

J. G. PHELPS STOKES TO WED YOUNG JEWESS

Engagement of Member of Old
New York Family Announced.

BOTH WORKED ON EAST SIDE

Flattering Article by Miss Pastor, as
Reporter, May Have Brought
About the Engagement.

The engagement of J. G. Phelps Stokes, member of an old New York family, to Miss Rose Harriet Pastor, a young Jewess, who until two weeks ago was a special writer on The Jewish Daily News, and prior to that worked in a Cleveland cigar factory, was announced yesterday. The date for the wedding has not been definitely settled, but the event will take place some time in July.

On July 13, 1902, Miss Pastor was assigned by the city editor of The Jewish Daily News to interview Mr. Stokes, who was then as now a resident worker of the University Settlement in Rivington Street. There had been rumors that, owing to a disagreement in the Governing Board of the settlement, Mr. Stokes was to retire and take up work in a new settlement, to be founded by Robert Hunter, who had been head worker of the Rivington Street Neighborhood House, and who thus became acquainted with Miss Caroline Phelps Stokes, a sister of J. G. Phelps Stokes, whom he married.

Miss Pastor obtained a denial of the rumors. When she went back to the office she wrote a two-column "story," winding up with an estimate of Mr. Stokes that prompted the city editor to say:

"Miss Pastor, if I thought as much of Mr. Stokes as you seem to do, I would take care not to let anybody know it."

Miss Pastor said regretfully yesterday that many of her impressions of Mr. Stokes had been "cut out." This much was left, however:

"Mr. Stokes is a deep, strong thinker. His youthful face 'takes' by virtue of its fresh, earnest, and kind expression. One glance at his face and you feel that Mr. Stokes loves humanity for its own sake, and as he speaks on with the sincerity which is the keynote of his character you feel how the whole soul and heart of the man is filled with 'Weltschmerz.' You feel that he 'has sown his black young curls with bleaching cares of half a million men.'

"Mr. Stokes is very tall, and, I believe, six feet of thorough democracy. A thoroughbred gentleman, a scholar, and a son of a millionaire, he is a man of the common people, even as Lincoln was. He is a plain man, and makes one feel perfectly at ease with him, nor does he possess that one great fault that men of his kind generally possess—the pride of humility. He does not flaunt his democracy in one's face, but when his democracy is mentioned to him, he appears as glad as a child who is told by an appreciative parent, 'You have been a good boy to-day.'"

The interview was written by Miss Pastor for the English page of the Jewish newspaper. Mr. Stokes told her that he would like to see her manuscript before the story was printed. She mailed it to him. When he had read it through, instead of mailing it he took it to the office in person. A few days later Miss Pastor and the other workers of the Settlement were asked to dine with Mr. Stokes.

Miss Pastor lives with her mother, brothers, and sisters in a little flat at 776 Wendover Avenue, in the Bronx. To friends who called there last night to offer their congratulations she confessed that, as far as she was concerned, it had been a case of love at first sight.

To most of her friends the announcement of the engagement was as much of a surprise as was the news to the associates of the young millionaire in his work among the east side poor. For the last two years Miss Pastor has been in charge of three clubs for young girls that met regularly at the settlement, and in the course of her work has been much in the society of her fiancée. It was known that they were very good friends, but yesterday's culmination was not looked for partly because Miss Pastor in many of her articles had strongly disapproved marriage between Jews and Christians. One of these articles was written on the occasion of the marriage of Israel Zangwill, the English writer, to a Gentile.

There had been considerable talk also of objections on the part of Mr. Stokes's family, chiefly on account of Miss Pastor's religion. The Stokeses are strict Episcopalians. Mr. Stokes set all these rumors at rest last night when he said to a TIMES reporter:

"I wish THE TIMES would correct two serious errors in the published accounts of my engagement. The first is that there is serious opposition on the part of my family. That is entirely false. There is nothing but the utmost cordiality and delight. The second error is that there is a difference in religious belief between Miss Pastor and myself. She is a Jewess, as the Apostles were Jews—a Christian by faith."

Miss Pastor is twenty-five years old. She was born at Augustove, Russia. Her hair is flaxen; her eyes are brown. As she talks on the uplifting of the poor, her face lights up. By those who know her she is pronounced "very interesting, very sincere, but somewhat of a dreamer."

Not the least romantic part of the history of this young woman is that dealing with her early struggles, how, while being a poor worker in a cigar factory, she acquired an education which has enabled her to make her mark among Jewish journalists and magazine workers in this country.

"How did I obtain an education?" echoed Miss Pastor last night. "It was a hard struggle. I read much, and I only read books that I thought would be useful to me, and then I began to write. My efforts to obtain an education were all due to a desire to be of service, not because I had any desire to rise above the station I then occupied in life."

A sister of Mr. J. G. Phelps Stokes is now Baroness Halkett. One of his brothers, Anson Phelps Stokes, is Secretary of Yale University and the rector of a fashionable Episcopal church in New Haven. Mr. Stokes himself was graduated at Yale in the class of 1902. He is a member of many clubs, and has been prominent in various movements having for their purpose social reform.