

# FIRST APPEARANCE IN NEW YORK CITY

By ONOTO WATANNA  
(Mrs. Winnifred Reeve).

Author of "A Japanese Nightingale."

"I was eighteen years old. I had received a letter from Mr. Ellery Sedgwick, then editor of Frank Leslie's (now editor of the Atlantic Monthly). Instead of the usual rejection slip, he wrote expressing an interest in me, and suggested that I should let him see 'anything else you have written.'"

Upon my arrival in New York, I did not wait to secure lodgings. I went straight from the train, bag in hand, to Mr. Sedgwick's office. Having explained to him who I was—he appeared to have forgotten that letter he had written me—I said: "And you wrote me to let you see anything else I had written, and so . . ."

I opened my bag. He leaped to his feet, threw up his hands, and shouted:

"Help! Help!"

In rushed half a dozen editors and clerks, and the wild-looking Mr. Sedgwick pointed dramatically to that bag of mine, which was brim full to the top with manuscripts. With a vague idea that I was about to be arrested, I burst into tears. I bawled as hard and heartily as only a husky youngster can, with the result that that outrageous mirth was checked, and Mr. Sedgwick alternately wringing his hands and running them through his hair implored me to stop weeping. He said:

"Don't cry! Don't cry! Don't cry like that! Stop it! I'll buy a story from you if you will. I'll buy all your stories if you do. There, there, no one's going to hurt you. Shut up, do!"

In later years, when Mr. Sedgwick and I would meet at intervals, he liked to recall the several amusing episodes he recalled in my past, and he told our friends that I had black-mailed him with tears into buying my first story.

ONOTO WATANNA.

Montreal can claim to be the birth-place of no more interesting author than Winnifred Reeve, nee Winnifred Eaton, who, under the pen-name of Onoto Watanna, has written sixteen novels, dealing chiefly with Japanese life, one of which, "A Japanese Nightingale," has had an immense

circulation and was dramatized by Cosmo Gordon Lennox for Marie Tempest, while Klaw and Erlanger produced it in New York with an all-star cast, headed by Margaret Illington. The play was also published and produced in France and Germany. Mrs. Reeve won the \$10,000 prize offered by the Chicago Tribune for a serial motion play, and has had several of her books transferred to the screen. Montreal is introduced in two of her novels, "Me," which was run anonymously as a serial in the Century Magazine, and "Marion Sister of Me," which was run anonymously in Hearst's Magazine.

During the last five years Mrs. Reeve has been ranching in Alberta, half way between Calgary and Banff, where she is secretary and one of the three owners of Pleasant Range Stock Farm. She has just completed a new novel, "Sunny-San," which will be published shortly by the George W. Doran Company, of New York, and is being dramatized for play production by Willard Mack, author of "Tiger Rose," "Kick In," etc.

Mrs. Reeve's sister, Ruth Eaton, wrote a book of short stories interpreting the life of the Chinese in America, entitled "Miss Spring Fragrance," which is a classic in this particular field, and was so much appreciated by the Chinese on this continent that they erected a monument in her memory when she died. It was published by A. C. MacLurg, of Chicago, and is now extremely rare.

List of novels published: "An Old Jinrikisha," serial in Conkey's Magazine; "Miss Nume of Japan," Rand McNally; "A Japanese Nightingale," Harper & Bros. and serial in Woman's Home Companion; "Wooling of Wistaria," Harper & Bros.; "Heart of Hyacinth," Harper & Bros. and serial, Harper's Weekly; "Love of Azalea," Dodd, Meade & Co. and serial in Bookman; "Daughters of Nijo," Macmillan Company; "Tama," Harpers; "Japanese Blossom," Harpers; "Honorable Miss Moonlight," Harpers; "Diara of Della," Saturday Evening Post and Doubleday Page; "Me," Anonymous—serial in Century Magazine and book; "Marion," Anonymous—serial in Hearst's Magazine and book; "Miss Spring Morning," serial in Red Book; "Lend Me Your Title," serial in MacLean's; "Other People's Troubles," serial in Farm and Ranch.

senators were unanimous in their demand that "les droits d'auteur" should be respected. The voting in the Senate on the licensing clause was close—twenty-six voted in favor and twenty against.

In their campaign against the Copyright Bill, the Canadian authors received the support of the Publishers' Section of the Toronto Board of Trade (which comprise the leading Canadian publishers of books in the English language), the Authors' League of New York, the two leading American publishers' associations, viz., the Publishers' Copyright League and the National Association of Book Publishers, the British Society of Authors and Composers, and the British publishers, headed by Humphrey Milford, of the Oxford University Press.

The opposition of the Canadian Authors' Association was so intense that the Hon. Mr. Doherty gave a pledge to the effect that even though the bill should pass, it would not be proclaimed as an act and put into force unless the Government was satisfied that the clauses to which the authors objected were not unacceptable to the Berne Union, and would not prevent Canada from remaining a member of that union.

While, therefore, the Canadian authors had apparently been defeated by the passing of the bill, they still had hopes, and as events have proved their hopes were well founded. In the issue of July 15th, the *Droit d'Auteur*, the official organ of the International Copyright Bureau at Berne, published a lengthy analysis of the new Canadian Copyright Act (an extract from which was printed in the Montreal Gazette of September 3rd), in which it was declared that the accession of Canada to the Revised Berne Convention could not be announced unless clauses 13, 14, 15 and 27 were eliminated, and that the proclamation of the law would compromise Canada's position in the union. "This," said the *Droit d'Auteur*, "would be a retrogression of some decades." The Canadian Minister of Justice was thereupon reminded of his pledge not to promulgate the law without withdrawing the contentious clauses.

Thus the attitude taken by the Canadian Authors' Association towards the new Canadian Copyright Bill was completely justified, and the attention of the Government was drawn to this development in the situation. The Government has not proclaimed the act, and is not likely to do so. An amended bill will have to be prepared which will properly protect the Canadian author, and at the same time enable Canada to have the benefit of the admirable international copyright privileges secured to those who adhere to the principles and practise of the Berne Union.