

## Peculiar Weddings.

BY ALBERT H. BROADWELL.



HE first wedding which we shall describe owes its peculiarity to the fact that the age of the bridegroom formed a record. Colonel Overton, of St. Joseph, who was just a hundred years of age, was married some time ago to a young lady of seventy-seven. As may be imagined, there was a crowd to see the ceremony, which was performed at the First Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Joseph, by Dr. C. H. Stocking.

spectacles. He uses them now occasionally, but not always, even when reading. He never chewed tobacco or smoked, never drank a drop of liquor or took a dose of medicine in his life! He is capable of doing a good day's work if necessary, but as he has always lived frugally and saved his money he is not obliged to do so now. Cupid loves a soldier, as everybody knows, and Colonel Overton is a veteran of three wars. Cupid has favoured him more than once. He first married at thirty-five, and his second wife died in St.



COLONEL OVERTON, MARRIED AT THE AGE OF A HUNDRED.  
*From a Photograph.*



MRS. OVERTON, MARRIED AT SEVENTY-SEVEN.  
*From a Photograph.*

Colonel Overton was born in the oil region of Pennsylvania. He has lived in many States and followed many professions. In his youth he was a portrait painter, at a time when such artists were scarce in this country and when photography had not been developed to its present perfection. He was twenty-six years a resident of Arkansas, and has lived only two years in St. Joseph. He is a man of slight build, fairly erect, and walks vigorously with the help of a cane. He has full white chin-whiskers and hair which, though perfectly white, shows no sign of baldness. Until a short time ago he had never worn

Joseph at the age of seventy-six. He is the father of ten children, seven of whom are living. His bride has also had a matrimonial experience. She was married in early youth, and her first husband died only a few years ago.

In contrast to this happy union at so unusual an age it may be interesting to refer here to the most gruesome marriage celebration that has ever taken place. This was performed at the home of Herr William Reidl, Magdeburg, Germany. It was the golden wedding anniversary of Herr Reidl, and at the same time was celebrated the

silver wedding of his only son Frederick. The elder Reidl was chief executioner of the domains of Kaiser Wilhelm, while his son

every kingdom and principality in the German Empire was represented. Altogether, there were present nearly three



*From a Photo. by]*

THE TRACTION-ENGINE WEDDING—THE PROCESSION.

*[Mr. A. Cornell, Tonbridge.*

Frederick also figured as a public executioner of long service. The eldest son of the latter is a soldier in the German Army, but his father declares that as soon as he is discharged he will secure him a place where his work will be of exactly the same nature as his own. Not only are both William Reidl and his

hundred men whose occupation was the execution of criminals. Mr. Reidl very naturally has an aversion to being photographed; he does not care to be recognised by the multitude in his official capacity, otherwise we should have reproduced his photograph here.

The village of East Peckham, Kent, was



*From a Photo. by]*

THE TRACTION-ENGINE WEDDING—A HALT FOR REFRESHMENTS.

*[Mr. A. Cornell, Tonbridge.*

son public executioners, but there was not a single man invited to participate in the event who was not also an executioner. Nearly

recently the scene of a very novel and interesting wedding procession, when there were substituted for the ordinary horsed

vehicles in use on such occasions a truck drawn by a traction engine and an escort of motor-cars. The wedding party proceeded from the bride's residence to the church in the truck, which, with the engine, was gaily decorated with flags, flowers, and evergreens. At the conclusion of the ceremony the newly-married couple and their friends drove in procession through roads lined with spectators to a neighbouring village, where

jumped out of the car. The balloon had risen then about 100ft., and, as the newly-wedded wife fell into the river, she was nearly drowned, but happily escaped with a severe fright. This plan is accordingly not to be recommended to candidates for matrimonial honours.

Another curious wedding is one connected with a "bicycle made for two," perhaps better known as a "sociable." The principal



From a]

THE BICYCLE WEDDING.

[Photograph.

an open-air wedding breakfast awaited them. Both bridegroom and bride are enthusiastic auto-carists. The photographs here reproduced were taken and kindly lent by Mr. A. Cornell, of Tonbridge.

It is a pity that no photograph was secured of an American wedding which took place not long ago, and which, though certainly not deserving of imitation, has all the interest of eccentricity. A couple agreed to be married in the car of a balloon, and after the knot was tied the balloon was allowed to ascend for a honeymoon trip. The bride, however, became alarmed, and

actors in this interesting function were two well-known members of the Italian community in London, Mr. Achille Gasperi and Miss Emily Pappacena, who were united in wedlock at the French Catholic church of Notre Dame, in Leicester Street. Directly after the ceremony a procession of considerable size was formed, consisting mainly of cyclists of both sexes. On their way to the Comedy Restaurant—to whose proprietor we are indebted for the loan of the accompanying photo.—the couple created a great stir along the route from the church to the restaurant.

We have next to record a very extraordinary ceremony—the wedding of two people in a lions' cage. We are glad that so successful a photograph was taken, because it proves, what might otherwise have been doubted, the absolute authenticity of this extraordinary feat.

On the evening of November 4th Miss Charlotte Wiberg, of Boston, and Mr. Arthur St. Andrassy, of Perth, Amboy, N.J., were married by the Rev. George Reader, of Ohio, in the lions' cage at the Zoo. The clergyman stood outside the cage and tied the nuptial knot, while the bride and groom were locked inside the cage with Cleopatra and Cæsar, the two biggest and ugliest lions of the Boston Zoological Society. The marriage was widely advertised by the enterprising Press agent in whose fertile brain the idea of the marriage in the lions' cage originated. Nearly 5,000 people paid twenty-five cents apiece to witness

the novel proceeding. Many more remained outside the building in the hope of getting a glimpse of the young couple who had bearded the lions in their den. At nine o'clock the big organ of the Zoo pealed forth a wedding march. A surprised choir of twenty boys sang a processional hymn, and the bride and groom moved towards the lions' cage. The immense audience that had gathered had angered the lions, and they looked anything but pleasant. Four attendants armed with sharp-pointed iron bars took their places at the four corners of the cage. The lion-keeper entered the cage followed by the bridal

couple. The keeper closed the steel bar door after them with a click and drove the lions back into their corners, while the bride and groom advanced to the centre of the cage facing the minister. The lions gave a frenzied roar and walked restlessly about, casting their evil eyes now upon the crowd on the outside and then upon the bridal pair. The keeper quieted the lions somewhat, and then the wedding ceremony began.

Without the least sign of fear, or even nervousness, the couple answered the usual questions of the clergyman in a clear and distinct voice. In five minutes the ceremony was ended, and then everybody was cautioned to remain perfectly still while a flash-light photograph, which we reproduce, was taken. Everything worked with clock-like regularity, but, notwithstanding this, both young people heaved a heavy sigh of relief when the door of the cage was opened and



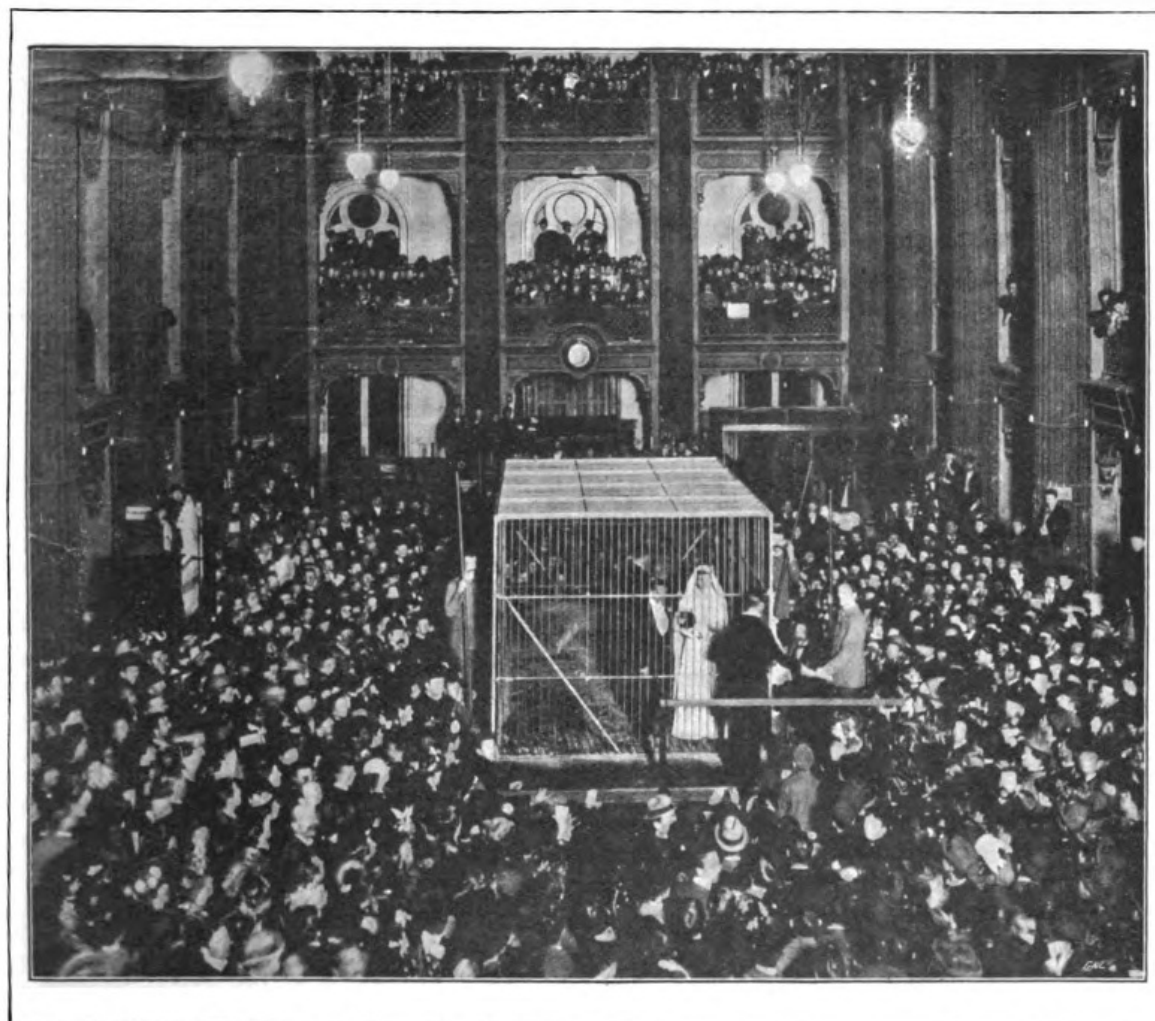
MR. AND MRS. ST. ANDRASSY, WHO WERE MARRIED IN A LIONS' CAGE.  
From a Photo. by Elmer Chickering, Boston.

they walked out on a platform for the purpose of receiving the congratulations of those who had gathered to see the unusual marriage. There were many wedding presents for the newly married pair, and the Boston Zoological Society presented them with a complete set of silver ware.

When Mr. and Mrs. St. Andrassy left for home that night they were evidently as happy a couple as ever left on a wedding tour. Both said that they scarcely gave the lions a thought while in the cage. There was so much excitement outside, they added, that their minds were directed to the crowd rather than to the lions. Mr. and Mrs. St.

Andrassy had been sweethearts for some time, and were glad of the opportunity given them to become man and wife, even though it had to be in a cage of

approve of such sensational marriage ceremonies, however, as the Rev. Mr. Reader, the officiating clergyman, who was a student at Boston University, was expelled a day or



*From a Photo. by]*

A FLASHLIGHT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEDDING IN A LIONS' CAGE. [Elmer Chickering, Boston.

lions. They answered an advertisement inserted by the Zoo management, calling for a couple that would be willing to be married in this sensational manner. They were selected out of a number of other applicants because of their good looks and coolness of character in comparison with the others who applied.

Boston theologians evidently do not

two afterwards by the Dean of the school for conduct unbecoming a minister of the Gospel.

We shall be pleased to hear of other instances of peculiar weddings that our readers may have witnessed or heard of, especially if accompanied by pictures, similar to those which have been dealt with in this article.