Of Interest to Women.

WITHOUT ANTECEDENTS.

BY OTHO B. SENGA.

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They sat on the ground, like children at a picnic, watching the clouds rolling and changing above them.

"It's like a picture gallery," said Miss Fairlie softly.

"So it is," assented the young rancher heartily. "Let's choose pictures, like the children do. See, there's a beautiful maiden robed in white—she's mine."

"Very well. You saw her first. Look, there's a house—that's mine."

"It's all full of nooks and corners," she smilingly, "and there are broad piazzas with vines growing all over them."

"Of course," with prompt assent. "That's the ideal house for a ranch. Look there, Miss Fairlie! See what is coming up to your piazza," as a small cloud rolled up tumultuously.

"That's a horse and rider, Mr. Robert!" excitedly.

"Sure, it is you, just starting out for a ride over your ranch! See the dust on your hat?"

She laughed with almost childish enjoyment of the child's play at "make believe."

"There's another rider now. Let's see who that is."

They gazed earnestly at the passing cloud.

"I thought so," cried the man triumphantly, "it's me," with a dashing disregard of grammar, "it's me—on horseback. We're going together over our ranch."

The woman's hand reached out instinctively as if to brush the clouds away, and the hand was promptly caught and held in a larger, stronger one.

"Let's make it true," he whispered earnestly; "don't go back East again. Stay here and make it true."

She shook her head half sadly.

"You don't like it here. You couldn't make the sacrifice—"

"It—isn't that. I do like it. I like everything about it. I never felt so near the sky before—never before so realized the warmth and comfort of the earth. To me the breadth of vision is fascinating. But my work lies elsewhere."

"What work?" gravely.

"Why, my work—my business—my life work—"

"I suppose you mean your writing—your editorial work.—"

"Certainly. I have no other."

"That is what you are doing for a pastime, because you are brainy enough to be successful at it. But is it really your life work—the work to satisfy a woman's heart and bring rest and peace into her life? Look, dearest, that pretty knoll off there is just the place to build the rambling stone house, with nooks and corners and gables and piazzas. The land is mine as far as you can see on each side. We may have a dozen houses if you like."

"I should know you are Irish," with defensive evasion. "Such impetuosity!"

"My mother was Scotch," smiling winningly, "and you know pertinacity is a predominating characteristic of the Scottish people. Combine that with my Irish impetuosity—"

"It's a formidable combination—" with a movement to arise.

"We're not going yet," putting out a detaining hand, "we're going to watch the sunset and talk about our house and plan about our wedding. I don't need to tell you that I love you, dear."

"But—but, you've known me only a month—"

"That's long enough to know that I love you."

"And I know nothing of your—your antecedents—" hesitatingly.

"I haven't any," shortly.

"In New England," slowly, "one's antecedents count for a good deal."

The man laughed bitterly and then his face grew grave.

"Please sit down again, Miss Fairlie. I foresee a conflict between your Eastern pride and prejudice and my Western independence and intolerance, and I am not equal to it standing."

She yielded, not unwillingly.

"A man without antecedents—" she began.

"In this section of God's country," he interrupted firmly, "a man stands for just what he is. No one cares who his relatives are if he is 'square and white,' and does the right thing here. Never mind my 'antecedents,' Agnes. Don't you love me?"

He put out his hand and softly touched a fold of her riding habit. She trembled at the suggestion of a caress in the tender touch.

"I wish you'd go away," she pleaded. "Won't you go away while I think it all out?"

The odd, boyish abruptness that had so often amused her came back again.

"Go away? Not much! I'll stay right here. I may be of great assistance to you in making up your mind."

She sat in troubled silence.

Presently he began speaking again, low and tenderly. "You have not said that you love me, Agnes, but I believe that you do—"

"I—I am afraid that I do—" with something very like a sob in her voice. "I have often wondered how it would seem to—to care so much for someone as to wish to be with him always—now I know—"

He controlled the wild impulses of his impetuous heart, and only said gently, "I believe I can make you happy—"

"There are some things," she interrupted, speaking slowly and with a painful effort, "that it is only right you should know. I—I think I am older than you—"

"Yes," he assented calmly, "I knew that."

"You—" after a pause, "you are not more than thirty-five?" questioningly.

"I'm awfully sorry, dear, but you've got to cut of ten years. I'll be twenty-five next Thursday—"

She gasped, recoiling as from a dash of cold water, and covered her face with slender, trembling hands.

"It's a shame, isn't it, sweetheart?" coaxingly, but don't you mind. We don't need to hang our family record on the outside of the house, and my gray hair is so deceiving no one will suspect. Let's talk about the wedding—if it could be this week—"

"This week!" in startled consternation. "Who ever heard of such a thing?"

"When a man has lived a whole quarter of a century, don't you think he ought to have a birthday gift—the one he wants? I want you, Agnes. We can be married then—there is no need of waiting, and we'll just run over to 'Frisco, and take a trip somewhere—across the ocean—perhaps," watching the averted face closely, perhaps to Sidney to see Jack."

With a sharp cry of pain she turned a white frightened face to his.

"Jack! What do you know of Jack?"

"Only good, dear one," soothingly, "your brother is well and doing fine in his profession—"

"Do you know—all about Jack?"

"Everything."

She was crying softly.

He put his arms about her and drew her to him with tender, comforting words.

"Look at me, sweetheart. Don't you know who I am? Think of that last day you saw Jack—"

She gazed long and earnestly into his face.

"Not Robert Boyle?" she cried at last.

"Robert MacNeal Boyle," he answered slowly, with a certain pride of ancestry in his voice. "My father never forgave me, and so when I came West I reversed my name and am known here as MacNeal Roberts. Good old Converse and Eleanor are the only ones who know the truth. I think I loved you from that day when you came to see Jack—you were so brave and true. When Dick Converse brought his Boston bride home, and I learned she was your friend, I asked her to prevail upon you to visit her. I meant to win you if I could."

She touched his face softly with her finger-tips.

"And you—you served—"

"I served a year in prison," firmly, "hence the white locks, sweetheart."

"A year that belonged to Jack," she sobbed.

"There was no other way," he argued earnestly. "Jack wouldn't have lived a month, shut up there in prison. It was only a bit of boyish bravado, anyway, but the authorities were determined to make an example of some college fellow. Jack's sudden sickness gave me the chance to clear him, and to help those stupid detectives prove it against me—they knew it was one of us. I've never regretted it, but that is why I have no 'antecedents,' Agnes."

She put her arms about his neck and held her face against his. "You don't need antecedents, dear; I love you for what you are yourself."

Judge and Mrs. Charles C. Goodwin entertained at a small and informal dinner last evening, their guests being Mr. and Mrs. Windsor V. Rice, Dr. A. E. Rykert of Paris and Dr. D. Moore Lindsay.

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Several members of the Country club and their friends enjoyed the table d'hote luncheon yesterday, later playing bridge whist or tennis.

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Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Downing have returned from a pleasant ten days' trip through the Yellowstone.

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The meeting of the tennis committee, which was to have been held yesterday morning, was postponed until this morning.

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Maj. and Mrs. Richard W. Young are receiving the congratulations of their friends over the arrival of a baby boy at their home.

* * *

Mrs. William Lester has returned to the city after a nine months' visit with her daughter, Mrs. A. U. Smith of New York, and relatives in Philadelphia.

* * *

Miss Josephine Bottsford was hostess at a charmingly informal musicale last evening at her home, Miss Agatha Berkhoel delighting the guests with several vocal numbers. Miss Bottsford's guests were Miss Berkhoel, Miss Makepeace Morris, Miss Reta Morris, Miss Louise Jackson, Miss Beatrice O'Connor, Miss Ruth Fisher, Jack Berkhoel, Clarence Jones, Frank Fisher, Fred Davidson, Harry Fulton and Paul Beemer.

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Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Knoff of Cheyenne, Wyo., are guests of Maj. and Mrs. F. Myton for a few days.

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Mrs. P. H. Sorenson entertained at luncheon on Tuesday in honor of her sister, Mrs. Alma Ellis of Butte. The pretty table decorations were carried out in pink and white.

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Mr. and Mrs. John P. Meakin gave an informal musicale at their home last evening, enjoyed by the following old-time friends: Mr. and Mrs. Milando Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. William Spence, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Sanborn, Dr. and Mrs. Fred W. Meakin, Mrs. A. A. Dewey, Miss Lulu Spence, J. L. Meakin, Francis Hardy Meakin.

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Rev. George C. Hunting, superintendent of St. Mark's hospital, is in Wyoming on a fishing trip.

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The friends of Mr. and Mrs. John Sharp will be interested in learning of the arrival of a baby boy at their home. Mrs. Sharp was formerly Miss Luella Ferrin, and with her husband and baby, will reside here shortly for the summer.

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J. W. Sherman is ill at St. Mark's hospital, suffering from an attack of typhoid fever.

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Mrs. Sara Bransford gave an enjoyable card party last evening, her guests including Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Officer, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. Jay T. Morris, Miss Maycumber and Mr. Leonard.

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Mrs. Frank C. Kelsey and her guest, Miss Lillian Pardee, will receive their friends informally this afternoon from 3 to 6 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Kelsey, 1078 East First South street.

* * *

Miss Zora Shaw entertains at cards this afternoon in honor of Miss Makepeace Morris of Iowa, who is spending the summer here.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Folsom leave today for New York. They will be joined later by Miss Edith Shearman and Miss Blanche Kimball for a tour of Europe.

* * *

Mrs. George W. Powell, the well known musician and author of Scranton, Pa., is visiting with Mrs. Thomas P. Evans of this city.

* * *

Miss Edith Hawkes expects to leave the latter part of this week for a few weeks' visit with relatives in Idaho.

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Every day for the past week or more numbers of friends of George K. Barratt, the talented young artist who has just returned from a year's study in New York, have enjoyed the exhibit of his pictures at the Atlas block. The walls of a large room are covered with crayon sketches done by Mr. Barratt last year, all of them very creditable and a number showing ability of a high order. The exhibit has been greatly admired by Mr Barratt's friends, and the young artist has been the recipient of the heartiest congratulations at the success he achieved in New York. Among the sketches especially worthy of mention are "The Box Party," showing a group of four at the opera; "The Tennis Player," a vigorous youth, every curve of the fine figure denoting strength and action; the "Matinee Hero," just the kind of a man who would be adored by the matinee girl; "Enjoying the Pictures," an especially fine sketch of a man and woman bending over a portfolio of pictures, the soft gray tone of the sketch being very pleasing to the eye. "In an Antique Shop," "The Old Apple Woman," "The Gypsy Fortune Teller," "The Widow," "The Woman in White," "The Sailor" are among the number that would attract attention anywhere. The exhibition will be open the remainder of the week, room 310 Atlas block, from 10 to 12 and 2 to 5 o'clock, and all who are interested are invited.

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Mrs. Henry Rippe did a gracious thing yesterday afternoon, and one which endeared her to the hearts of the children at the Orphans' Home and the Day Nursery on State street. In the middle of the sultry afternoon, when the children were trying in vain to keep cool, Mrs. Rippe appeared with a quantity of delicious ice cream and a dozen or more delicious cakes. The children were invited to "help themselves," and, needless to say, they were not slow in accepting the invitation.

* * *

Mrs. Ernest Drake and son Dorman have returned from two months' visit to St. Louis and southern California, and are with Mrs. Moore, 254 Third East street.

Will Build Residence.

Ex-Mayor John Clark is having plans drawn by Architects J. A. Headlund & Co. for a second new residence, to be built for renting purposes on the lot adjoining the one on which he is now building a handsome home, on First street, between C and D streets. The newer house will be similar to the home residence. It will be a handsome nine-room structure, constructed of pressed brick, with all modern improvements, and costing about $4500.

Runaway Boys Held.

Sam Drusdale, Fred Adams and Matt Evans, aged 14 years, were arested by the police and held for Ogden. They ran away from home and came down to this city. Fred Adams was up once before on a similar case.

BUILDING AND REALTY.

Many New Residences in Course of Construction.

Builder J. Donnan Reavis expects to have completed by the end of next week the Empire block at South Temple and Second West streets. The new block contains six desirable storerooms on the ground floor, with apartments above, making a creditable addition to West South Temple.

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The new residence of ex-Alderman J. J. Thomas, built at Eleventh East street and Emerson avenue by the Reavis system, is just about completed. It will be occupied by Mr. Thomas and family in a few days.

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H. N. Paulson of Mill Creek, who has been elected to a position in the city schools, is having built by the Reavis system a new residence at Dean and Dunford avenues, which he will occupy upon removing to town.

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Leo Ertmann of Bingham has purchased from the Reavis system six building lots at Brigham and Eleventh East streets, the consideration having been $900.

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John Illingsworth of the Standard laundry is having a handsome four-room cottage built at 1409 South Third East street. The work is being done by Reavis.

Bids for New School.

Bids for the construction of the Forty-third district new school building in Lower Bingham, according to plans furnished by J. A. Headlund & Co. of this city, were opened Saturday. The lowest bid, which covers everything but the heating plant, was presented by Pope & Myson, the amount being $16,481, and it is expected that contracts will be signed up in a few days.

Bondsmen Pay Judgment.

Bondsmen of Charles Meigh, former postmaster of Ogden, yesterday paid to the clerk of the Federal District court the amount of the judgment recently entered against them on account of Meighs's defalcation. The amount, with costs and interest, was $3,959.45.

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In Our Cloak Department.

This Afternoon, 2 to 5 P. M.

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