

SUMMERTIME STUDY FROM REAL LIFE BY THE SUNSET SEA

HEBREW POET AND HIS WORK

RESIDING over an unpretentious little dining room in the heart of the New York Ghetto is to be found one of the greatest living masters of the resources of the Hebrew language, classical and rabbinical. He has besides shown a marvelous ingenuity in applying his knowledge to the purpose of pungently satirizing the follies and foibles of humanity in general and of his co-religionists in particular.

The fame of Rosenzweig, the poet, has made his little cafe the rendezvous of New York's most noted Hebrew thinkers. It is a privilege indeed to be the guest of the poet when his day's work is done. Tables are cleared, cigarettes are lighted, and one by one the master minds of Hebrew literature, Ghetto poets, artists, journalists, actors and lawyers drop in, and the atmosphere becomes charged with delighted bohemianism, epigrams and cigarette smoke.

In violent contrast to the commercial Jew is the little band of Hebrew writers, scholars—dreamers all—to whom an epigram or a gem from the Talmud is as a pearl without price.

Gerson Rosenzweig is a well known figure among the residents of the lower east side. His many acts of unselfishness for the good of the poor and needy are spoken of far and wide. There is hardly a man, woman or child in his district who does not know the kindly dreamer of the Ghetto. As one passes through the crowded streets by the side of the poet one marvels at the respect paid to the sad faced little scholar who has made the world of Hebrew literature richer by thousands of famous epigrams that are quoted wherever the language is spoken.

Like all poetic natures he is most modest and retiring, and it is very difficult to persuade him to talk of his achievements in the world of letters. Referring to his translation of America's national songs, he says: "What more appropriate than that the songs that have thrilled American hearts should be rendered in the tongue of the first people who spoke the word 'liberty'?" What more fitting than that the songs of liberty should be uttered in the language of the teacher who exclaimed, "And ye shall proclaim freedom throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," and "One law shall be to him that is home-born and unto the stranger that sojourneth among you?"

"To no one can the 'Star Spangled Banner' hold out more promise than to the pioneers of civilization, to those who have suffered for centuries because they held holy the right of freedom of worship.

"Michtamin," his book of one thousand and five original epigrams, is full of instances of this fondness for playing with and upon words, comparing and contrasting them, transposing their letters or finding their numerical value; in short, turning them upside down and inside out in every conceivable manner—not, indeed, as a mere idle pastime, but for the purpose of attaching Biblical authority and support to religious injunctions and ethical truths.

The effects of this tendency among Hebrew poets is such that their books are liberally dotted with punning allusions or parodied quotations. Perhaps no other language is so well adapted as Hebrew for the fabrication of the compact sentences of wit and wisdom which are known as epigrams. While, however, almost all Hebrew writers are given to spicing and peppering their works with a sprinkling of epigrams, it is seldom that an author sets himself with malice prepense to follow the example of the Roman martian and to write a book which shall consist of nothing but epigrams. This is what Gerson Rosenzweig has done, and it must be said that the result of his labors shows that he is singularly equipped for this kind of work. A few of the epigrams are here quoted with the endeavor to render them freely:

Heaven and earth  
Are millstones twain;  
All that has breath  
Lies 'twixt them—the grain.

Your jubilee you celebrate today?  
There's ample warrant for it;  
You've had releases seven, so they say—  
In the Insolvency Court.

His wealth, by doubtful process made,  
He hides, and will not let it see the light;  
Tis said that "money speaks," and he's afraid  
If let loose it might tell how he came by 't.

Lend money to your friends if you would test  
Which of them are the worst and which the best.  
The bad will disappear from out your ken,  
The good will soon return—to borrow again.

The "Tractate (Treatise) America, from the Yankee Talmud," is a witty parody written in Talmudic style and describes in a clever manner the new Russian-American conditions of our immigrants. The stowaway rabbi, who would make believe they are great classical scholars, are severely scourged, and further, the distorted manner of instruction of the Jewish Russian teachers who have not the faintest comprehension of pedagogy, men who peddle in the forenoon and play the schoolmaster in the afternoon.

Gerson Rosenzweig was born in Suwalk, Russia, forty-six years ago. He came to New York close on seventeen years back and worked on the Jewish press. He has owned and edited "The Hebrew," a weekly, printed in Yiddish; also "Kadimah," a monthly magazine, printed in the same language.



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THE STOUT GENTLEMAN HOPED HE HAD FOUND A SECLUDED SPOT FOR THE HONEYMOON.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES FOR MID-SUMMER

When "The Orchid" is read it is impossible to deny that the novelist can preach a startling sermon, even when he is indifferent to the ethical value of his life studies. Robert Grant has dared to write a tale dealing unflinchingly with the so-called smart set in the United States. It is a piece of undiluted realism and therefore not a pleasant story, even though the author spices his tale with a pungent wit. So abrupt are the lines with which he draws typical members of the Westfield Hunt club that the men and women ought to be passed by as caricatures, but reluctantly they must be recognized as true composite portraits of persons numerous in millionaire social circles.

The orchid is Lydia Arnold, who grows into womanhood under lax domestic training, for she reads French novels and acquires extravagant tastes. Of course she is beautiful and clever—otherwise she could not be the heroine of a society novel. How she keeps the club members in suspense while she considers the advantages of marrying Herbert Maxwell, who has four millions and a nouveau riche blot on his high sounding name, is told with much humor. All the characters are outlined against the porches or wall of the club house, and while some are, therefore, necessarily rather shadowy, all are cleverly drawn. This Herbert Maxwell has been wealthy so short a time that he is yet unspoiled and he is a sultor that should have won the fastidious Lydia's love and loyalty, but although the orchid does consent to marry the young millionaire she finds life a bore. After her child is born she turns to the club for amusement, and there she meets Harry Spencer, a bachelor who has devoted his life to flirtation, travel and extravagant living. Spencer has been too adroit to become entangled, but he and Lydia fall in love in the most reckless society way.

The millionaire husband is long suffering on account of the baby, but the denouement comes unexpectedly. Then Lydia and her lover face the dreadful fact that, even though she might obtain a divorce, they would have only a few paltry thousands upon which to live. Society readily forgives lapses in persons who have millions, but to the poor punishment is meted out. She knows her husband adores the baby and she decides to surrender the child on condition that she is given half the Maxwell millions. The sale of the baby is made and the lovers live happily ever afterward. Of course the Westfield Hunt club has some hesitancy about how to receive the triumphant Lydia, but after a long tour abroad the orchid challenges friendship by giving a ball of great magnificence. All the invited attend and thus the Spencers are securely replaced in their old social niche.

THE ORCHID. By Robert Grant;

illustrated by Alonzo Kimball. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. For sale by Stoll & Thayer.

FATHER WYMAN'S BOOK

"Certainty in Religion" is the title of a little book recently published. Its author being Rev. H. H. Wyman, C. S. P., of St. Mary's church, San Francisco. It is a popular manual and will be a valuable addition to missionary literature. Father Wyman is an experienced missionary and in days long gone by passed through a period of doubt. He sets forth in a clear presentation his strongest reasons for the belief he holds and zealously teaches.

To those in doubt the title promises to be a herald of good tidings. As far as possible Father Wyman avoids theological terms and discussions, the book being in a readable form for all classes, both Catholic and non-Catholic.

Father Wyman is well known on the Pacific coast, where he has labored as a priest of the Church of Rome in the Paulist order nine years. His book, which has just been published, has received the approbation and praise of high ecclesiastical authorities and will doubtless be widely used by priests and missionaries.

"CERTAINTY IN RELIGION." By Rev. H. Wyman, C. S. P. New York: The Columbus Press.

AMONG THE MAGAZINES

The World's Work for July is the annual number which is devoted to the growth of the United States in ways other than material. In "What a City Might Be" M. G. Guffin describes the movements that are rapidly improving American cities. Charles C. Johnson tells "What Our Public Schools Achieve." Herbert Putnam, the librarian of congress, describes the marvelous spread of free facilities for reading in "Libraries for Everybody."

The causes of the Chicago strike and its relation to the general question of capital and labor are analyzed by Stanley Powers in "Chicago's Strike Ordeal." Leroy Scott details some of the better conditions for workers. "Life Insurance: the Wrong Way and the Right Way," is a reprint of the gist of the report of the Equitable investigation committee. One of the most interesting articles in the July magazine is "Bank Holiday on Hampstead Heath," by Ralph D. Paine, that appears in the July number of the Outlook Magazine. Among other interesting articles in the issue are: "They're at the Post: Starting a Horse Race," by James H. Tuckerman; "The New London Boat Race and Its People," by Arthur Ruhl; "Red Fox," by Charles D. G. Roberts, and another of the "Slide Show Studies" of Francis Metcalfe, illustrated by Oliver Herford, this one entitled, "The Lioness's Skirt Dance and the Inconsiderate Python." The leading article of the Atlantic Monthly, a plea for "Publicity for Ex-

press Companies," by Prof. F. H. Dixon, is a searching study of the vast but little understood business of the express companies in this country. Other papers of timely interest are "Some Results of the Eastern War," by Chester Holcombe, the well-known author and diplomat, and a searching discussion of "Large Fortunes," their justification and use, by J. Laurence Laughlin of the University of Chicago.

The essays in the July number include "Book Dusting Time," by Martha Baker Dunn; "Wordsworthshire," by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and "In Retreat," by Agnes Repplier. Among the more specific literary papers appear "The Mob Spirit in Literature," by H. D. Sedgwick; "The Outlook in H'story," by William Roscoe Thayer; "Criticism and Mr. Saintsbury," by Ferris Greenstet, and "About Laurence Sterne," by Wilbur L. Cross.

An article that has interest because of the adventures of its author as well as because of the subject is "The Disintegration of Morocco: Its Immediate Causes and Probable Results," by Ion Perdicaris, the American who was kidnapped by Raisuli a few months ago. The other articles that appear in the July issue of the International Quarterly with this are: "Modern Art from a Japanese Point of View," by Okakura Kakuzo; "The House of Michel Angelo and the Grave of Vittoria Colonna," by Rodolfo Lanciani; "The Exhaustion of the World's Metals," by N. S. Shaler;

"History of the Great Lakes and Niagara Falls," by Warren Upham; "Terroism in Russia," by Vladimir Simkovitch; "A New Peril for the Trade Union," by John Graham Brooks; "Psychical Forces of Industry," by Richard T. Ely; "Theory of Happiness," by Wilhelm Ostwald; "The Mythologies of the Indians," by Franz Boaz, and an editorial review of the times and manners.

The North American Review for July contains "Physical Degeneration in Great Britain," by the Rt. Hon. Sir John E. Gorst, M. P.; "Present Supervision of Life Insurance Companies," by S. Herbert Wolfe; "The Religious Life of the Negro," by Booker T. Washington; "Publicity in Educational and Charitable Work," by W. H. Allen; "Autocracy and War," by Joseph Conrad; "The Industrial Situation in Ireland," by J. W. Root; "United States Copyright and International Relations," by G. Herbert Thring; "Reform in the Roman Catholic Church," by Rev. Charles A. Briggs; "Poland Today," by Robert Atter; "Franz Liszt and the Princess Carolyne," by Gustav Kobbe; "The Political Future of India," by Sir Henry Cotton; "Our Neglect of South American Markets," by G. A. Chamberlain, and "Marriage and Divorce from a Lay Point of View," by Elizabeth Carpenter. A very valuable number is Harper's Magazine for August. The colored

frontispiece is by Howard Pyle, who also illustrates the first story in the issue. There is a fine group of short stories, a good instalment of Booth Tarkington's novel, "The Conquest of Canaan," and among others, there are articles by Professor Elmon Newcomb on the question whether planets are inhabited or otherwise; by Henry W. Nevins, the English war correspondent, who is now in the interior of Africa investigating the slave trade for Harper's; by Thorton Oakley on Mississippi life as it is today; and by Mr. Howells on "American Origins" he has traced out over in London. There are eight full-page pictures in color from paintings by Elizabeth Shippen Green, depicting "The Mistress of the House" at her daily avocations. This series represents some of the most attractive work Miss Green has ever done. There is a wood engraving by that fine artist Henry Wolf, and numerous pictures in tint by Lucius Wolcott Hitchcock, N. C. Wyeth and W. D. Stevens. Other artists represented are S. Werner and William Hurd Lawrence, and besides their drawings there are a number of old prints and photographs.

This year Everybody's has had unprecedented success in making its August issue a "special fiction number." Its most conspicuous feature is Robert W. Chambers' admirable love story, "The Ghost of Chance," perhaps the best story of the season. In the second of his series of powerful New Zealand stories, "In the Farthest Sea," G. E. Lancaster well sustains his reputation as "the new Kipling." In their different excellent fashions Mary Stewart Cutting and Harvey J. O'Higgins contribute stories of profoundly moving sentiment—stories of real people of today; "The Heritage" and "The Honeymoon Flat," Joseph C. Lincoln, the popular writer of sea stories, has a characteristic tale, "The Simplicity of It;" "The Captain" is an excellent story by Maximilian Foster, and Kathryn Jarboe has an entertaining story, "Rigo's Circus." There is a strong timeliness in Hartley Davis' illustrated article, "In Vaudeville," and the final instalment of Miss Martha Bensley's "Experiences of a Nursery Governess" completes the issue. On September 1 the subscription price per year of the magazine will be raised to \$1.50.

The Forum for July-September opens with an article on "American Politics" by Henry Litchfield West, in which the question of municipal ownership, as well as other important topics of the day, are broadly discussed. "Foreign Affairs" and especially the diplomatic features of the war in the far east, are comprehensively treated by A. Maurice Low. In his article on "Finance" Alexander D. Noyes reviews the principal developments in that department during the past three months. A broad survey of the great architectural activity in the United States is afforded by

Prof. A. D. Hamlin's paper on "Architecture." Important features of recent educational activity are discussed by Ossian H. Lang in the paper entitled "The Educational Outlook" while "Applied Science," in all its latest developments, is ably treated by H. H. Supplee. An interesting paper by Herbert W. Horwill on "Recent Fiction," which concludes this series of "Reviews," is followed by three special articles entitled "Women in Turkey," by Mary Mills Patrick; "The British Invasion of Tibet," by Mohammad Barakatullah; and "The Rupture Between Norway and Sweden," by Julius Moritzen.

Business men who are readers of the Atlantic Monthly will be particularly interested in the opening article of the July number. It has to do with the relations of the express companies to the railroads and to the public. Its aim is to set forth the reasons for the widespread demand for greater publicity in the transactions of these companies. The article is written by Frank Haigh Dixon, an expert on transportation problems.

The current number of the International Quarterly contains many important articles but none is more interesting than Vladimir G. Simkovitch's "Terrorism in Russia." The leading feature of the month is Ion Perdicaris' analysis of the causes of "The Disintegration of Morocco." Other articles in this remarkable magazine are: "Modern Art from a Japanese Point of View" by Okakura-Kakuzo, "The House of Michael Angelo and the Grave of Vittoria Colonna" by Rodolfo Lanciani, "The Exhaustion of the World's Metals," by N. S. Shaler, "A New Peril for the Trade Union" by John Graham Brooks, "Psychical Forces of Industry" by Richard T. Ely, "Theory of Happiness" by Wilhelm Ostwald, "The Mythologies of the Indians" by Franz Boaz.

BOOK NOTES

A very valuable reference volume, "Harper's Book of Facts," is now being thoroughly revised and brought down to date, and will probably be reissued early in the fall. It was first compiled by a staff of scholars and statisticians under the editorship of Charlton T. Lewis, Ph. D., and published about ten years ago. For the past year or two it has been out of print and the numerous requests for the volume have rendered a new edition advisable. In its new form the "Book of Facts" will be a classified encyclopedia of every important event from 4004 B. C. to 1905 A. D.—a record of sixty centuries of progress and knowledge in one volume. Apparently there is a never-flagging interest in Mark Twain's works, for real humorists are few and the busy world is always eager for a laugh. Some time ago the Harpers issued a uniform subscription edition of six of

Mark Twain's books, calling the set "Mark Twain's Best Books." This was followed by six more volumes, "Mark Twain's Funniest Books." Both these sets proved so popular that they have recently issued eleven more uniformly bound volumes, making in all twenty-three volumes, the same number as in their Hillcrest edition of Mark Twain's complete works. A large new edition of the first series, the "Best Books," has just been ordered printed.

There will be a new Red-Kegger novel in the fall published by Messrs. Dodd, Mead & Co. The title of the new story is "The Man from Red Keg." This story is laid in the same country as Mr. Thwing's former novels and the characters belong to the same type of Americans, rough, homely people, with many sterling qualities.

One of the popular summer books is "The Verdict of the Gods," by Sarath Kumar Ghosh, an East Indian of high caste, who has written an entertaining story in most excellent English diction. This interesting person is contemplating a lecture tour in this country during the coming season.

Peter Kropotkin's valuable survey of "Russian Literature" bears, not obtrusively yet unmistakably, the mark of his socialistic cast of mind. So many of the great Russian writers have been persecuted and forbidden expression of the breadth of their ideas, that a socialist like Kropotkin, as capable of expressing fine thoughts as he has proved himself in "Mutual Aid," is the best man possible to have understandingly written the book. Kropotkin is now engaged in abetting from the outside the socialistic insurrection in Russia. In acknowledging the other day the second \$500 sent him by the Russian Jews of New York, he wrote: "Only a popular uprising all over the country, the appropriation of the land and all that can feed and shelter the people—that alone can save the beggared, the poverty-stricken people of Russia, raise it out of its needs and its poverty."

Mrs. Isabel Strong, author of "The Girl From Home," is spending the summer in California. With Mrs. Frank Norris she is occupying the Robert Louis Stevenson cottage on one of the hills bordering the Santa Clara valley.

Blue and White for Tables

A new idea in household furnishings is a tea table on which is spread a graceful design in blue. As a setting for blue and white china or for use in a room done in Dresden colors this is very effective and a pleasing variation from the regulation tea table, with its fancy cover embroidered in white or with plain white squares of damask. For summer time use, however, these blue and white covers will be found very satisfactory. They are made of lightweight material, something like Japanese crepe, are inexpensive and harmonize very well with the light, airy summer draperies. With a tea set of old blue china one of these covers is a pleasing accompaniment, but even without family heirlooms it makes an agreeable substitute for the everlasting white used during the rest of the year.