

# ROMANCE IN THE REVER OF WOMEN

## Sordid Nature of Much Married Johnson-Madson Revealed by Army of Victims

### Formal Charge of Bigamy Is Preferred Against Him at San Jose

I was impelled to look into his pockets, impelled by womanly curiosity, and found a letter from him addressed to Mrs. Ida Mitchell. I confronted him with it, and he cried like a big boob. I hate men that cry.—Mrs. Josephine Amelia Thretheway.

I never loved him. I only lured him on by making love to him and led him into a trap.—Mrs. Minnie Cather.

I married him because he said he led him into a trap.—Miss Minnie rietta Leopold.

I have forgotten him.—Mrs. Sylvia Pollard de Bonnet.

I don't care what they do with him.—Mrs. Maggie Bloom.

Though emphatic in his assertion that he had married no more than three wives the investigation yesterday by the police into the case of Chris Johnson, arrested for bigamy, brought to light a mass of testimony corroborating the story published exclusively in The Call Friday which showed him to be none other than John Madson, professional bridegroom, despoiler of homes, defrauder of women and with at least 25 wives and sweethearts mourning the loss of their hearts.

His local victims gathered together last night under the leadership of Miss Minnie Cather, residing at the Blair hotel, 1735 O'Farrell street, to discuss with action they should take in the matter, there being a general opinion that with a concerted movement sufficient pressure could be brought to bear upon him to refund some part of the money which in their faith and trust they imparted to his care.

What love the man once inspired in their breasts, when his hypnotic blue eyes fascinated them out of their cash, was turned to hopeless and impotent anger on the knowledge of the man's true character. Of all his numerous wives, of all his loves, none—except two—have spoken other than ill of him. One was Miss Minnie Cather of San Francisco, who referred to his gentlemanly qualities, and the other was Mrs. Mary Brown of Springfield, Mass., who died of a broken heart when she learned that she had been duped.

### PATHOS BLOTS OUT HUMOR

The humorous tinge to the bigamist's career was completely blotted out by the pathos surrounding the cases of his victims. According to their stories he was actuated by impulses of the basest kind. He robbed the widow with a shamelessness beyond belief, taking from one confiding woman the hard earnings of years which she intended spending on her dying daughter in an effort to make the last days of the latter comfortable. This was Mrs. Leopold.

The woman, an aged, cultured German, the victim of financial reverses, had succeeded in saving through the stormy years enough money with which to furnish and conduct a boarding house. She had on her hands a daughter of 19 years who needed the best medical care and attention to keep her alive. The one hope of the mother was to save enough money so that she could move to a warmer climate, where physicians had declared her child would have a chance to recover. She worked day in and day out toward this end, and finally, after years of toil and self-sacrifice, she managed to get together \$200. Her furniture was worth the same amount.

When she appeared in San Jose, Anderson, alias Johnson. In a single month he had won over the mother by professing a great love for the child and by his promises to take her to his parental home in Los Angeles, where she could be given the proper attention and care necessary for the safeguarding of her life. They were married February 13, 1909, and that night he took all her money and disappeared.

Now the child is in the hospital, slowly dying. The mother's heart is broken. Her struggles of a lifetime have been as naught.

### BUNKOED, BUT NOT MARRIED

There is a sameness about the stories of each of his victims. Mrs. Julia Haus of Santa Rosa, who thinks in Madson she has discovered a man who under the name of Sherwood, swindled her out of a considerable sum of money, wrote the following letter to Mrs. Leopold yesterday.

"He bunkoed me out of a large amount of money, but we were not married, as he wished to be. The description of Anderson answers quite well that of Sherwood. Please give me as much information as you can about him."

The letter was turned over to the police by Mrs. Leopold.

### MAKES CHARGE OF BIGAMY

Mrs. Josephine Amelia Thretheway of Stockton, one of the many wives of Madson, slipped quietly into Justice Brown's court in San Jose yesterday afternoon, where she was married to Madson, alias John C. Anderson, April 27, 1909, and preferred a charge of bigamy against him. In the complaint she asserts that at the time that she went through the marriage ceremony with Madson he was the lawful husband of Henrietta Leopold.

Sitting in the apartments in the house in San Jose last night where she and Madson spent their first night as man and wife, Mrs. Thretheway voiced her determination to prosecute the case to the finish.

"I didn't intend to be brought into this case at all," she stated, "but I don't want people to believe Madson's or Anderson's statement that I scolded him into marrying me. Of course, I don't love him. What attraction he was his money and his diamonds. I have a weakness for diamonds."

### TOLD OF VAST ESTATES

He told me that he owned vast estates in Poughkeepsie, and in Los Angeles and that I wouldn't have to work and the children would have every advantage that money could offer, including tours of Europe and

# IN NEED OF A SHAVE NOT SO FASCINATING

By MARY ASHE MILLER

FEMININITY is beginning to get on the nerves of the bigamist. Johnson or Madson, or whatever his name may be, for when he faced me in the city prison yesterday he lifted up his hands and swore and simply crossed his heart and hoped to die that he had never seen me before in his life. I was sure he hadn't, either, and I was a bit astonished at his vociferation of the fact until I realized that he has been claimed as a husband, actual or prospective, by any number of women since his arrival here, and he supposed that he was encountering another irate claimant of his name or names. I hastened to reassure him and when the possibility of immediate danger was past I must confess that his mind seemed more concerned over the state of his digestive apparatus than his matrimonial record.

He said that he was a very sick man, hardly able to stand, in fact, and then he launched into a description of the severe variety of stomach trouble from which he has suffered for years.

I INTERRUPTED him to ask his real name and he declared indignantly that it was Johnson, and he had never been named Madson at all.

This gave him an opportunity to get back to stomachic conditions, however, for the only Madson he had ever known told him to go to Kalamazoo, Mich., as that was the only

courses in education in the best eastern schools. He made much of the children.

"After we went back to our home in Stockton I was impelled by womanly curiosity, I suppose, to look into his pockets. There I discovered a letter to Mrs. Ida Mitchell of Ingleside, San Francisco, in which he referred to her as 'my little wife.' I confronted him and he cried like a big boob. I hate men that cry. I kicked him out bag and baggage and threw his wedding ring into his face."

Mrs. Thretheway conferred with the district attorney of Santa Clara county and turned over to him many letters, some of which had been written to her by Madson, and others which she had taken from his pockets after his arrest. She will remain in San Jose for the preliminary examination, which will take place there today.

### PROFESSIONAL FIANCEE

In St. Louis Madson was known as the "professional fiancee." There he married three women in the fall of 1908, took their money, and promptly deserted them, one after another. Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson of Iowa, Kan., one of the women swindled by him, said that she had known him as C. Johnson, by which name he posed in California, and which he defrauded her out of \$1,055. The story told by him was the same as that of Mrs. Leopold of San Francisco. He had great wealth, a mansion in Los Angeles, and then under pretense of caring for her money, got it into his possession and disappeared.

Such was the man's systematic habit of marrying that he even engaged the services of a lawyer in California, and the latter would prepare the way, on finding a likely victim he would speak in glowing terms of his friend's wealth and later introduce Madson. The rest was simple.

Mrs. L. Caroline Baughman of St. Louis declared yesterday that he had defrauded her out of \$1,000. Another, Mrs. Alice Richardson, said she had given him \$200, and a third he married and deserted after getting \$400 from her.

### MOST PATHETIC CASE

The most pathetic case of all was that of Mrs. Mary Brown of Springfield, Mass., who married him in 1905, lived with him three days and was then deserted by him after he had obtained her money. The unfortunate woman died a short time afterward of a broken heart.

Mrs. Maggie Bloom of Hannibal, Mo., sold her home and gave \$400 of the purchase price to Madson on the day of her wedding. He thereupon followed his usual custom of disappearing.

"I met him through correspondence," said Mrs. Bloom. "Now I don't care what becomes of him."

When interviewed in his cell yesterday Madson denied everything. He at first denied he was a bigamist, but later when proof of the fact was put before him he admitted he had married Mrs. Leopold. An hour later he admitted he also married Mrs. Sylvia de Bonnet, but maintained his denials of the other marriages. Asked how he hoped to have a letter in his possession addressed to John Madson, he said it had been given to him by an acquaintance as a letter of introduction.

This was his first false step, for the letter proved to be one from a medical company asking him to try its cures.

### PROBABLY ANOTHER VICTIM

Another letter in his possession was addressed to John C. Anderson, another name, under which he was married. This letter was from James W. Means of Lawrence, Kan., thanking him for the pleasant time he had given Mrs. Means and "Lucy" while the two were on a visit to Hot Springs, Ark. The "Lucy" mentioned in the letter is presumed to be another of his victims.

The man's personal possessions were a regular ragbag of dotting affections. There were photographs of women, girls and babies, marked newspaper clippings calling for "respectable, middle aged husbands," similar queries for wives, valentine hearts and such like paraphernalia for the capturing of unsuspecting females.

In his efforts to clear himself he became entangled in a veritable network of lies. He said he had never been in New Orleans and among the photographs was found one of a white haired and grandmotherly woman, poetically marked with a Cupid's dart and the

glib sadness of the professional deceiver.

Even in a brief interview I realized his plausibility, but that was explained to me with vivid memories of "David Harum" and Kipling's wonderful Indians when he told me that he had always been engaged in the business of buying and selling horses.

He does not look his age by 10 years and one can imagine him handsome under better groomed conditions.

YESTERDAY he was suffering from loss of sleep and from indigestion, and I fancy it is difficult to keep really tidy in the prison; anyway, he needed a shave.

With all of these handicaps, however, he was decidedly a "fine figure of a man."

He is tall, with handsome blue-gray eyes, but his accent makes it difficult to imagine him really fascinating.

He was born in Schleswig-Holstein, he told me, and to hear him pronounce it gave you a feeling of splinters in your mouth.

He is not excitable, but is decidedly emotional, as his eyes filled several times with tears at the contemplation of his woes, either digestive or matrimonial. It gave me the idea that perhaps, even if it all be true that he is accused of, he may give the Blue Mouse's explanation: "I can't help it; it's just my temperament."

### NORTH FORK DITCH CHANGES OWNERS

#### American Canyon Water Company Acquires Valuable Irrigation Rights

[Special Dispatch to The Call] SACRAMENTO, July 9.—A deal of great agricultural importance was recorded here today, when the California corporation filed its assignment of the option held by it on the north fork ditch to the American canyon water company, a holding which is estimated to be worth several hundred thousand dollars.

The same corporation transferred the Fair Oaks water distributing system to the American irrigation company and both of these projects will be utilized for the irrigation of thousands of acres of reclamation land in the Sacramento valley.

The north fork ditch is an old holding and carries water rights of 3,000 inches daily at all times of the year, even if it dries up the river.

Sea Island cotton is extensively grown in one section of middle Florida, about half of the aggregate output of the United States coming from the peninsular state; that is, Florida produces yearly about 20,000 to 23,000 bales of this valuable variety of cotton.

More than 30,000 workmen are killed in the course of a year in this country by accidents incidental to their occupations.

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# MINER BECOMES INSANE AS HIS FORTUNE TURNS

## Enos Walters, Lessee of Rich Nevada Claim, May Become a Public Charge

### Wife Accuses His Associate of Failure to Keep Promise of Assistance

With his hands just about to grasp the pot of gold that lies at the end of every prospector's rainbow, Enos Walters, a mining man, was stricken at National City, Nev., with a serious mental disorder, and today he will be examined regarding his sanity before the superior court of San Mateo county at Redwood City.

The unfortunate man's wife, Mrs. Enos Walters of 1851 Market street, this city, believes that Walters' affliction can be cured if he is given proper treatment at a private sanatorium, but she said yesterday that, while Samuel W. Gundaker of Nevada promised to stand by the man in his trouble, he had refused to do so, and nothing remained but for him to capitulate, when an attack of insanity seized upon the hapless man when it did he would have been accounted one of the most fortunate of all miners now operating in Nevada, for the claim which he and Creswell are said to have held under lease from Gundaker adjoins a claim which was paying \$70 to the pound. Fortune, which Walters had pursued over the icy beach at Nome and in the rugged British Columbia country, seemed about to capitulate, when an attack of asphasia seized the man, paralyzed his body and wrecked his mind.

Walters is now at Dr. Gardner's sanatorium at Belmont, but his wife can not afford to keep him there. Had not the attack seized upon the hapless man when it did he would have been accounted one of the most fortunate of all miners now operating in Nevada, for the claim which he and Creswell are said to have held under lease from Gundaker adjoins a claim which was paying \$70 to the pound. Fortune, which Walters had pursued over the icy beach at Nome and in the rugged British Columbia country, seemed about to capitulate, when an attack of asphasia seized the man, paralyzed his body and wrecked his mind.

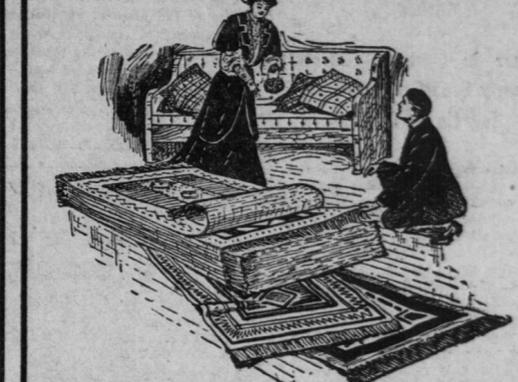
"Recently," said Mrs. Walters yesterday, "Samuel W. Gundaker, whom my husband had known in Alaska, British Columbia and Washington, said that if Mr. Walters would go to Nevada he would put him on valuable property. Mr. Walters interested Harry T. Creswell, the attorney in the Harbor building, in the project and Creswell advanced money for opening up the project. Creswell went up there May 18 and was well pleased with the prospects. About May 28, after Creswell had left, Mr. Walters was stricken.

"Then," Mrs. Walters continued, "Gundaker said to me, 'If it takes a year I'll put up for his treatment. He may have to stay in a hospital. I'll put the case up to Creswell. He is a prince, and he will help without me having to ask him; but if he doesn't I will.' Walters was brought to the city and taken to McNutt's hospital, and stayed there two days, Gundaker meeting that expense; but then the aid stopped, according to the woman, and although her husband was taken to Dr. Gardner's sanatorium there has been no one to pay for the treatment.

Mrs. Walters says that she believed the lease her husband secured is in Creswell's name, but that Creswell has offered to deed her husband's interest to her or hold it for her, but refused to permit her to put a man in her husband's place to carry out his work. Creswell was in Nevada yesterday and could not be seen.

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### Seven Dollar Gas Plates \$3.25

Extra large, 33 inches wide, 13 1/2 inches in depth. Three burners of the latest and best type. There is a reason for this low price. Some are tarnished and others slightly rusted. An application of emery paper will remedy that, still we can not afford to sell them as perfect.

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### \$4 Summer Trousers \$2.45

An opportunity to secure a pair of additional trousers at a price never before possible. In addition to this offer we place on sale all our \$12 silk striped flannel trousers at \$7.00.

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