

IN SEARCH OF A CHEAP MARRIAGE.

Four strapping Italians yesterday walked into Police Headquarters in Jersey City. A woman with a bandana handkerchief around her head, and a little girl wearing a black and green striped shawl in place of a hat, accompanied them. The party said that the child desired to be married to the tallest of the men. Clerk Robinson, of the Police Board, is a Justice of the Peace, and he was called. He refused to perform the ceremony because of the extreme youth of the bride, but the woman who was with her was her mother, and she gave consent to the nuptials. The man gave his name as Nicolas Moon, and his age as 27 years. When the child bride stood by his side her shawl-covered head did not reach to his shoulder. She spoke English well, and said she was Mary De Nougat, and was 15 years of age. Justice Robinson performed the ceremony, and handed over the certificate of marriage.

"How much is it?" asked the child bride.

"Five dollars!" responded the Justice.

"Whew," exclaimed the girl, as she turned with a helpless glance to her mother. The old lady had meantime drawn a greasy pocketbook from her pocket. She slid a shining silver half-dollar into the hand of her daughter, who in turn held it under Justice Robinson's nose.

"That's no good," shouted the Justice. "That isn't \$5."

"Five dollars!" repeated the child. "Why, we we could have it done in a church for that!"

"Why didn't you go to a church?" asked the Justice.

"She," the girl went on, pointing to her mother, "only paid 35 cents for hers."

"You ought to have gone to the shop where she had her marriage celebrated, then," returned Robinson.

The elderly woman drew another half-dollar from her pocketbook and slipped it into her daughter's hand, and the daughter handed it over to the Justice.

"There!" he said, convinced that he could get no more, "take the certificate and go on, and don't bring any more of your Italian people to me to be married."

He tucked the two half-dollars snugly away in his fob, while the party shuffled out.