

WHEN EAST WAY IS WEST WAY

Interesting Series Intended to
Bear Westward the
Wisdom of the
East.

THE object of the editors of the series "The Wisdom of the East"* is briefly stated in the editorial note prefacing each of the small volumes:

"They desire, above all things, that, in their humble way, these books shall be the ambassadors of good-will and understanding between East and West—the old world of Thought and the new of Action. In this endeavor, and in their own sphere, they are but followers of the highest example in the land. They are confident that a deeper knowledge of the great ideals and lofty philosophy of Oriental thought may help to a revival of that true spirit of charity which neither despises nor fears the nations of another creed and color."

Certainly "The Splendour of God," dealing with the comparatively recent sect of Persian religionists who are known as Bahais, richly justifies the hope and desire expressed by the editors.

Since 1844, when the founder of this singularly effective revival began his teaching, there have been but three teachers or "prophets" who have held the undisputed leadership of this new cult, which has increased vastly in numbers. The present leader, Abdul Baha, now known as Abbas Effendi, has dwelt for nearly forty years a prisoner in the small city of Acca. He is honored and influential, not only among his own followers but by men of all nations and creeds who have observed the work of moral and physical regeneration which he has wrought in Acca and among his co-religionists everywhere. His "commands" for the faithful in America it would assuredly be difficult to better, and they would be a sufficient guide to right living for any one who should observe their precepts. Knowledge such as they convey of the sources of spiritual life of another and an alien people should be welcome to every intelligent mind. Just at the moment, too, affairs in Persia are in themselves so interesting as to make the small volume of additional interest and value.

"A Lute of Jade" offers no such spiritual food as the teachings of the Bahais, but it aids the reader intent on penetrating beneath the Oriental mask in realizing how incomprehensible to an ordinary American the Chinese habit of mind is. With ideals utterly at variance with our own, and with little in common in matters of sentiment, it is only occasionally, as in the following lovely verse, dating back to the seventh century A. D., that we feel the simple human touch of kinship:

"High o'er the hill the moon barque
steers,

The lantern lights depart,
Dead springs are stirring in my heart;

And there are tears. * * *

But that which makes my grief more
deep

Is, that you know not when I weep."

MOTHER GOOSE SPOILED.

There is no clear reason, perhaps, why an enthusiast of bridge should possess a fastidious taste in rhyme and meter or insist upon the wit and point of parody. There is, in fact, very little reason to suppose that real bridge lovers care a rap about verse of which the noble game is the theme. Yet books of bad verse for which bridge serves as the excuse continue to be written and published. One of the worst of these is a little volume in which the delectable and immortal Mother Goose is levied upon for rhymes and measures and rudely adapted to the themes of the whist table. Old Omar, too, was a recent victim—but the Persian is used by now to such outrages. Besides he is a heathen man-poet—and an old sinner. Mother Goose is a woman and a Christian.

The book which takes liberties with the worthy dame is called "Mother Goose on Bridge." It is by Mabel Allen Avery, with illustrations by Alice E. Woodman, and the publishers are Lyman Brothers, Syracuse, N. Y. Peter the Pumpkin Eater, Little Jack Horner, Mary's Lamb, the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, (and might if she had lived a bit later have received a letter of commendation from Mr. Roosevelt, who is frequenting Music Halls in Darkest Africa,) Tommy Snooks and Bessie Brooks, the Lion and the Unicorn, (the latter of the pair at least safe from a certain unerring shot in the jungle,) Little Bo-Peep, and many other beloved figures—here they all are wickedly disguised as a lot of elderly gossips at a bridge talkfest for women only.

*THE WISDOM OF THE EAST SERIES.

Edited by L. Cranmer-Byng and Dr. S. A.

Kapadli. "The Splendour of God: Being

Extracts from the Sacred Writings of the

Bahais," with Introduction by Eric Ham-

mond, and "A Lute of Jade: Being Selec-

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