

# MONTREAL GIRL LEADS DOMINION IN BEST SELLERS

Born in Canada of Chinese  
Mother Has Been Writing  
of Japan

## TO WRITE OF CITY

Plans to Write Scenario of  
Older Part of City—  
Visiting Here

"Onata Watanna" or Mrs. Francis F. Reeve, a Canadian author whose Japanese stories are known on both sides of the Atlantic and whose books are reputed to have the largest sale of any native-born author in the Dominion has arrived in Montreal.

As a child she played in the streets of Hochelaga and was called with her brothers and sisters "Chinois" by the children of the neighborhood, for her father was English, an Oxford graduate, and her mother, a Chinese medical missionary.

Now she has numerous short stories to her credit, several scenarios and sixteen novels, the latest of which "Sunny San" was published simultaneously in New York and London. It is being dramatised by Cosmo Hamilton and is to be filmed at Hollywood.

The story of Winifred Eaton, under which name she will be remembered by many Montrealers, reads somewhat like one of her own romances. Her father, the late Edward Eaton, son of a wealthy silk manufacturer of Macclesfield, England, went often with his two brothers to China and Japan on matters connected with the industry. He married a Chinese missionary who, as a child of three, had been adopted by Sir Hugh and Lady Matheson and trained as a missionary to her own people. His brothers married Japanese women.

Later he went to the United States, where he lost his money in Wall street. He then settled in Canada where he lived until his death. He had some repute as a painter and some of his works were purchased by Lord Strathcona and the Duke of Argyll.

### HER FIRST STORY.

Winifred's literary tastes developed early. When only fifteen years old her first story, an ambitious two-part

and announces her intention of writing entirely in the future of things Canadian. The West where she now has her home and the East where her childhood was spent appeal equally to her, the whole Dominion to her mind representing a mine of literary material.

She has completed three stories of Western Canada which she states will run serially and are also being adapted for the legitimate stage and for the moving picture theatres. She is working on two additional stories, the scenes of which are laid in Old Montreal. To get local color for these she is going to St. Hilaire to the old de Rouville Seigneurie.

Mrs. Reeve resents the conception of Canada represented in Kipling's "Our Lady of the Snows." Constantly in the United States she heard the Dominion referred to as a land of ice and snow and she thinks that Canadians are too lax in permitting such criticism to gain ground. "I would like nothing better," she said, "than to give the world a photographic picture of this great land, with its vast mineral wealth, its great grain fields and glorious sunshine. Canada represents a mine of dramatic and literary material as yet practically untouched, and has yet to be properly presented to the world. The story of each province has yet to be written."

### JAPANESE PROBLEM.

By reason of her opportunities for insight into Eastern psychology and her residence for some years in the West, Mrs. Reeve is profoundly interested in the Japanese problem in Western Canada and the whole so-called Yellow Peril. All talk of the Japanese menace in the West she considers harmful and mischievous.

"The best thing the white races can do is to cultivate the friendship of the yellow people," she says. "It is to their interest that all nations should live together in friendship and the world must get over the delusion that the white races must keep back the others."

The Chinese, she said, are a peaceful people and would never go to war unless goaded into it. They had been taken advantage of by reason of this trait throughout their history and they needed a Moses to lead them.

Japan had a war history but an honorable record in its dealings with other nations. She was a vain nation and the habit of square dealing might arise in part from a desire to stand well in the eyes of the world. However, be the reasons diplomatic or otherwise Japan would be true to her obligations and it was better to cultivate her friendship than her enmity.

In addition to her literary work, Mrs. Reeve is familiar with all aspects of ranch life from making butter to putting down pork. She spends much of her time in the saddle and is enthusiastic on the subject of the development of Western Canada. She is a sister of Mrs. de Rouville in this city and of Mrs. Galloway, wife of the assistant to the president of the Grand Trunk Railway.