

**FROM THE MARRIAGE LICENSE
WINDOW: AN ANALYSIS OF THE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
VARIOUS NATIONALITIES. OBSERVATIONS
MADE, AND INCIDENTS TOLD. FACTS
FROM EVERY-DAY LIFE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649589647

From the Marriage License Window: An Analysis of the Characteristics of the Various Nationalities. Observations Made, and Incidents Told. Facts from Evert-Day Life by M. Salmonson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

M. SALMONSON

**FROM THE MARRIAGE LICENSE
WINDOW: AN ANALYSIS OF THE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
VARIOUS NATIONALITIES. OBSERVATIONS
MADE, AND INCIDENTS TOLD. FACTS
FROM EVERY-DAY LIFE**

FROM THE

MARRIAGE LICENSE

WINDOW.

An Analysis of the Characteristics of the Various Nationalities.

OBSERVATIONS MADE, AND INCIDENTS TOLD.

FACTS FROM EVERY-DAY LIFE.

By M. S. MONSON,
EX-MARRIAGE LICENSE DEPUTY, FOR COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO:
JOHN ANDERSON & Co., PRINTERS.
1887.

J

6/2

10

CONTENTS.

- CHAPTER I.—THE WINDOW—THE HUMAN HEART—THE THERMOMETER OF LOVE—A PHILOSOPHER'S VIEW—SOCRATES.
- CHAPTER II.—MARRIAGE A PRACTICAL AFFAIR—MARRIAGE CONTRA DIVORCES—THE MARRIAGE INSTINCT—MAN NEEDS A PARTNER—MARRIAGE A LOTTERY—RELATIVE HAPPINESS—THE FEELING OF RESPONSIBILITY
- CHAPTER III.—ENCOURAGING TO MARRIAGE—NIBILISTIC VIEWS—MALTHUS—EARLY MARRIAGES—OPTIMISTIC VIEWS.
- CHAPTER IV.—PECULIARITIES OF LANGUAGES—DIFFICULTIES—BEAUTIFUL PECULIARITIES—A GRACEFUL LANGUAGE—A MATTER-OF-FACT LANGUAGE—THE LANGUAGE OF ABSTRACT PHILOSOPHY—A MELODIOUS LANGUAGE.
- CHAPTER V.—SOME AMERICAN CHARACTERISTICS—THE BUSY AMERICAN—THE SEDATE AMERICAN—IRISH AMERICANS.
- CHAPTER VI.—PATRICK—HIS DEVOTION TO HIS CHURCH—HIS HOPE OF LIBERATION.
- CHAPTER VII.—STERN FACES—ORTHODOX POLES—FREE-TINKING BOHEMIANS—GERMAN PROFUNDITY—DO YOU SPEAK GERMAN?—PHILOSOPHICAL DISPOSITIONS—SOCIALISM—SOCIABILITY.
- CHAPTER VIII.—"THE MELANCHOLY DANE"—RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE—NORWEGIAN NATIONAL PRIDE—THE TYPICAL NORWEGIAN—THE FRENCHMAN OF THE NORTH—RELIGIOUS VIEWS—SWEDISH PRIDE.
- CHAPTER IX.—MODELS FOR ARTISTS—ITALIANS—A BEAUTIFUL COUPLE—A BOHEMIAN BRIDE AND GROOM—A HACKMAN—FROM HAND TO MOUTH—COÖPERATION—ECONOMICAL DEDUCTIONS.

Blackburner 3 Mar. 1894

CONTENTS.

- CHAPTER X.—DISAGREEABLY SURPRISED—A GIRL OF AGE—A REASONABLE DOUBT—AN ANGRY MOTHER—PARENTS' PUNISHMENTS—SUBTRACTION.
- CHAPTER XI.—AN OLD COUPLE—SOME MOTIVES—DARING EXPERIMENTS—OLD AGE AND BLOOMING YOUTH—DISPROPORTION
- CHAPTER XII.—FORCING CIRCUMSTANCES—HORNY HANDS—DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS—ONLY THREE FINGERS—A MILITARY SALUTE—AN AMUSING INCIDENT—THE SILK HAT—RUNAWAY COUPLES—FROM A NEIGHBORING STATE.
- CHAPTER XIII.—NOT IN A HURRY—MANY EXCUSES—A GRATIFIED DEMAND—SUPPRESSING—DELICATE CASES—THE LICENSE LIST—EXCEPTIONS—A SURPRISING QUESTION—A QUEER GROOM—CLOSELY WATCHED—DEMANDS ON THE MEMORY—INTERROGATION—MANY NAMES—A COLORED PHILOSOPHER—A PRACTICAL MAN—GOOD UNTIL USED—UNHAPPY GIRLS.
- CHAPTER XIV.—INTRICATE AND PLAIN QUESTIONS—SILENT APPLICANTS—LOQUACIOUS CANDIDATES—A JAIL MARRIAGE—COMPULSION.
- CHAPTER XV.—APPLICANT FROM RUSSIAN POLAND—HEBREW SIGNATURES—JACOB AND RACHEL—CELESTIAL MARRIAGES.
- CHAPTER XVI.—IN EXCELLENT HUMOR—AN INVITATION TO "STAND UP"—BLACK AND WHITE—MIXED MARRIAGES.
- CHAPTER XVII.—SUPERSTITION—A WEDDING POSTPONED—"CALL AGAIN"—SATURDAY—MONDAY—THE FARMERS' DAY—CERTIFICATES.
- CHAPTER XVIII.—BUSY DAYS—A COMICAL ERROR—A DRAMATIC SCENE—CUPID'S HUNTING SEASON.
- CHAPTER XIX.—GIVEN NAMES—FROM THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT—HISTORICAL AND DRAMATIC NAMES—COMPLICATED NAMES—NAMES TRANSLATED—"RATS."
- CHAPTER XX.—GIRLS AS APPLICANTS—NERVOUS MEN—"UNDER THE WEATHER"—HYPNOTISM.

CHAPTER I.

THE WINDOW.—THE HUMAN HEART.—THE THERMOMETER OF LOVE.—A PHILOSOPHER'S VIEW.—SOCRATES.

PERHAPS it may be superfluous to call attention to the fact that there is a window in the county clerk's office bearing the inscription, "Marriage Licenses." Those who have not personally seen that window, a mere framework, however, surmounted on a desk, may have read about it in the daily journals, where the licenses are chronicled day after day all the year round. Spring and summer, fall and winter, this window is literally open to those who, on the right side of our matrimonial laws, are approaching the connubial life. And from the time that the office is opened in the morning till it is closed in the evening the pilgrimage to this window is incessant. Now it is a solitary wanderer, whose mind for a long while has been bent on the matrimonial Mecca. Soon a group

of several individuals, each faithfully and patiently waiting for his turn to make oath—hats off and hands erect—to the effect that he is the possessor of all the qualifications prescribed by law entitling him to have the knot tied which is to unite him to the choice of his heart or intellect, as the case may be. And the number of all these applicants is growing, in the course of a year, to quite vast proportions, the total of which may be estimated in round figures at twenty-two thousand souls.

What a sum of love, intellect and sentiments this number represents! But what if we could follow these many souls on their wanderings through life, say only a couple of years after their marriage, how would we not, in hundreds of instances, be surprised at the change of love, at the sorrows, disappointed expectations, miseries and calamities, as results of inharmonious matrimonial unions? The human heart is not always beating in the sweet tempo of love. It is full of passions and will sometimes harbor feelings in direct contrast to the saying that man is the noblest of all creation. The young couple who adore each other to-day, while they are engaged, may two years after their wedding curse the fate that united them in wedlock.

As everybody knows, a great deal of poetry and prose has been written in honor of love. Poets of both sexes have at all times, and will most likely to the last day continue to do so, extolled in writing and speech this feeling or abstraction, or illusion, a single definition of which is meaningless. It is with love as with cold or hot air; it is measured according to its degree of strength. A thermometer of love, properly constructed, would show a great many divisions. According to the notions of our days the Platonic love is below zero, for the great philosopher advocated a mere spiritual love without animal desire. It is a cold love, absolutely out of fashion, void of passion, admiring its object at a respectful distance through the coldest and most unimpassioned contemplation. A little above zero the degree will show the chivalrous love, a form well-known from the middle ages. A chevalier of that time would not dare to propose, and a lady would not accept, until he in the arena had broken a lance in honor of her. We certainly have chevaliers in Chicago, but instead of breaking lances after the olden fashion, nowadays we make our fights in another manner. We are diplomats and good calculators, and we do not want to go back to quasi-

barbarian modes to win a girl; and, on the other hand, she does not wish her lover to enter an arena even if he had only to fight the famous John L. It would be an insurmountable task to describe all the degrees of such a thermometer. Its climax would show the blood-heat love with all its subdivisions,—the enthusiastic, the fanatic, the blind, the deep, the unrequited, the selfish love, and so on. The noblest of all the degrees is by far that which bears the inscription "pure." It predominates among young girls everywhere, and particularly among those from happy homes. The pure love is the triumph of the heart over all ignoble feelings, for it is unselfish. It is love for love's sake alone.—If we are not pessimistic, we cannot but believe that a matrimonial union between young people is founded upon something better than an egotistic calculation. It is unnatural with young hearts to unite in wedlock, that is intended to last until death separates them, without being animated with a deep feeling for each other. But the strength of this feeling has, however, to be measured according to the intellectual standpoint of the parties concerned, according to their mental qualifications, the culture of mind and heart. Love amongst peasants is not the same as love amongst people