

Thenceforward the story does not lie exactly among the probables, for it is difficult to imagine an American prisoner of Italian bandits turning bandit himself, being elected chief, leading his band upon the predatory errand which results in the capture of his innamorata, and then by turning state's evidence securing amnesty for all his comrades save one. But brigands themselves are hardly any longer among the probables, only the possibles, even of European life, and then in out-of-the-way districts; and a vivacious and humorous novelist such as Mrs. Pullen in this story shows herself to be justified in taking, if not the poet's then the novelist's license, and gilding fact with fancy.

At any rate she has made an original, lively, amusing, innocent story, free from equivocal situations, malodorous relations, and undesirable suggestions; of that order of comedy which touches the borders of the comic opera. The Italian landscape is before the reader with the realism of a picture; Italian character is painted from life; and a certain type of American character, if a trifle caricatured, is depicted with ironical truth. The reader who takes *Mr. Whitman* away with him this summer, to the seashore or the mountains, will have laid in sure means of entertainment for more than an hour, and though, as we say, the probabilities are sacrificed to stage effect, the play is laughable and harmless, and will leave one in a good humor, with no bad taste in the mouth.

#### MR. WHITMAN.\*

MISS STONE'S adventures among the brigands of Bulgaria must have so far whetted the American appetite that this story of brigands in Italy is likely to be seized with avidity and devoured with relish. The brigands in question belong to Calabria, in the days before improved government had put them down. Their victim is a New York merchant, from "The Swamp," who, equipped with an unexpected legacy of \$5,000, and a new silk hat with a reverent weed attached, has gone to Palermo in search of "Sicily sumach at \$72 a ton."

One of this Mr. Whitman's first points of foreign contact is with his old New York Italian chum and friend, Mario Demartino. In renewing acquaintance with him he falls in with and falls in love with his young half-sister, Lucia, a real Santa Lucia; and it is while the American, having accomplished his business in Palermo, is on a lover's way by diligence, with a fat Padre for chief companion, to the estate of his friends at Catanzaro, that he is waylaid, and carried off into captivity at the little hamlet among the Calabrian hills. Ransom of course, is the end in view.

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\*Mr. Whitman. By Elisabeth Pullen (Mrs. Stanley T. Pullen). Lothrop Publishing Co. \$1.50