing white at the marriage ceremony, although the significance attached to the color is quite different. White is the mourning color in Japan, and the bride, upon leaving her parents' home, considers herself dead in a certain sense, to that home, as she never expects to return.

The Japanese first dons a gown of white silk, the texture of which depends on the station of the family. The entire gown is exquisitely hand embroidered. The sleeves of the costume, one of the chief features of the gown, are about three feet in length and hang in long graceful lines from the shoulder. Another distinct feature is the sash, and in importance corresponds to the American bride's train. The sash when undraped measures about eleven feet in length.

After the exchange of the loving cup, which is the most important part of the wedding ceremony, the bride changes her costume for a red robe. This color is supposed to have a purifying effect and cleanses the new home of evil spirits.

The pretty dark haired Hebrew bride always wears a yellow veil. If the bride has come from among the peasant classes upon her wedding day she binds her hair high on her head for the first time, signifying her submission to her husband's will upon entering his home. Heretofore her hair has always hung loose as a symbol of her freedom.

The customs of the Roman brides are very similar to that of the Hebrew maidens. The yellow veil is also worn, and the hair bound high upon the head with the same significance.

With the European bride flowers play an important role, much sentiment is hidden in the bride's bouquet. The Greeks and Italians intertwine myrtle and olive with white and purple flowers,

while among the English, roses, myrtle, and rosemary are given the preference, and pansies are sometimes worn.—*Ibid.*

NOTICE.

IT is hereby made known that owing to no business before the Council the ordinary meeting which was fixed for Monday, February 16, has been postponed to MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1920, at 1 o'clock p. m.

ROBT. L. MERWIN,
Chairman.

Colonial Council Office, St. Croix, February 10, 1920.

West End New Grocery

offers recent Arrivals

LIVER POSTEJ, SPEHEPOLSE,
Boneless Codfish, Fancy Smoked

Herrings, Maraschino cherries,
SELECTED APPLES, POTATOES,

SMOKED SAUSAGE,

PICKIC & SUP. HAMS,

Brick Cheese,

Boullion Cubes,

Mackerels,

Pickled Sausage,

BOILED CABBAGE IN TINS,

Truffles, Caviar, Pati de Foie Gras,
very fine An hovies,

SANDWICH OLIVES,

ROLLED OATS IN BULK & PKGS.,

Frankfurter Sausages,

Olives stuffed, do. Sandwich, do.

Queen,

Now is your chance to stock up before another strike bottles up exports again.

SELECT APPLES

12c. pr. lb.

Potatoes 6, 7, 8, 9c. pr. lb.

for Bbl. 50 lbs.—20 lbs

SELECT POTATOES

9c. pr lb