

WRITER OF POPULAR SONGS

By _____

“Beth Slater Whitson, whose texts for “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland” and many other lyrics, have made her name known all over the country. Mrs. Whitson has resided for many years in Nashville.

The intensely interesting story of how a Tennessee girl wrote simple ballads which eventually became the texts to songs which have been sung in millions of homes appears in the February number of “True Confessions” magazine. This is hardly an appropriate medium for such a story, for Beth Slater Whitson of Nashville has nothing to “confess.” Her tale, told by herself, is one of the naturally talented girl whose romance runs into rhymes of the singable sort, who work industriously, saved up money, took her literary products to Chicago, persistently dogged the footsteps of the materially-minded publisher, finally got their ear, sold them a song, two songs, a dozen songs. The price at first was a mere pittance. Later she was able to dictate the price.

As to how much of the popularity of a song is due to the words and how much to the music no one can say. The fact it, however, that the words of Miss Whitson and the melodies of Leo Friedman when combined into songs, “Meet Me Tonight In Dreamland” and “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” have resulted in two of the most widely sung compositions in this country. For “Dreamland” Miss Whitson received \$15. The publishers made many thousands on this same song.

Miss Whitson is also a story writer. Her first story, “Poor Folks Shoes,” was published by Collier’s in 1916. Among her other stories are “The Knitter of Liege” and “Beyond the Foot of the Hills.”

Among the more recent songs of this Nashville writer are “If Love Should Fly Away” and “What’s A Whole World To Me Without You?” More than 100 of Miss Whitson’s songs have been published.

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There is a picture of Beth Slater Whitson with original article.