

Peace in Oman

REV. G. VAN PEURSEM.

DURING the last year especially, the British Government made repeated attempts to establish peace between the Sultan of Maskat and Sheikh Esa and others of Oman. Most Omanis, including their leaders, were willing for peace but the brother of the late Imam seemed to be the main force to block it. He kept the Imam from entering upon any negotiations or even any consideration of peace. The Sultan's Government then increased export duty, 25 per cent. on dates and 50 per cent. on pomegranates, taking it in kind, the result being that the population made but little in sending their produce to the coast for shipment. This pressure seemed to drive the population to demand peace between their leaders and the Sultan. As an indirect result of this the Imam was killed last August while at prayers in a mosque. The new Imam



SOLDIERS OF THE SULTAN, MASKAT.

refused to be elected except peace were restored, and after his election hurried things along. Sheikh Esa with his soldiers came to Seeb in September requesting a parley with the British consul in order to make steps for peace. The British consul with military escort went to meet them there and immediately peace negotiations were begun. It took some time to satisfy both parties as to the official titles to be used in the documents. The Omanis insisted that the Sultan was making peace with the Imam al mussalmin. To this the consul objected since only a handful of the millions of mussalmin recognize him as such. It was finally decided to use only the names of the Imam and the Sultan without any title whatsoever. Sheikh Esa was the first to sign, and

before October 8th all the sheikhs in the inland had signed, including the Imam.

The treaty states that all property taken from people in the Sultan's territory since 1913, the time of the invasion, shall be returned to its owners. This, no doubt, includes our house in Nachl. Export duty has been reduced to 5 per cent. all along the coast; pickets on the caravan routes from Beit Al Felleg have been removed so the Omanis have free entrance into Matra without being searched for weapons. Evildoers shall have no protection in the other's territory but shall be handed over for trial at the right place; all the roads must be safe inland for all people alike. Oman will have absolute autonomy. There will be two governments in the peninsula therefore, one along the coast of which the Sultan will be chief, and the other in Oman of which the Imam is the nominal head.

Mr. Wingate is planning a trip to Nachl and Somail in November and advises us not to go inland until he comes back. The man opposed to peace was the Sheikh of Somail. He had most of the stolen property, in the shape of valuable date gardens. But he had to flee for his life when peace was declared, and Somail was left without a ruler consequently. Forthwith it was suggested that there be a race between the Sultan's army and the soldiers of Sheikh Esa for Somail. The latter were successful and in consequence Sheikh Esa fell heir to a fine city, while the Sultan's men had to return to the coast.

The political agent, Mr. Wingate, is receiving telegrams from Bushire and India, congratulating him on his success in uniting these tribes for peace. During the last twelve months he worked incessantly for this and we as a mission may well thank God for men like that. The results of this peace are already evident in Matra, and we can only imagine what it will mean in the future.



AN OMAN SWORD DANCE

Cupid In the Desert

MRS. LOUIS P. DAME.

"G stands for goodness
And G stands for gladness
And these two go hand in hand;
G stands for Gerrit,
And G stands for Gertrud,
Oh G G Isn't it grand?"

WEREN'T we fortunate to stumble right onto Romance as soon as we landed in Bahrein? Which proves that Cupid is not daunted by the desert and that Love can bloom in out-of-the-way places as well as in more favored climes. This romance involved two of our fellow-workers with whose names you are all familiar, and I know you will rejoice in their happiness, as we on the field rejoice.

Who are they? The lady in the case is very sweet and charming and he, well you know ministers think so much of the next world that often they are apt to forget about many of the small things of this one, and our hero is one of these, hence the following jingle:

"Alas and alack!" cried Cupid in glee,
"Here is a duty just waiting for me,
To save this man's life
I must get him a wife,"
So he shot a swift arrow at a lady named G.

This young lady named G, so sweet and so fair,
With brown eyes and dimples and burnished gold hair
Received the dart
Which was aimed at her heart,
And Cupid is chuckling, "It's in June, now, so there!"

P.S.—Pennings-Schafheitlin—Married at Bahrein, Arabia, June 17, 1920.

Now I am sure that you would all like to hear about the wedding with its many interesting details. In the first place, there are no jewelry shops on this desert isle, where one can buy wedding or engagement rings; there are no florist's shops, nor indeed flowers anywhere; there are no ice-boxes to save culinary delicacies; and above all there was no preacher to tie the knot, since it was obvious that the Rev. P. could not perform his own ceremony. However, these obstacles were all overcome. The fond fiancé watched an artisan in the native bazaar fashion the wedding ring from a goldpiece and also his gift of a bracelet. Not many bridegrooms have that pleasure.

It was arranged that Rev. and Mrs. Calverley come ashore from their boat on their way to India from Kuwait, and so we were all