

How Russian Girls are Courted.

Love is the same the world over, but "courtship" is managed very differently in different countries. Russian courtship, among the middle classes, is peculiar. The first Whit-Sunday after the young girl is acknowledged by her mother to be of marriageable years, she is taken to the Petersburg summer-garden to join the "bridal promenade."

This consists of the daughters of the Russian tradesmen walking in procession followed by their parents. Up and down they go, pretending to chat with each other and to take no notice of the young men—the tradesmen's sons, who dress in their best clothes walk in another procession on the other side. However, every now and then some young fellow slips out of his proper rank and adds himself to the line of girls on the other side, speaking to one particularly. The parents of the girl join in the conversation in a few moments and soon they leave the promenade and are joined by the parents of the young man. Generally, the old folks have talked it well over before, but on this occasion everyone pretends to be surprised. On the next day a female confidante calls on the girl's parents and requests her hand. This granted, all the relations on both sides meet and argue about the portion to be given away with the girl. If this is not satisfactory, all is at an end; if what is expected, the betrothal takes place.

The bride and bridegroom kneel upon a great fur mat, and the bride takes a ring from her finger and gives to the bridegroom, who returns the gift by another. The bride's mother meanwhile crumbles a piece of bread over her daughter's head, and her father folds the image of his daughter's patron saint over his future son-in-law's well brushed locks. As they arise bridesmaid sing a wedding song. The guests each bring forward a present of some sort. Wine is handed about and some one says it is bitter and needs sweetening. Upon this the bridegroom kisses the bride—the sweetness being supposed to be provided by this kiss—salutes the company and takes his leave, on which the bridesmaids sing a song with a chorus something like this

"Farewell, happy bridegroom, But return to be still more happy." Courtship time has now begun. Every evening the lover comes to his lady's home with a present which is always something good to eat—generally cakes or sugar plums. He makes love under rather awkward circumstances, for the bridesmaids sit about the betrothed pair in a circle, singing songs descriptive of their happiness.

The last evening of the courtship is enlivened by the presentation of the gifts of the bridegroom, which must include brushes, combs, soap and perfume. On receiving these, the bridesmaid instantly carry the bride away, and wash her, dress her hair, and perfume her pocket handkerchief.

Thus touched up, she returns to the company and the bride's father gives his future son-in-law the marriage portion, which he takes home with him in a neat bag.

The next morning he returns for the lady herself. She receives him with her hair braided and flowing down her back. They are married by the ceremonies of the Greek Church, and the old folks never go the wedding dinner. Those eternal bridesmaids, whom they must hate by this time, are there, however, still on duty, and the evening closes by the bride kneeling down and pulling of her husband's boots to prove her intention to be an obedient and submissive wife.

Good-natured bridegrooms generally hide jewelry or money in their boots, which the bride may take possession of as a memento for her pride. After the wedding-day the parents begin to give feasts, and keep it up a week, and it is not till all this is over that the "young couple" see those blessed bridesmaids take their departure. They are compelled to kiss them, thank them, and give them each a present.

Tremors of the Earth.

The London Times publishes a synopsis of some papers on "Tremors of the Earth" by the committee appointed to measure the lunar disturbance of gravity. It is considered proved by the committee that "the land actually sinks and rises under the pressure of the mass of water thrown upon it by the tides, maximum of rise and fall on the Atlantic seaboard reaching five inches. This effect is felt at the bottom of the deepest mine, and may reach for an unknown distance. It follows that the crust of the earth must be of exceeding tenacity, exceeding as a minimum that of granite; and its swaying may be the cause of phenomena hitherto quite unexplained, as, for example, the relation between storm and earthquake." In fact, the earth pants like a living being under the changes always going on above her.

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Table with columns: STATIONS, EXPRESS, MIXED, MIXED. Trains Outward and Inward.

Table with columns: STATIONS, EXPRESS, MIXED, MIXED. Trains Inward.

L. B. ARCHIBALD, Superintendent, Railway Office, Charlottetown, May 31, 1882 wkly, pres ne sj pio kca 61

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WILL LEAVE CHARLOTTETOWN EVERY MONDAY, at 5.30 p. m., for Shaw's Wharf, returning at 7 p. m., calling at Westville and Rocky Point (when tide permits); returning, will leave Charlottetown again on Monday, at 3.30 p. m., and on Friday, at 4 p. m.

FOR EAST RIVER. Will leave Charlottetown, at 4.30 a. m., on Tuesday morning for Mount Stewart, returning at 7 a. m., calling at Cranberry and Hickey's Wharves. Also will leave Mount Stewart, on Wednesday morning, at 7 a. m., calling at Cranberry and Hickey's Wharves, returning to Mount Stewart same evening; occasionally on Tuesday mornings (when the tide will not otherwise permit) the Steamer will not proceed beyond Cranberry Wharf, but will invariably leave Mount Stewart for Charlottetown on Wednesday mornings, returning same evening as above. On Sundays, Steamer will leave Charlottetown for Rocky Point (tide permitting) at 9 a. m., and at 1.15 p. m.; returning, will leave Rocky Point at 9.30 a. m., and at 1.45 p. m. If Steamer is not on route on Sundays, sail boat will take her place. F. L. HASZARD, Ch'town, June 1882—pat

Steam Communication

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Leave Charlottetown for Pictou Landing every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, at 7 o'clock connecting there with the Train for Halifax. Returning to Charlottetown Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, at 2 p. m., on arrival of Train from Halifax. Leave Pictou Landing for Georgetown every Thursday at 2 p. m., and return to Pictou leaving Georgetown at five o'clock on Friday morning.

NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. Leave Summerside every day (Sunday excepted) on arrival of morning Train from Charlottetown, connecting at Shediac with Trains for each of the above named places; and at St. John, with steamers of the I. S. E. Co. and the All Rail Line to Portland and Boston. Returning, leave Point du Chêne every day (Sunday excepted) on arrival of day train from St. John, for Summerside, connecting there with Express Train for Charlottetown. Also leave Charlottetown for Summerside every Monday morning, at 2 o'clock, and leave Summerside for Charlottetown every Saturday evening about five o'clock.

By order, F. W. HALES, Secretary, Charlottetown, May 25, 1882.

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