

Pictorial "The Persian Lover and His Bride" Like These?

Who but a Countryman of Omar Khayyam Would Ever Address a California Girl as "My Ever Beautiful Blue Sky" and "My Isle of the Golden Dreams"—and in Five Hundred Letters.



Miss Juanita Storch, of Oakland, California, Now The Bride of Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

Reasoning, thus in the outdoor beauty of her California home, Miss Juanita Storch, for more than seven years, compared the American youth and his love making to the poetic letters filled with soul admiration from her dark-eyed admirer of the far-off shores of Haifa, the sacred city of Palestine.

The Persian lover, Mirza Ahmad Sohrab, thus laid siege to her heart in a volley of notes and letters, describing his love for the blue-eyed young American girl he had met only for a few moments on two occasions in Oakland, Cal.

The romance began seven years ago when the Persian lover traveled to California with Abdul Baha, leader of the Bahai movement, who was making a lecture tour of the country at that time.

Mirza Sohrab was secretary of the Persian legation at Washington when he was called upon to act as interpreter for Abdul Baha in his lecture work here. Sohrab speaks English perfectly and, in addition to his education received at Beirut university, he has studied at American institutions of learning. In spite of an intimate familiarity with American manners he has never lost the poetic oriental habit of thinking in terms of classic sentiment when the heart has been stirred by the object of his love.

Sohrab's meeting with Miss Storch was fitting, like the ships that pass

in the night, only that these two ships that signaled to each other seven years ago at a Bahai meeting in Oakland, found a code of their own by which continuous with soul admiration, from her dark-eyed admirer of the far-off shores of Haifa, the sacred city of Palestine.

Letters to a "Beautiful Mermaid." Sohrab journeyed back to Palestine with Abdul Baha and only a short while later the world war broke, holding the young interpreter practically a prisoner so far as traveling was concerned, in the Pilgrims' home, the residence of the Baha in Haifa.

Sohrab wrote an only an oriental whose feelings are deeply moved can write. His letters traveled slowly half round the world, and gradually Miss Storch looked forward with interest to receiving them.

At first she laughed at this peculiar friendship. She was only 18 and filled with the love of the American out-door girl for athletics and all the amusements that healthy young women indulge in. She had admirers galore. One of them became peevish because she beat him in a swimming race. She won, and she told him so.

Then there was another who objected to her leadership in out-of-door sports. It was all right when she declined like a beautiful daffodil on the canoe cushions, while her partner paddled, but this did not suit the athletic young woman, for she found more pleasure in doing some of the paddling herself and she told him so.

And all this time the letters of Sohrab kept arriving, and when it came to her mind, when she was in those days, Miss Storch answered them. She wrote one to his 27. But at intervals until this country de-



The Persian Lover And His Bride Surrounded By The Picturesque Wedding Guests



Mirza Ahmad Sohrab.

had been returned to him from Constantinople.

The curtain was rung down temporarily on that romance. "Word was passed that the Turks would search the homes of all the people in Palestine. So on a dark night Sohrab gathered together his precious papers, among them the letters of Miss Storch, and buried them in an old trunk at the foot of Mount Carmel.

After some parley with the British officials, permission was obtained for Sohrab to travel to the United States. He wired her when he reached New York that he would travel west to see her. His letters had paved the way for a happy reunion.

"He is the only man I would marry; the only man who is happy with me, for his letters breathe love, not dictation and a superior sense of ownership," said the young woman, who calls them her rosary.

And any young woman would want to treasure love letters in which she was addressed as "My Isle of the Golden Dreams" or "My Ever Wondrous Blue Sky" and "My Divine Mystery of Love."

Even such expressive terms as "Dearest" and "Darling" and "Baby" and "Smoochums" sound prosaic and colorless when compared with "Beautiful Mermaid of the Ocean of Beauty." I walk by the shoreless sea of time (so reads one of the love letters received by Miss Sohrab last Christmas). One I walked with the messengers of heaven sang out: "She comes, she comes, comes!"

I gather courage and enter the labyrinthic caves of the Eternal and from all parts I hear the echoes reverberating through my mind—"she comes, she comes, comes." "Thus many a road I walked, many a path I trod, and many a bridge I did I mangle, and many a garden of thought did I weave, but every one of them I have trod and mangled and broken, and with the Lord of my heart I spoke, with the angels of heaven I conversed, with the saints of the East I walked, and they all gave me the glad tidings—"she comes, she comes, comes!"

In letter signed "Thy faithful pilgrim at the shrine of love" and dated a few weeks before the wedding day, Ahmad wrote thus to his "beautiful mermaid":

"A Song of Acceptance. The sea of my love for thee has been waving tumultuously at all times, casting on the shore of existence pearls and jewels of priceless value. They have appeared from the great deep and are to be wrought cunningly into a crown for the head of my queen. I went around searching for the queen but nowhere could I find her. Oh! She was of the pure spirit and I was looking for her in the dust."

"The house of my heart was such a small and humble abode that I could not believe she would leave her infinite mansion of heaven and become the intimate and associate of her lover. But at last I went to her door, seeking her grace of love. Standing under the celestial canopy of her pure heart, I lifted my eager, tearful eyes to her majestic, sweet face. There was a I suppliant for the gift of eternal love, the freedom of immensity, and she took pity on me. With a thousand conflicting hopes battling in my heart I looked up into her face to read her answer, to faith-

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THE LITERARY PERISCOPE

BY ETHEL R. SAWYER, Director of Training Class, Library Association of Portland.

WITH the death of William Dean Howells has passed out of our national literary life a most interesting and charming figure. For I don't remember in many years ago, Mr. Howells has occupied a place so conspicuously his own that he has been compared to the wholeheartedness of his yielding to his experiences. Fully to savor the charm of this many-sided novelist, essayist, critic, traveler and general lover of literature, one should read somewhat in his several fields. If you know him only as a writer of what in these out-spoken days may seem like pretty tame "realistic" novels, you should go with him into some of those richly human and truly romantic volumes of literary reminiscence and leisurely travel or read some of the criticism of this would-be stern realist who nevertheless can never be other than romantically alive to the defects in the work reviewed by him. Mr. Howells conveyed always an atmosphere of what Matthew Arnold called "sweetness and light" that can ill be spared today.

The most conspicuous and interesting figures in Italian literature today are two old school teachers of Rome—Alfredo Panzini, humorist, and Luigi Pirandello, satirist. Panzini writes stories, novels and plays, but is especially correct to the D'Annunzio school of writers—a sane, human, gentle, kindly man, and the peace that he holds in Italian letters seems to be a register of the protest against the decadent school. His position has been compared to that of Conrad in English letters. Pirandello is a dramatist, successor to the fame of Giovanni Verga. His field is subtle analysis of the shams and hypocrisies and "complexes" inherent in social and domestic problems. They are neither of them young men, being respectively 67 and 53 years of age.

One of Arnold Bennett's chief characteristics is said to be a remarkable

loyalty to his friends. Those who have read his play, "Sacred and Profane Love" (which, by the way, I understand we are to have an opportunity of seeing this coming season), will find a study in the art of a lady novelist of somewhat excessive self-satisfaction. The subject of this lampoon is believed to be Mrs. Humphry Ward, and its origin lies in her somewhat patronizing remarks in her "Review of the Year" concerning Mrs. Wells and Mr. Bennett. Bennett was praised as his friend's expense, and, unfortunately for Mrs. Ward, did not appreciate the honor.

They seem to have some advanced ideas over in England as to the value of literature in practical life. We read of S. P. H. Mals, a master of Tonbridge, being appointed professor of English literature to the royal air force and lecturer to the employees of W. H. Smith & Son on the subject of literature. The idea is evidently irrational, as Mr. Mals is spoken of as a man of unbounded and really rather confusingly perpetual enthusiasms who is forever exclaiming like the young man in Othello, "Why, this is a more excellent son than the other!" However, the idea is on the right track if the locomotive is a bit unbalanced.

Stacy Aumonier is one of the younger English novelists with a distinct gift as well for short-story writing. He is quite a versatile man. He began as an "entertainer" and still gives little character sketches in public. These sketches he usually writes himself. If you thought you had made up your mind in the great controversy, "Is Bacon Shakespeare?" hold your decision in abeyance until you have read J. T. Looney's "Shakespeare Identified." That ever-blooming perennial has developed a new bud and the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy is now further complicated by the addition of a third claimant for the honor of having produced the immortal plays—Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford.

Oliver Herford says in his "Giddy Globe": "This globe, you know, is not all it's cracked up to be. It ought to be abolished. Come on, little Pollyanna, smile for the gentleman and make him happy!" The Melrose £250 first-novel prize in London has just been won by Catherine Carwell with her "Open the Door." It is a book which would doubt-

less cause considerable discussion and criticism, being a story of a young girl's swing from repression to unconventional freedom. It is certainly a big and frightfully important subject, but it has been "done"—both over and under. Let us hope Miss Carwell has something to say as important as her subject.

Here is the deep-sea shelf—the ten most popular books of the sea. This selection is the result of a wide ballot throughout the country of readers who were invited to record their choice at the recent exhibit in New York of the National Marine League. In order of choice:

- 1. Stevenson, "Treasure Island."
- 2. Dana, "Two Years Before the Mast."
- 3. London, "Sea Wolf."
- 4. Kipling, "Captains Courageous."
- 5. Verne, "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea."
- 6. Bullen, "Cruise of the Cachelot."
- 7. Riessberg, "Under Sail."
- 8. Maynard, "Mr. Midshipman Easy."
- 9. Conrad, "Lord Jim."
- 10. Conrad, "Nigger of the Narcissus."

Now, really, this doesn't seem possible! From Boston, too! Whittman's publishers are telling the story that they recently received from a Boston schoolteacher the following letter addressed to "Mr. Walt Whitman, care of Double-day, Page & Co., Garden City, Long Island, N. Y.": "Will you favor me by sending me your autograph? I wish my sons and pupils to be interested in the man who do things, and so have secured the signatures of many famous men and women—Pershing, Carnegie, Bell, Bernardini, Balfour, Taft, etc., etc. Thanking you in advance for the courtesy, I am, very gratefully,

E. V. Lucas, who has just been traveling across country from San Francisco to New York, has been trying all the way to buy copies of the books of Mrs. Wharton. He seems to have found considerable difficulty, as a number of her titles were repeatedly "out of stock." The explanation offered was the shortage of paper. This excuse did not wholly pacify Mr. Lucas, however. "She is about the best there is," he said, "in England or America." Seems too bad, doesn't it, that when the shortage comes it is "the best" that have to stand aside while "demands" keep the lesser lights burning furiously.

One of the outstanding women writers of France today is an American! For some 20 years," writes George S. Hellman, recently returned from a year in France, "this American has maintained one of the few

real salons where French statement, authors, artists, scientists, actors, journalists meet to enjoy its hospitality. But she has not lost her sense of kinship with her native land. Her enthusiasm for the art education of the United States is a constant and her enthusiastic co-operation in all matters relating to the art education of the United States is a constant and her enthusiastic co-operation in all matters relating to the art education of the United States is a constant.

In 1910 Miss Natalie Barney published her first volume, "Actes et Extraits," a volume largely of dramatic verse, and "Eparpillements," a little volume of epigrams. Her newest book, "Poems at Poenice, an tres alliances," was recently brought out in New York also, and consists of poems in English and French.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Married Life," by May Edgington, an English novel; "The Captains of the League Under the Sea," by F. C. Whitner, an uproarious novel; "Poems at Poenice, an tres alliances," by Natalie Barney; "The Unrelenting Door," by Lee Thayer, an exhilarating, diverting novel of love and war; "The Democracy in Operation," by Felix Bonjour, former president of the Swiss national council, a book of important political and historical interest; "The Swiss," by the Swiss writer, A. Wilson, 208 pages, being messages and addresses delivered by the president between July 8, 1919, and December 9, 1919, including selections from his country-wide speaking tour; "The Democracy in Operation," by Felix Bonjour, former president of the Swiss national council, a book of important political and historical interest; "The Swiss," by the Swiss writer, A. Wilson, 208 pages, being messages and addresses delivered by the president between July 8, 1919, and December 9, 1919, including selections from his country-wide speaking tour.

"The Key," by Albert Edward White, an excellent written novel of Arizona life, with Mexicans and Americans as types (Doubleday, Page & Co., N. Y.).

Short Wire Brings Results.

Mechanically simple as an umbrella is, it must generally be taken all apart to repair a broken rib or stretcher, and the task is beyond most owners. A Brooklyn inventor has improved on the usual construction by inserting the end of each rib and stretcher between a pair of metal ears on the notch and runner members, using a short wire with bent ends for the pivot.

Manila to Send Russian War Brides to U. S.

Soldiers Unable to Support and House Them; No Living Quarters in Camps.

MANILA, June 19.—Three hundred or more Russian "war brides," who have come here from Siberia with their American soldier husbands, will be sent to the United States by the government as soon as transportation is available.

"These brides come from every station in life from the peasant girl to the college graduate and a number had been accustomed to the luxuries of life before war and revolution drove them from their homes. Their experiences in Manila, probably have been a disappointment to most of them, as their soldier husbands, on their meager pay of \$35 a month, have been unable to support families, house rent and food prices having almost doubled here within the last year.

To prevent these Russian girls from actual suffering, the Red Cross and other charitable organizations have provided them with shelter and food.

They are willing to work, but having no knowledge of English or Spanish, they are unable to find employment in the stores of Manila, and native men and boys are preferred for house servants. To the best disposition to make of the war brides and their soldier husbands, the army authorities decided that they, with few exceptions, should be sent to the United States and there distributed among the army camps and posts, where quarters are available for married enlisted men. These the department of the Philippines is not able to provide. Only those enlisted men with wives, who have an income in addition to their army pay will be permitted to remain in the Philippines.

Some of the Russian girls who were disappointed in not obtaining soldier husbands at Vladivostok, disguised as American soldiers stowed away on transports and came to Manila, so eager were they to escape from the turmoil and suffering which have prevailed in Siberia almost since the beginning of the war. These stowaways were turned over to the authorities here to be deported to the country whence they came. Several of them were married at the pier while awaiting to be put on board a transport for the voyage back to Vladivostok, which made them Amer-

Girls Grow Bigger; Future Race to Be Amazons.

Men of America Said to Be Shrinking; Physical Education Department of Northwestern University Announces That in Two Years the Average Height of the Co-eds Has Increased from 63.3 Inches to 64 Inches; Their Weight from 113.2 Pounds to 123.4 Pounds; Their Lung Capacity from 163.7 Cubic Inches to 169.5; and That Their Total Strength, Lifting, Pulling and Shoving, Has Increased from 439 Pounds to 623 Pounds.

EVANSTON, Ill., June 19.—Athletic regular hours, outdoor exercise, no tight lacing or tight shoes, good food and plenty of it, are elements combining to produce in the United States a race of Amazons, at least as far as size, strength and endurance are concerned.

Miss Gertrude Hawley, head of the girls' physical education department of Northwestern university, announces that in two years the average height of the co-eds has increased from 63.3 inches to 64 inches; their weight from 113.2 pounds to 123.4 pounds; their lung capacity from 163.7 cubic inches to 169.5; and that their total strength, lifting, pulling and shoving, has increased from 439 pounds to 623 pounds.

Their posture also has been improved by physical exercises, Miss Hawley declares.

Some of the authorities have recently declared that men are deteriorating and that women are rapidly assuming the lead in mental and physical lines.

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Dark Rings Under Eyes

Portland people will be astonished how quickly simple witch hazel, camphor, hydrastis, etc., as mixed in Lavoptik eye wash relieves bloodshot eyes and dark rings. One young man who had eye trouble and very unsightly dark rings was relieved by a few applications of Lavoptik. His sister also relieved a bad case of eye strain in three days. We guarantee a small bottle Lavoptik to help ANY CASE weak, strained or inflamed eyes. Even the FIRST WASH shows surprising results. Aluminum eye cap FREE. Skidmore Drug Co. and all leading druggists—Adv.

A Scientific Hair Color Restorer

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