

SCOTT'S HEROINE.

FACTS ABOUT THE ORIGINAL OF THE NOVELIST'S REBECCA.

As Was a Resident of Philadelphia and Was the Dearest Friend of Washington Irving's Only Love—How Her Father Won Her of Him.

Of all the women Mr. Walter Scott has drawn Rebecca and Rowena are the best known and best loved. The tender sweetness of the one, the romantic story through which they move and the perfection of the contrast between them, all contribute to fix them firmly in the hearts of all readers. It has been said that Rebecca is the greatest novel's first character. If this is so (as it is of the most interest to us, for her prototype was a Philadelphia girl. The origin of Rebecca Gratz, born in this city in the last century and still living after the great novelists were succeeded by the simple inscription on the tomb—*Rebecca Gratz. Born March 4, 1781. Died Aug. 27, 1850.*)

Miss Gratz was a conspicuous member of an illustrious Jewish family. Her parents, in early years, lived, even to the day of her death—a singular beauty of face and form. Her eyes were of exquisite shape, large, black and lustrous; her figure was graceful and her carriage was marked by quiet dignity. Besides these attractive and elegant and winning manners, gentle, benevolent and accomplished, Rebecca soon became the center of a brilliant circle of men and women—Christians and Jews. Her parents died when she was very young, but the Gratz mansion, presided over by Rebecca, continued to be known far and wide for its hospitality. One of the most intimate friends of her brother was Washington Irving, who was then in the early fringes of his literary career, and in this way a social friendship and admiration were established between the author and Miss Gratz, which lasted as long as life. Nathan Hoffman, who was the object of Irving's only love, was also Rebecca's dearest friend, many of her younger days being passed with the Hoffmans and other old families in New York. During Miss Hoffman's first illness Rebecca was her constant companion, sharing with the family the care of the sick and nursing Martha when she died in her arms.

Scott and Irving met for the first time in 1811, the American visiting Sir Walter with a letter of introduction from the poet Campbell. He was most cordially received at Abbotsford, and there Irving passed several of the most delightful days of his life listening to the many tales, old and new, which Scott could tell, and rambling about the beautiful hills. During one of the frequent conversations between the two authors Irving spoke of his own and Miss Hoffman's friend—Rebecca Gratz, of Philadelphia. He glowingly described her beauty and related the story of her firm adherence to her religious faith under the most trying circumstances, but particularly of her self-sacrificing philanthropy and love of her country.

Mr. Walter was very deeply impressed and interested and conceived the idea of embodying a character like hers in one of his novels. He was then residing in the midst of the story of "Romeo and Juliet," and he determined to introduce a Jew girl into his story.

Scott composed this story during moments of intense physical pain, yet at times he became so interested in the character of Rebecca, for he even adopted her name, that he rose from his couch and walked up and down the room while he dictated the story to his amanuensis.

He finished the book in December, 1819, and immediately sent the first copy to Irving. In the letter accompanying it he wrote: "How do you like your Rebecca? Does the Rebecca I have pictured compare well with the pattern given?"

The resemblance of the character to that of Miss Gratz, it is said by those who knew her, was closely marked. Although the success of the character was known to the Jewish, her modesty made her shrink from the publicity of it, and when pressed upon the subject she would delicately evade the matter by changing the topic.

When a young girl, it is said, Rebecca Gratz won the regard of a gentleman of good position and wealth, but as he was a Christian the difference in their religious faith proved a hopeless barrier to their union. She consequently was married. Instead she devoted her life to charitable deeds. She founded the orphan asylum of this city, and as early as 1811 the success of the character was known to the Jewish, her modesty made her shrink from the publicity of it, and when pressed upon the subject she would delicately evade the matter by changing the topic.

As Author's Feelings. The author of "The Tenthredin" tells us he would rather meet a lion face to face than feel a spider crawling over his skin. This he humorously attributes to transmigration. "Before I came into my present body," he says, "I was a fly." This is quite an accessible explanation of his antipathy as can be given for any of them. Scott's antipathy, though he gives several examples of this antipathy, often at the expense of his health, to describe

in the darkness. I had taken my pocket out of my pocket to place it under my pillow, when there was a blinding flash of lightning. I caught sight of a villainous looking fellow not ten feet distant with a pistol in his hand. He was standing in a crouching, expectant attitude, and I felt sure that his intention was to murder and rob me. "Where there?" I called, but got no reply. I grasped my pistol firmly and advanced a step or two. There was another flash of lightning, and there was the villain almost within arm's length, gun in hand. I pulled the trigger twice. There were two stunning reports and a crashing of glass. Then I realized that I had done it—made the man of myself. I sat down on the edge of the bed, ashamed to turn on the light. It was a full length mirror. I had shot my own shadow to smithereens—had mistaken myself for an evil genius.—*Louis Globe-Democrat.*

A Noble Deed. The historian Xenophon relates that when Cyrus, the founder of the Persian empire, had taken captive a young prince of Armenia, together with his beautiful and blooming wife, of whom he was remarkably fond, they were brought before the tribunal of Cyrus to receive their sentence. The warrior inquired of the prince what he would give to be released. In his kingdom, and his reply that he valued his crown and his liberty at a very high rate, but if the noble conqueror would restore his beloved wife to her former dignity and possessions he would willingly pay his life for the purchase. The prisoners were dismissed to enjoy their freedom and former honors, and each was lavishly in prison of the conqueror. "And you," said the prince, addressing his wife, "what think you of Cyrus?" "I did not observe him," she replied. "Not observe him?" exclaimed her husband. "Upon whose throne, then, was your attention fixed?" "Upon that dear and generous man," she replied, "who declared his readiness to purchase my liberty at the expense of his life."

Convalescence. Humorous, if a trifle whimsical, the orator, who, when describing the incognito love of Paris which characterized an opponent, said, "He is so fond of being praised that I really believe he would be content to give up the ghost if it were but to look up and read the stammerer's puff on his tombstone." This is a striking contrast to the graceful and witty compliment paid to the beautiful Duchess of Devonshire and her sister, Lady Duncannon, of whom, when they frequented the churches of Westminster in behalf of F. in 1784, it was said that "never did two such lovely portraits appear on canvas."—*London Standard.*

How the Painter Was Studied. The Pall Mall Gazette tells a story of a British—or was it an American—collector, who passed before a picture by the late Belgian artist, Maelou, for the first time, having been struck by its beauty. He asked how much it cost, and was told \$125. "Nonsense," he said. "It's too cheap. Make it \$500 and I'll take a dozen more from him at the same price." Thus was Maelou's financial success begun.

Cocaine Banquets. Cocaine banquets have friends in every village, who supply them with what they want, and those who have only taken a life or two out of revenge are not regarded as criminals. We have seen a girl secretly out of her teens look up with anger if anything were said against the vendetta.—*London Saturday Review.*

About the Fruit. Teacher—How long did Adam and Eve remain in the Garden of Eden? Boy—I don't know. Teacher—They remained in the Garden of Eden until—out—out—out. Boy—Gladfully—Oh, yes, until the apple was ripe.—*Texas Sittings.*

NERVOUS DEBILITY.

Dr. J. C. ROBERTS' REMEDY FOR NERVOUS DEBILITY. It is a powerful medicine for the cure of all cases of Nervous Debility, whether arising from over-exhaustion, or from any other cause. It is a powerful medicine for the cure of all cases of Nervous Debility, whether arising from over-exhaustion, or from any other cause. It is a powerful medicine for the cure of all cases of Nervous Debility, whether arising from over-exhaustion, or from any other cause.

BACK VOLUMES.

The sixth volume of the DESERET WEEKLY in the present form is now bound. A limited number of copies of these six volumes can be obtained at the DESERET NEWS OFFICE, Salt Lake City, in bound form at \$2.00 per volume. It is the best history of current events to be obtained, and by far the cheapest, and the time is not far distant when they will be eagerly sought after by students of history, anxious to be informed of the stirring events which have transpired within the past three years—the most interesting period of the history of the Latter-day Saints. Every person who can afford it should secure these volumes while they are to be had for future reference, and especially should they be obtained for every Sunday School, Improvement Association and Ward library. Apply early to make sure of getting them.

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Doing Some Shouting. "I have done ten fifty dollars to shoot at," said Frank E. Blair to the editorial committee on the sidewalk at the Southern. "I got into the Baltimore hotel very late one night and very tired. A man was running at the time, and I was so afraid of lightning as I went off the light, I mistook it for a



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