

## The Minstrel

By F. A. MITCHEL

There was a kingdom belonging to the eastern Roman empire the sovereign of which was at a certain period a young girl named Eudoxia. She was twenty years old and very beautiful. For many generations the royal family had intermarried among each other. This had resulted in keeping up certain hereditary diseases among them, and they had been very much thinned by death.

When the queen was urged by her nobles to marry that there might be an heir to the throne the heralds were instructed to hunt up some person of royal blood whom she might wed. It was found that there was no man living whom her majesty might marry who was not tainted with some hereditary disease. But a man, Harmodius, was discovered, who had descended from another branch of the royal family, who was young and wealthy. It was represented to the queen that if she did not marry this person she could not marry at all. Furthermore, if she did not have an heir Harmodius would be the only person who would have any claim whatever to the throne.

Now it happened that not long before this marriage question came up Eudoxia had been sitting in the royal gardens one summer day when from beyond the wall came sounds of music. A man was singing, accompanied by a lute. The princess listened and when the song was finished sent an attendant to command the singer to come to her. He did so, and his face and figure proved to be as charming as his voice. The queen kept him singing for a while, then dismissed him with a gift, which he refused.

Eudoxia resented this refusal, though in her heart she admired the man the more for it. She had intended to command him to come again to sing for her, but since he would not take pay for doing so it was beneath her royal dignity to accept the service. Nevertheless she could not forget either him or his music. Finding herself pining for him, she tried to drive him out of her mind. Not succeeding in doing so, she resolved to have him introduced into the palace surreptitiously, for should it be known that she was accepting a favor from a subject it would create a great scandal.

She sent one of her attendants whom she could trust to the musician with instructions to tell him the circumstances which compelled the queen to send for him privately and admonish him to keep the secret. This allayed a feeling of resentment that her majesty had not before invited him to sing before her again, and he went to the palace, where the queen received him attended by a single maid of honor who was in the secret.

When it was announced to Eudoxia that there was but one man whom she could legally marry she had become madly in love with the musician. She put her ministers off as long as possible in the matter of marrying Harmodius, and when she could do so no longer directed them to bring her his portrait. This encouraged them, and they set out to obey the royal instructions. They returned much disconcerted. Harmodius declined to furnish his portrait.

Eudoxia was not disappointed at this, for she was every day becoming more and more infatuated with the handsome singer who by royal command came frequently to the palace in secret to sing for her royal mistress. However, the cabinet insisted that the queen should marry, and since Harmodius was the only man she could marry she must marry Harmodius. She resisted their demands until they threatened that if she did not yield they would get up a revolution and put Harmodius on the throne.

One day when the minstrel came to sing for the queen she told him that it was the last time she could listen to him. She confessed her love for him, but added that she was obliged to marry or lose her sovereignty. The minstrel begged that he might sing one farewell song to her. He was permitted to do so and sang, expressing his love so pathetically that the queen broke down and told him that she would give up her kingdom for him. He told her that his love for her would not permit him to accept the sacrifice, and they parted.

The queen now informed her ministers that she would wed Harmodius or any one they chose. Preparations were made for the wedding, while the queen wept in secret. She was solicited to receive Harmodius before the ceremony, but declined. When the marriage came off she would not look at him. After they had been pronounced a married couple her husband said: "My queen."

Eudoxia started. The voice was that of the minstrel. She looked up, and there beside her was the man who had won her heart and for whom she had offered to give up her kingdom.

Harmodius had learned before any one else that he was the only man the queen could marry and, being possessed of a winning voice, had sung to her from beyond the wall of the royal garden and found her heart an easy prey.

The two ruled as King Harmodius and Queen Eudoxia till the Turks overran that part of Europe in which their kingdom lay.

The story of King Harmodius and Queen Eudoxia was long told as an illustration of the power of music, especially over a woman's heart.

### Emotional Acting.

"You acted Juliet as if you were really suffering."

"I was. I played the part in a pair of very tight shoes."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

### Depends.

"Is bolting a refining process, pa?"  
"That depends, my son, whether it is done in flour mills or at the table."—Baltimore American.

There's nothing half so good as laughing. Never sigh when you can sing.—W. Mackworth Praed.

### An Old Superstition.

It was a common superstition in ancient Italy that if a woman were found spinning on a highroad the crops would be ruined for that year. In most sections of Italy a woman was forbidden by law thus to spin or even to carry an uncovered spindle on the highway.

### Heard in Court.

"Your honor, I acknowledged the reference of the opposing counsel to my gray hair. My hair is gray, and it will continue to be gray as long as I live. The hair of that gentleman is black and will continue to be black as long as he dyes."—Boston Transcript.

### THE NEWS NOT GUILTY.

The Omaha Daily News is a well-informed newspaper, conversant with Omaha affairs. It seems a little strange, therefore, that it would admit to its correspondence columns such a libellous statement as that published in last Saturday's issue with reference to the ownership of The Monitor.

The Monitor has been published in Omaha for nearly a year and a half. Affidavits of ownership have been published as by law required three times. It is widely circulated and read by both races. It has received favorable comment by the local press, daily and weekly, and its editorial utterances have been widely quoted. The News shows either wilful ignorance or great indifference in allowing its columns to be used for slanderous misrepresentation. In this matter The News is not guiltless and should make reparation.

## Los Angeles, California



SIDNEY P. DONES

Premier Real Estate and Insurance Agent of California.

Manager and promoter of the Booker T. Washington Building. Business Manager of the Los Angeles Post. Business Manager of the New Angelus Theatre. Anyone desiring information concerning business matters in California, should write Mr. Sidney Dones, 1011 Central Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.

### LOS ANGELES NOTES.

W. D. Sandifor

Lee Allen, formerly of Omaha, is now business manager of one of the leading dairy lunch rooms of the city. He is making good and a great change in the business is noticeable since he assumed charge.

The Pierson apartments make things homelike for its patrons and should not be forgotten when you come to Los Angeles.

Prentice, the drug store man, is still on the job and as busy as ever.

### HIGH CLASS RACE PUBLICATIONS

The Monitor received among its exchanges two race journals of exceedingly great merit; one, The Journal of Negro History, the other, The Champion Magazine.

The Journal of Negro History is a quarterly, the fourth issue of which has just been published, and is of the very highest order of quarterly journalism. Its general appearance, excellent choice of historical contents, and well known contributors, makes each issue a rare intellectual treat as well as a work of permanent value. It is the first race journal to specialize in the field of Negro history and is doing its work so well that no member of the race can well afford to do without it. The journal is the result of a movement begun by a number of persons who met in Chicago, September 9, 1915, and organized themselves into an "Association for the Study of Negro Life and History." The aim of the association is to raise funds to employ several investigators to collect all historical and sociological ma-

The Hotel Rockiland is one of The Monitor's first subscribers and will have an ad with us next week. Watch for it.

Los Angeles sits up and takes notice every time an Omaha crew hits town. The Santa Fe boys are live, but they are playing second.

The wet and dry fight in California has been the hottest waged political fight in the country, and it seems that the wets have it.

It is reported that G. Wade Obee is in Oakland. It is certain that he isn't in this city.

terial bearing on the Negro, before it is lost to the world.

The Monitor is pleased to recommend this journal to all of its readers and promises that it will prove a surprise and mental pleasure. A letter addressed to The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, 1216 You Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., with 30 cents enclosed, will bring a copy of this most excellent journal. The subscription price is \$1.00 per year.

The Champion Magazine is the latest monthly to make its appearance among race magazines. It is a fine publication and its high optimistic tone makes it eminently worth while. Its material is varied and of the most interesting character. One exceedingly pleasant feature of this magazine is what its illustrations, even to fashions, are purely racial in tone and representation. In this it has opened up a new field. The editor is Fenton N. Johnson; associate editor, Binga Dismond, and business manager, Jesse Biga. The office is 4724 State Street, Chicago, and subscription price \$1.00 per year.